

## NEORide Receives over \$3 million in ODOT Grant Funding for EZfare

On October 28, ODOT awarded ten (10) NEORide transit agencies in Ohio \$3.3 million to further the expansion of the multi-county mobile ticket system that was launched in 2019 by transit systems in Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

With Ohio Transit Partnership Program grants funds, transit systems will be able to install validators on fixed route buses allowing passengers to use the [EZfare system](#) (available on the EZfare or Transit apps) to scan a barcode on their mobile device to pay their fare. This new technology improves the speed of boarding the bus, reduces demands on transit operators and allows integration with other payment options including college passes. NEORide is also looking at the development of a smartcard system for those passengers without access to a smartphone or bank account.

“We really want to make seamless payment and transit accessible to everyone. By integrating validators into fixed route buses, we offer riders a better transportation experience,” said NEORide spokesperson, Katherine Conrad. “We are grateful to ODOT, the Governor and the Ohio Legislator for recognizing the importance of public transit and coordinated projects like EZfare. This project is just one of the critical projects that will help to advance public transit in Ohio for the thousands of seniors, workers and disabled individuals who count on it every day.”

In addition to the funding received by ODOT, NEORide agencies will be able to leverage almost \$1 million in funding already received by FTA.

### The ten systems and the amount that will be received by each agency include:

BCRTA (Butler County) <u>\$219,807</u>	Laketran (Lake County) <u>\$38,055</u>
Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit (Fairfield County) <u>\$73,362</u>	MCPT (Medina County) <u>\$90,234</u>
METRO RTA (Summit County) <u>\$847,855</u>	PARTA (Portage County) <u>\$189,999</u>
SARTA (Stark County) <u>\$280,678</u>	SORTA (Hamilton County) <u>\$1,148,810</u>
TARTA (Lucas County) <u>\$215,055</u>	WRTA (Mahoning County) <u>\$202,934</u>

All are members of NEORide, a council of governments comprised of 13 transit systems dedicated to the development and promotion of regional public transportation services. [www.neoride.org](http://www.neoride.org)

Detailed information about the app and download links may be found at [www.EZfare.us](http://www.EZfare.us). The app can be found in the App Store and at Google Play by searching for “EZfare” and is also available via Transit, the leading trip planning app.

**For general information about EZfare and NEORide please contact Katherine Conrad, NEORide, 330-334-6877 x207; [katherinec@otrp.org](mailto:katherinec@otrp.org). [www.ezfare.us](http://www.ezfare.us)**