

For Immediate Release  
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## TARTA Returns Call-a-Ride and Express Services on June 8

### *New Pilot Routes Introduced in Rossford and Sylvania to Provide COVID-19 Safety Measures for Customers*

**(TOLEDO, June 1, 2020)** - In response to the re-opening of Ohio's businesses, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) will return its Call-a-Ride and Express Service on June 8 but with new COVID-19 protocols for the safety of riders and drivers. In addition, TARTA is introducing two pilot bus routes in Rossford and Sylvania (township and city) using 35-foot vehicles to be able to accommodate up to 10 passengers in these higher demand service areas. On June 8, TARTA's current service will also expand its hours of operations to 7:30a.m. to 7:30p.m. Monday through Friday.

TARTA will continue to require that all trips be for essential reasons only such as commuting to work, grocery shopping, medical appointments and treatments, pharmacy visits, and participating in summer school lunch programs. All passengers must use a facial covering and TARTA is able to provide these complimentary if needed.

#### **Call-a-Ride**

Call-a-Ride will operate Monday-Saturday from 9:30a.m. to 3:30p.m. in these local communities: Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township and Waterville. TARTA is introducing the following new rider safety protocols to minimize the spread of COVID-19:

- Call-a-Ride reservations must be made by 3p.m. the day before the requested service by calling 419-243 RIDE (7433). For Monday service, reservations must be made by 3p.m. on Saturday.
- Call-a-Ride is by reservations only. There is no walk-on option.

- There will be no fee to use Call-a-Ride.
- To ensure social distancing within vehicles, there is a limit of 2 passengers at all times. Customers are limited to one round-trip per day to help manage demand.

### **New Rossford and Sylvania Service**

In order to meet ridership demand in Rossford, Sylvania and Sylvania Township, TARTA is testing new service options in these communities through fixed-routes and utilizing 35-foot buses to carry up to 10 passengers per vehicle. Routes are designed to connect riders with employment, shopping and other essential locations. The service will run Monday - Saturday. No fares will be collected, and customers are required to enter the bus from the rear door.

### **Express Service**

TARTA will return Express Service to downtown Toledo for Maumee and Waterville commuters. This service is offered Monday through Friday.

For more information about service routes, hours and customer amenities, visit [www.tarta.com](http://www.tarta.com) or call 419-243-RIDE (7433). All TARTA facilities continue to remain closed including the Downtown Hub, Central Avenue Administrative Offices, and TARPS Offices.

### **About TARTA**

The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) provides a vital link in the Toledo metro area to jobs, education, health care and other destinations. It enables everyone in our community to have access to transportation regardless of their age, race, physical ability or economic background. TARTA is underway with exploring and introducing new initiatives and service options that will enhance convenience and customer experience while moving Toledo into the future of public transit.