

For Immediate Release

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**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA)
Receives
APTA 2006 Outstanding Public Transportation System Award**

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) honored the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) of Stark County (Alliance/Canton/Massillon), Ohio, with the prestigious national 2006 American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award. This award is given to public transportation systems that have demonstrated achievement in efficiency and effectiveness in providing more than one million, but fewer than four million annual passenger trips.

SARTA serves a county area of 567 sq. miles with a population of 381,229 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition to serving Stark County, SARTA operates an express shuttle service between Akron and Canton known as the Canton/Akron Express. In 2005, SARTA's Fixed Route, Paratransit, and Special Events Shuttle service provided approximately 2,028,598 passenger trips and system ridership increased by 39% over the previous year. In addition to setting a new ridership record, the agency completed the renovations of its Gateway facility to accommodate the agency's growth and expansion; began design of a new transit station in Alliance, Ohio, and developed a ten-year strategic initiative that will pave the way for future endeavors.

The Stark Area Regional Transportation Authority (SARTA), formerly Canton RTA, was established in May 1997 and in 2007, SARTA will celebrate ten years of dedicated service to the Stark County citizens.

The APTA award is a testament to the excellent vision of SARTA's Board of Trustees, dedicated staff and leadership of the Executive Team.