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***** For Immediate Release *****

RIDER INPUT PRODUCES CHANGES ON FOUR SARTA ROUTES

Route Changes Effective March 8, 2010

In response to increased demand, Stark Area Regional Transit Authority is announcing changes to four of its routes effective next week. SARTA was able to make these changes at no additional costs to the agency by shifting resources. These changes improve efficiency and better respond to the needs of SARTA riders. For example, the addition of another bus on the popular 105 route will alleviate current over-crowding during peak times.

SARTA is currently completing an evaluation of all existing transportation services and unmet needs in the county as part of a new Transit Development Plan (www.sartatransitplan2010.com). The plan is expected to be completed this summer. The current changes will further allow SARTA to provide improved access to jobs in Hartville, those passengers coming from Akron, and those connecting in the Belden Village area.

Kirt Conrad, CEO says, "SARTA continues to improve its service by responding to employer and passenger requests. Below is an example of these changes. We encourage anyone with unmet transportation needs to contact SARTA Customer Service or attend future outreach meetings."

Route 81 – Akron/Canton Express

The time point at Staples on South Arlington Road was changed from 6:20 am to 6:15 am on the first inbound trip from Akron to Canton.

Route 105 – Cleveland Ave/ B.V./North Canton

An additional bus has been added at peak times. Two buses during this time will allow the buses to run every half-hour from 9:45am to 5:45pm.

Route 106 – Whipple Ave/ B.V./North Canton

On the Whipple Ave NW/Dressler Road NW section, the 106 bus will run in reverse of what it previously did. It will go north up Whipple Ave NW to Shuffle Street, service the Akron/Canton Airport, Freedom Ave NW, then Millwood St NW and Promway Ave NW on the trip inbound to Canton. The timepoint at the Akron/Canton Airport will change to 37 minutes after the hour, every hour of service.

Route 112 – Belden Village/North Canton/Hartville

This route will go directly to Lake Ave NE from W Maple St (RT619) on the outbound trip and then service Hartville Kitchen and Hartville Flea Market on the inbound trip (returning to Belden Village area). Changes have been made to ALL time points on this route.

Customers can print route schedules from the SARTA website, get them in person at the SARTA Transit Centers in Alliance, Massillon, and Canton, or at the Stark State College Information Desk in the Student Center. The 105 route information is also posted in the SARTA bus shelter at Higbee Ave & Munson St in the Belden Village area.

See the SARTA website (www.SARTAonline.com) for possible updates or other details.

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