

Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA)

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*** For Immediate Release ***

SARTA ANNOUNCES CUTS TO PERSONNEL AND ROUTE SERVICE

Due To Plummeting Sales Tax Revenue, Cuts Are Necessary

Canton, Ohio – On July 16, 2009 SARTA announced that it will mirror other public transportation systems nationwide and make necessary cuts to both personnel and route service due to the current economic conditions. SARTA is funded primarily from a countywide, 1/4 of 1% (0.25%) sales tax. Given the downturn in consumer spending in Stark County, tough choices have to be made for the agency to remain a viable public transportation provider.

- The SARTA Board accepted a plan to reduce frequency on Routes 102, 105 and part of 126 from every half hour to every hour. Route 120 changed to a 45-minute headway. Routes 111 and 101 merged to form one route.
- This plan also included *elimination of all bus service on Sundays and holidays*.
- In addition, the SARTA board agreed to implement the previously suggested fare increase taking the regular fare from \$1.25 to \$1.50. The one-hour transfer is still free.

The route service changes and the fare increase will be implemented **Sunday, September 6, 2009**.

Detailed information at: www.SARTAonline.com