



MTA Passenger News

MTA named 2019 Outstanding Urban Community Transit System

(May 22, 2019- Flint, Michigan)

The Flint Mass Transportation Authority (Flint MTA) was named the 2019 Outstanding Urban Transit System of the Year by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) at its annual EXPO. The EXPO was held this year in Palm Springs, Calif., and the award is in recognition for the winner's efforts to cultivate local support for its innovative and responsive mobility options. The award, presented annually at the Association's national EXPO, honors a CTAA member in an urban area that has distinguished itself both in the level of service it provides and innovative ways of doing business. Dan Wedge, Secretary of the Association's Board of Directors and Executive Director of Allegan County Transportation in Allegan, Mich., noted that Flint MTA has created a national model for non-emergency medical transportation service in urban areas through its Rides to Wellness program. Partnering directly with healthcare providers in its region, the program connects patients with on-demand service to reach appointments, growing from a couple dozen daily riders in September 2016 to now more than 1,000 each day. "Rides to Wellness compliments the agency's 13 fixed routes, regional demand-response and paratransit services and other specialized programs serving seniors, foster parents, people with disabilities,

veterans and low-income workers, reinforcing the system's commitment to mobilizing its communities through innovative, responsive options tailored to specific needs," said Wedge in presenting the award.

"We are very honored to receive this award from the Community Transportation Association of America," said Ed Benning, General Manager and CEO at Flint MTA. "Over the past several years, we've expanded services to provide a better on-demand service model for all those living in our community. It's with great pleasure that we are able to receive this award today."

The Community Transportation Association, established in 1989, is a national non-profit, membership association committed to removing barriers to isolation and improving mobility for all people. The Association provides informational resources, technical assistance, training and certification, and many additional resources to communities, transportation providers, and other groups to increase mobility and improve the quality of community and public transportation.

The Flint Mass Transportation Authority was founded in 1971 and is based in Flint, Michigan. Flint MTA provides

public transportation services across six counties, also operating a number of specialized services. Rides to Wellness is a comprehensive non-emergency medical transportation program that provides mobility management, door-to-door service, and same day service to riders going to medical or other health and wellness-related appointments. Using cutting-edge technology and a ride-hailing-like model, Rides to Wellness is provided through service agreements with local agencies and medical providers.



MTA General Manager/CEO Receives Hometown Hero Award

(April 10, 2019, Flint, MI)

The Flint Mass Transportation Authority General Manager/CEO, Ed Benning, received the 2019 Hometown Health Hero award from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today at an award ceremony held in the rotunda of the State Capital. The special event recognizes all of Michigan's Hometown Health Heroes and Policy Champions. The Hometown Health Hero award is for those individuals and organizations across the state of Michigan working to maintain and improve the health of their local communities. The Partnership was impressed with the Mass Transportation Authority's Ride to Groceries, Rides to Wellness and the work MTA accomplished during the height of the Flint water crisis.



Senator Jim Ananich / Michigan State Senate, Ed Benning - General Manager/CEO Flint MTA, James F. Koval, Coordinator Michigan Public Health Week Partnership, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

MTA awarded \$734,752 Grant to Improve Transit Options to Health Care Appointments

(May 22, 2019, Flint, MI)

Flint's Mass Transportation Authority announced today that the transit agency has been awarded a \$734,752 federal grant to improve transit options for Genesee County residents to travel to health care appointments.

The federal grant, through the U.S. Department of Transportation, will strengthen coordination between health care providers and the Flint MTA to make sure people in Genesee County have affordable transportation to medical appointments. It also invests in technology improvements like on

demand shared transportation services and smart phone apps for booking services.

"I am proud to announce this federal grant that gives the Flint MTA the resources they need to expand health care access for Genesee County residents. I'm grateful to Flint MTA for their work improving the lives of all families in Genesee County by cutting down barriers to affordable and reliable transportation," Congressman Dan Kildee, Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Caucus, stated.

"MTA is committed to breaking transportation barriers for Genesee county residents who need access to health care. This grant provides MTA the opportunity to build on the relationships it developed with local hospitals and health care institutions by increasing access and improving health outcomes through an innovative, personalized transportation solution, said Ed Benning, MTA General Manager and CEO.

Positive Growth and New Projects Create a Banner Year for MTA

(February 1, 2019, Flint, MI)

Looking back over the 2018 year, the Flint Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) has had an extremely busy year with many new projects. In July, a new compressed natural gas station was built at the alternative fuel facility by Consumers Energy. This station will increase the MTA's ability to fast fuel the growing number of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles. Recently, the MTA took delivery of 13 CNG powered transit coaches and 22 additional vehicles will be arriving over the next several months. The new CNG vehicles will replace 22-34 year old transit coaches that are well beyond their useful life. The Authority has utilized bus rehab as a methodology to extend the life of its vehicles.



In September 2018, the MTA purchased a former Baker College center which had been utilized for transportation technology student training. This new facility will serve as the new home to the MTA Rides to Wellness program, which operates nearly 100 vehicles (mostly cars) on a daily basis. The Rides to Wellness program has grown substantially since its inception in 2016. Ridership has grown year after year. In November 2016, over 2,000 passengers were transported, compared with 8,185 passengers in November 2018. It is anticipated that by spring of 2019 the numbers should be 500

passengers a day. Rides to Wellness is a comprehensive non-emergency medical transportation program that provides mobility management, door to door service and same day service to riders going to medical or other health and wellness related appointments. Using cutting edge technology, Rides to Wellness is provided through service agreements with local agencies and medical providers.



Recently, the Rides to Wellness program was increased to provide new services for veterans and their spouses. This was possible by the formation of a partnership with the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and Genesee County Department of Veterans Services. The service model provides free rides to veterans and their spouses within the county and to medical facilities in Detroit, Saginaw, and Ann Arbor, Michigan. Services are provided same day within 30 minutes. "The veterans in our community have been underserved for a long time and we are extremely proud that we have been able to find a way to provide services that will be so important to veterans and their families," stated Ed Benning, MTA General Manager/CEO. In the spring of 2019 the MTA will add an increased level of veteran's services throughout

the three county regions of Genesee, Lapeer, and Shiawassee. This service is possible through a Mobility Challenge Grant provided by the Michigan Department of Transportation and will run for 6 - 12 months.

In 2018, the MTA increased its Regional Commuter Route service based on demand and new partnerships were formed with the business community. Ridership increases have been in the neighborhood of 30-50%. Current ridership is 9,000 passengers weekly and will grow to over 10,000 in the weeks ahead. The ridership growth now taking place across all services has required the MTA to purchase some used vehicles to supplement the fleet until new vehicles are purchased.

MTA's approach to provide new on demand services that address needs across the community has led to a revitalization and transformation of the organization. MTA is becoming a national leader in innovative services provided in a sustainable platform that brings together primary and secondary stakeholders to develop and deploy services.

As the CEO of a large urban system, Benning takes none of these changes for granted. "I fully understand that this only happens when you have a great team of dedicated individuals who work each and every day to provide great service to the people of this community. Our future looks extremely bright."

Flint MTA Hydrogen Bus Showcased at the Lansing Michigan Conservative Forum

(May 22, 2019, Flint, MI)

The Flint Mass Transportation Authority's Hydrogen bus was showcased at the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum in Lansing today. The Michigan Conservative Energy Forum hosted an educational tour of a 25 megawatt utility scale solar installation using the MTA's Hydrogen bus. More than two dozen members of the House and Senate took the tours.



Groundbreaking was held for a new park in Mundy Township

(June 19, 2019, Flint, MI)

Groundbreaking was held for a new park in Mundy Township that will be used to create Genesee County's first accessible baseball field for people of all abilities. Mundy Township has partnered with Miracle League of Greater Flint. The organization is affiliated with the national Miracle League, which aims to create fully accessible baseball fields for children in communities across the country and around the world. There are nearly 300 fields globally. In Michigan, there are currently six fields in operation. Founded by Brian Caine, the field will be an important step toward making sure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in sports activities.

The MTA showed their support in the groundbreaking by having a fully wrapped bus promoting the Miracle

League of Greater Flint. Miracle League has already collected \$100,000 in donations. The goal is to reach \$400,000 to build the field.

The field will be unique in many ways. The field will feature a continuous flat rubberized surface. The pitcher's mound, the bases, and all other features are incorporated into the surface using

a color pattern to distinguish them, reducing tripping hazards for crutches or wheelchairs, and other assistive devices. Once the field is constructed, it will provide the opportunity for children with physical and emotional challenges to participate in the great game of baseball in an environment that is safe and supportive, designed to meet their needs.

