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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPTA applauds FTA grant recipients

August 19, 2020 (Columbus, OH) – The Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) applauds the success of three Ohio transit agencies awarded funds through the Federal Transit Administration’s Buses and Bus Facilities Program [FTA FY 2020 5339(b)]. Approximately \$6.8 million will be coming to Ohio.

Two transit agencies will purchase buses with the funding. Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (GDRTA) will receive \$4,324,608 to purchase new buses to replace aging buses that have exceeded their useful life. The Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (*PARTA*) will receive \$446,742 to purchase a new CNG-powered vehicle to replace an aging diesel bus.

“Buses make up the core of our state’s transit services,” said OPTA President and Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority General Manager Claudia Amrhein. “These funds will directly benefit riders and employers who depend on public transit services by helping us improve safety and service reliability.”

Meanwhile, Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) will receive \$2 million to construct a transportation hub located in Oxford, Ohio. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$11 million.

The grants, selected on a competitive basis, are a part of the FTA’s nationwide effort to revitalize America’s bus infrastructure. Demand far exceeded available funding. Of the 282 applications requesting \$1.8 billion in funding, FTA awarded 96 programs in 49 states and territories a total of \$464 million.

“These grants support the vital services provided every day by Ohio’s public transit systems. Continued investment in public transportation assets here in Ohio is critical to the state’s economy and the welfare of its citizens who rely on public transportation to access essential jobs and services,” said Amrhein.

OPTA is the primary advocate for public transportation in Ohio. The association provides leadership, resources, training, support, technical assistance, media outreach, public engagement, and governmental relations services to public and private transit agencies and businesses across the state.

For more information, contact OPTA Administrator Phyllis VanArsdale by email at pvanarsdale@ohioneedstransit.org or call 330-595-6919.

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