

Director's Notes

April 2025

1 Increase Education & Advocacy

Merchandising

The BCRTA public merch store is live! <https://bcрта.merchyme.com/>

County Commission

Mr. Dutkevicz was able to hold initial one-on-one meetings with Commissioners Dixon and Rogers in December. Mr. Dutkevicz is still following up with Commissioner Carpenter.

2 Enhance Revenues

Funding Education

Staff have begun to engage with community groups and other stakeholders to present on the services provided by BCRTA and the short-term financial outlook of the agency.

3 Engage Entrepreneurial Disruptive Tech

SMART Grant

BCRTA vehicles are slated to have their autonomous equipment installed in the next few months. Staff are awaiting direction vehicle shipping and engineering info from the upfitter and vehicle manufacturer.

4 Leverage Regional Partners

Middletown

A resolution to provide final authority for BCRTA to execute a MOU with the City is on the April agenda. The City provided some small revisions to the draft that was originally adopted by the BCRTA board in 2024. The item must now proceed to OKI for inclusion on their May agenda, then be forwarded to the Governor's office where it must be direct to the FTA for final concurrence.

Paratransit Coordination

BCRTA is working closely with NEORide, SORTA, and TANK to pilot a regional one-seat ride program for eligible ADA riders. SORTA has agreed to fund the pilot to help riders cross borders in the tri-state area without changing buses or booking multiple rides. The pilot is expected to launch in May. SORTA received a grant award to help fund operations as part of the Ohio Workforce Mobility Grant, although staffing has been an issue for METRO.

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5 Lead Workforce Development

Autonomous Shuttle

Staff are investigating the possibility of bringing an autonomous shuttle to the area in Fall 2025. The first pilot would focus on work with persistent staffing shortages, such as late-night SafeRide services within the City of Oxford and on the Miami University Campus. Obtaining an autonomous vehicle may also lead to workforce opportunities for training on autonomous tech and vehicle systems.

The project would be completely reliant on discretionary grant funds. Staff applied to ODOT to fund this project as part of the 2026 Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership program. Announcements were expected following adoption of the State Transportation Budget, but no news has been announced to date.

6 Adapt to Market Demand

Chestnut Street Multimodal Station

Chestnut Street Station continues to move forward. Progress inside the building is significant, but significant earthwork, grading, and paving still have to be done this spring and summer. Staff are working with Graybach and Bowen to identify an opening date in Fall of 2025.

Information, updates and pictures are available at <https://www.butlercountyrta.com/projects/oxford-multimodal-facility/>

GDRTA Bus Lease

Given the continued increased demand for BGo services and the surge in hiring, operations staff has found themselves in the unfamiliar position of having more drivers available than vehicles. As part of a short-term solution to meet service needs, Greater Dayton RTA has agreed to lease contingency vehicles to the BCRTA for a very low cost. A lease agreement was finalized and executed in March. Vehicles are onsite and should be placed in service by April 30.

State of Good Repair

Moser Court Improvements & Space Planning

BCRTA was successful in obtaining \$2.5M to realize the Fuel Alternative, Security, Storage, Training (FASST) project to finish the Moser Court parking expansion plan. Hamilton Planning Commission and City Council have also approved the plans. Staff have finalized A&E plans and also let the bid. An award is expected to be proposed at the May meeting, although a contract cannot be signed until FTA finalizes NEPA and approves the grant. Administrative staff will be leaving Moser Court in March and April to make way for the expanded training center and space for the operations team. The transition is likely to

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last through fall while phased moves take place within the building and light renovations, such as painting and furniture reconfigurations, take place.

Coming Up

2023 Annual Report

Copies are available on the BCRTA website and from Shawn Cowan.

FTA Delays and Uncertainty

Staff are continuing to see long delays for grant approvals and other actions for which FTA is responsible. FTA personnel are also continuing to change and shrink. BCRTA staff are particularly concerned with an amendment to a current grant for additional operating assistance funds. If this amendment is not processed promptly, BCRTA may be forced to consider suspending service that is supported solely by federal funds until such a time as FTA approves grants and releases funding. A decision on this matter may be required as early as June without any action by FTA.

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Upcoming Procurements >\$25,000

Item	Procuring Agency	Estimated Spend	Estimated Term	Reason for Purchase
Moser Court Parking Lot Construction	BCRTA	3.5M	Task	New
Chestnut Station FF&E	BCRTA	475K	Task	New
Chestnut Station Bus Wash	BCRTA	1.3M	Task	New
Large Bus Tires	BCRTA	180K	5	Replacement
HRIS Software	BCRTA	350K	5	Replacement
Uniforms & Supplies	BCRTA	250K	5 years	Replacement
Non-Revenue Vehicles (4)	BCRTA	200K	Task	Replacement