



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PARTA to reduce bus service on some fixed routes**

**Kent, Ohio - Tuesday, June 8, 2021** – Beginning Sunday, June 13, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) will reduce bus service on certain routes in Kent and Ravenna. The changes are necessary due to a shortage of available drivers. Riders will notice increased wait times on some fixed routes in the early morning and in the evening.

“We have adjusted our schedule to maintain as much service as possible during the times of day ridership is in greatest demand,” said PARTA General Manager Claudia Amrhein.

Impacted routes include the 35 Interurban East, 40/45 Suburban lines, 80/85 Raven lines, and Saturday service on all routes. No changes are planned for the 30 Interurban West, 70 Windham/Garrettsville, and 90 Akron Express routes. Service on the route 100 Cleveland Express remains suspended indefinitely.

Updated schedules are available on PARTA buses, at the Gateway Transit Center, and on the PARTA website, [www.partaonline.org](http://www.partaonline.org). Riders are also encouraged to download the Spot PARTA app, which provides real-time information on the location of PARTA buses.

Changes to PARTA's county service will not impact bus service provided to Kent State University.

“PARTA has been affected by the same lack of available workers that other industries have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Amrhein. “We currently have openings for full and part-time drivers.”

PARTA will host an open interview hiring event Tuesday, June 29, from 10 am to noon and from 2 pm to 4 pm at its administrative offices located at 2000 Summit Road in Kent.

A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is not required to apply. PARTA will train newly hired full-time drivers who need a CDL to operate its large, fixed route buses. A CDL is not required to drive the small buses PARTA uses to provide service throughout the county.

Organized in 1975 under Section 306.32 of the Ohio Revised Code, PARTA provides fixed-route, ADA Complementary Paratransit and Demand Response service throughout Portage County. PARTA also operates the Kent Central Gateway Transit Center and parking deck in downtown Kent. In 2018, PARTA constructed the first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station in Portage County.

For more information contact PARTA Communications and Public Advocacy Advisor Denise Baba at 330.678.7745 or email [dbaba@partaonline.org](mailto:dbaba@partaonline.org).

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