



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

**200 E. HIGH ST.
LIMA, OHIO 45801**

**WWW.ACRTA.COM
419-222-2782**

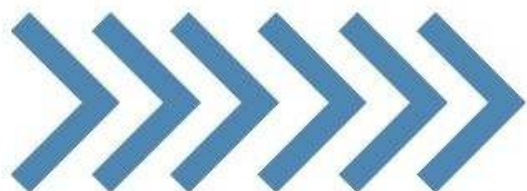


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MISSION

Our mission at Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) is to provide efficient, safe, and easily accessible transit services as a means of mobility to citizens in need of transportation. Whether you need a ride for work, shopping, or appointments, we want to get you there. ACRTA is in the business of connecting people to become more self-sufficient and to achieve their full potential.

Guiding Principles

- Promote a cleaner, environmentally sustainable transportation choice
- Provide jobs and convenient transportation that operates consistently and safely
- Deliver convenient, comfortable and reliable service
- Provide a safe and secure environment for customers, employees and the community
- Encourage creativity and innovation
- Treat employees and customers with respect, compassion, and understanding
- Provide communication and opportunities for public involvement in the community
- Continuously strive for improved cost efficiency of our services
- Approach financial relationship with integrity and transparency



2024

A YEAR OF REFLECTION AND APPRECIATION

BRIAN WILDERMUTH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS

Dear Community Partners, Governing Authorities, Fellow Staff, and Faithful Riders:

In 2024, we had the privilege of celebrating a huge milestone - the 50th anniversary of The Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA). The celebration gave us the opportunity to reflect on where we have come over the past five decades.

In addition to the anniversary, we are also proud of the tangible accomplishments that ACRTA staff and partners completed or started in 2024. It reminds me that we're an agency that continues to make good and equitable things happen by providing much-needed resources. What we do helps our residents to live, work, and thrive as a community by connecting them to where they need to go. We love that about our work and are excited to continue this journey.

Some highlights from last year include the route implementation of our trolleys, the reprisal of our "Shop with Cops" program, the infrastructure advancements like our new bus garage with its vehicle washing system, the introduction of a language translation service called "Translate Live," and "How-to-Ride" videos and brochures that offer step-by-step instructions in three languages on how to navigate our public bus system in Allen County.

Though there have been a long list of changes over the years with our services, routes, infrastructure, fleet, technology, and accessibility modifications, there have also been some things that have remained constant.

For 50 years, ACRTA staff has done its best to work hard, show civic pride, foster dignity, and extend kindness to all riders. While we are proud of the changes we've made, we are equally proud of these things that have remained the same. We promise to continue to provide safe, reliable, and enjoyable riding experiences for our patrons of all needs.

Please join me in taking a moment to look through our annual report as a way to not just see our accomplishments, but to recognize the partnerships and friendships we've made along the way. Connecting our community is not only about transporting people from one location to another, but it's also about making essential human connections that build relationships as we all work to make Allen County a better place.

Whether you work for us, partner with us, or ride with us, thank you for your support of ACRTA. We appreciate you all and couldn't do any of these things without you.

Warmly,



Brian Wildermuth
Executive Director - Operations



remembering the life of **JOAN DAVIS**

On January 23, 2025, our board member, patron, and beloved friend, Joanne "Joan" Davis (1940-2025), passed away at the age of 84. She had faithfully served as an ACRTA Board Member since 2012, and was also a loyal bus rider and an advocate for her fellow passengers. In 2019, she worked alongside ACRTA staff to campaign for the successful passage of the levy. Joan had a very vibrant personality that shown brightly through all aspects of her life. She was a wonderful woman who will be truly missed by so many. Rest in peace, dear friend.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS:

Richard Schroeder – 17 years
Robert Moening – 4 years
Precious Grundy – new in August 2024
Scott Cockerell – 6 years
Brad Taylor – 1 year - *previously on Board for 3 years*
Doug Olson – served 4 years - *resigned due to retirement in 2024*
Joan Davis – served 12 years - *recently passed away*
Daniel Kimmet – new in 2025
Jack DeWitt – new in 2025

MANAGEMENT STAFF:

Brian Wildermuth: Executive Director – Operations: 12 years
Karen Garland: Executive Director – Administration & Capital: 6 years
Teresa Brown: Finance Manager: 16 years
Lori McGuire: Transportation Manager – Uplift : 13 years
Kelli Miller: Transportation Manager – Fixed Route : 6 years
Rick Lott: Maintenance Manager: 2 years
Austin Rollins: Assistant Maintenance Manager: New in 2024

meet our
**BOARD &
STAFF**





our new route **CHANGES**

Rider App
to plan ACRTA
transportation



Translation App
for any language to speak over
the phone with ACRTA staff



ROUTE CHANGES IN 2024:

#3 LIMA MALL

- Added service to Lowe's and Range Kleen

#5 SOUTH MAIN




- Added stop at the corner of Central and Second Street

#6 WEST NORTH

- Added service to UNOH's 100 Admin Building
- Added service to Northwestern Park
- Added service to UNOH's 300 Building
- Added service to Fricker's Chicken
- Omitted the stop at Lowe's
- Omitted the stop at La Charreada's on Cable Road

our new **SERVICES**

TRANSIT DATA >>>

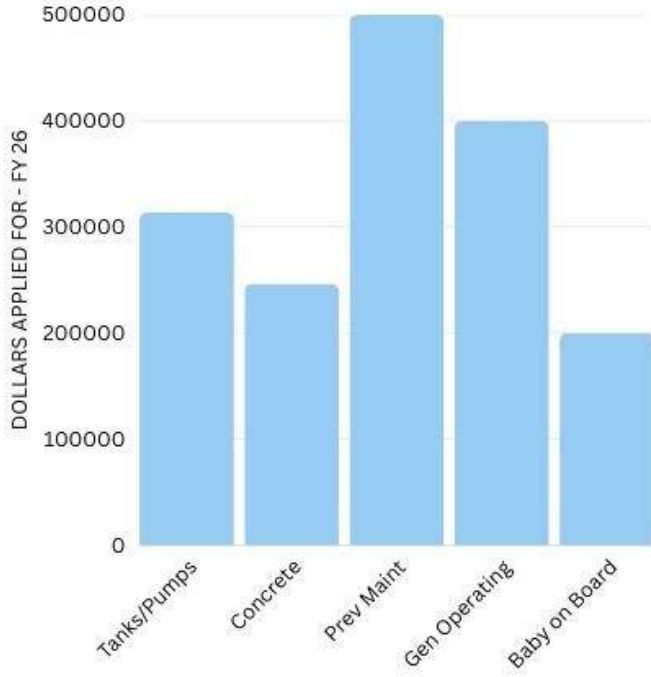
	
<p>MILES TRAVELED 510,939</p>	<p>178,628 FIXED ROUTE TRIPS</p>
<p>ROUTE OPERATING COSTS \$1,636,924.23</p>	 <p>Trolley Rides 1,449</p>
<p>TRIP COUNT 1,357 Micro Transit 15,583 Special Services 7,150 Para-Transit ADA 29,699 Demand Response</p>	<p>11 FIXED ROUTES INCLUDES THE SEASONAL DOWNTOWN LIMA LOOP</p>
<p>UPLIFT Miles: 237,086 Operating Cost: \$750,559.93</p>	<p>47 EMPLOYEES</p>

FINANCIAL DATA >>>

PROFIT & LOSS SUMMARY	
Net gain after depreciation =	\$ 329,086.55
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets =	\$ 7,026,771.31
Current liabilities =	\$ 526,976.85
Net position =	\$ 6,499,794.46
REVENUE SOURCES	
Passenger fares =	\$ 166,450.82
Organization paid fares =	\$ 738,359.00
Advertising =	\$ 83,048.00
Concessions =	\$ 40,571.42
- Greyhound, lottery, vending	
Other =	\$ 512,497.44
- Interest, office lease, etc.	
Sales tax =	\$ 2,113,359.93
ODOT =	\$ 20,276.00
FTA =	\$ 2,730,129.00
MONEY APPLIED FOR: SFY 2026	
OTP2 APPLICATION	
Fuel Tanks/Pumps =	\$ 313,600.00
Concrete Replacement =	\$ 246,420.00
Preventative Maintenance =	\$ 500,000.00
Operating Assistance =	\$ 400,000.00
- General	
Operating Assistance =	\$ 200,000.00
- Baby on Board	



GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED



REVENUE SOURCES

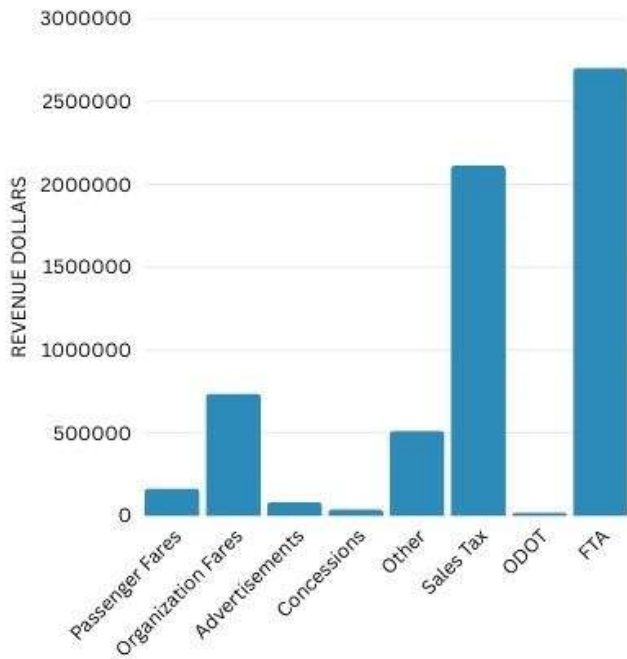
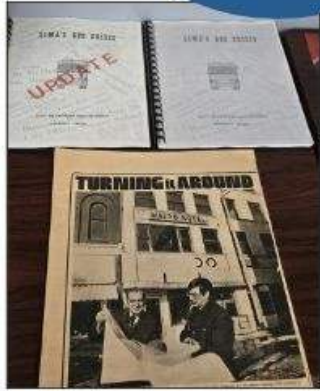


Photo credit: Downtown Lima, Inc., Visit Greater Lima, and Modo Media.



1974-2024

ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



United States Senate
Senator J.D. Vance
of the State of Ohio
decidedly supports the
ALLEN COUNTY RTA
 I am pleased to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Allen County RTA.

This remarkable milestone is a testament to your unwavering commitment to providing accessible, reliable transportation for the residents of Allen County, and I extend my gratitude to the staff at the Allen County RTA for your dedicated service to your community.

Congratulations on celebrating this historic anniversary, and best wishes for many more years of continued success.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Senate of the United States of America.


 J.D. Vance
 United States Senator

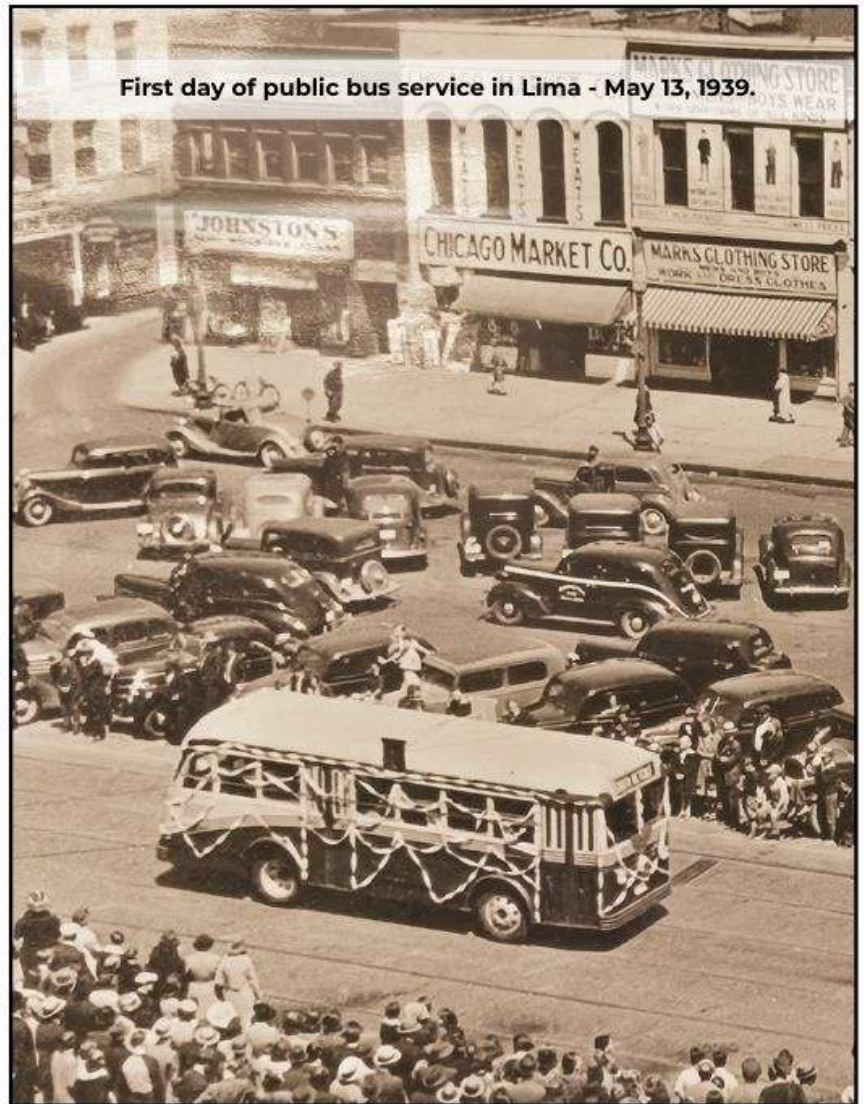
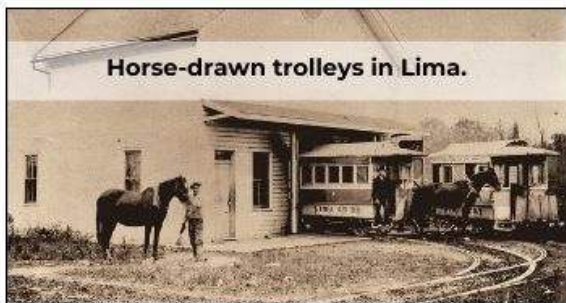
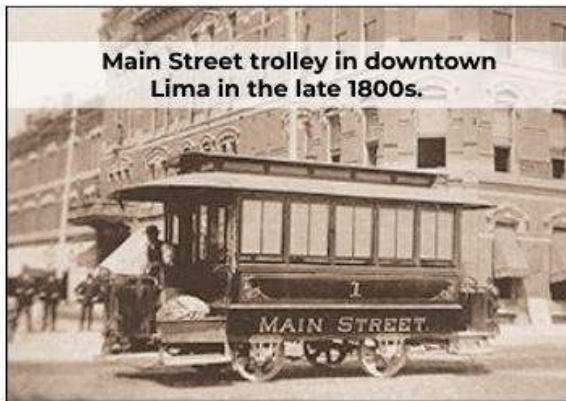
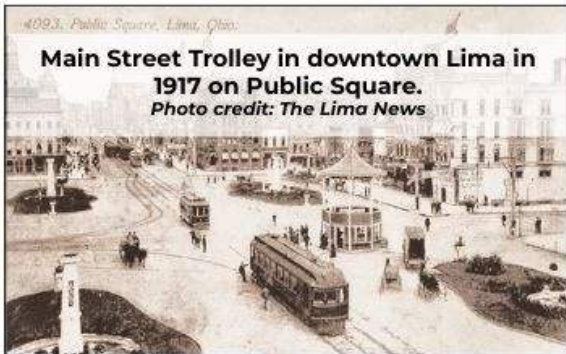
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a Story
THROUGH

ONCE UPON A TIME

A LOOK AT LIMA'S TRANSIT SYSTEM FROM THE BEGINNING...



LIMA'S HISTORY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The fascinating details of public transportation began in Lima long before the official designation of the Allen County RTA bus system. In fact, the public transportation system in Lima dates back nearly 150 years. In 1878, horses began pulling trolleys for public use by utilizing a street railway. Just a few years later in 1885, Benjamin Faurot developed the first successful electric streetcar system in Ohio. By 1887, all of the trolleys were powered by electricity in Lima. This was one of the first electric railway lines in all of Ohio! For more about our rich history of public transportation, please read more on our website at: www.acrta.com/acrta-history/

troll
H HISTORY



meet our
TROLLEYS





“STEAMY”

MEET OUR TROLLEYS

ACRTA has three trolleys that are used for special events, private rentals, and the Saturday summer downtown loop that gives free rides to the public. They are a novelty and exciting for people of all ages to see and to ride, and are even wheelchair accessible.

The maroon trolleys were acquired more recently, but until last July, did not have names. As part of a fun promotion, a public survey was sent out and nearly 800 residents voted to officially name the new trolleys. The public spoke, and decided that the names “Rusty” and “Steamy” were fitting for the new vehicles. Rusty is #1101 and Steamy is #901. The brown and green trolley is named “Chance.”

The trolleys are a more modern construction of original concepts, with some vintage design features and working parts. The beloved vehicles look similar to the old fashioned designs that used a cable or rail system, but operate like a bus.



“CHANCE”

HOW TO RIDE™

We are pleased to announce that through our partnership with Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC), we have created “How to Ride” videos and brochures that are available in three languages: English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Please check them out and share them with your partner agencies, family, neighbors and friends!



ENGLISH



SPANISH



HAITIAN CREOLE



To view the videos, search YouTube for “How to ride the Allen County Ohio RTA,” or visit www.acrta.com/acrta-riding-guidelines or www.lacrpc.com/transportation-planning.



There are a couple of ways to view and receive the “How-to-Ride” brochures:

- 1.) Visit: www.lacrpc.com/transportation-planning to download digital copies.
- 2.) Call ACRTA at 419-221-2782 or LACRPC at 419-228-1836 for free printed copies.

COPS & KIDS "SHOP WITH A COP"

DECEMBER 7, 2024



"Shop with a Cop" was held on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 and was a collaborative effort by several area agencies and sponsors. It gave 42 pre-selected area children the opportunity to shop with local police officers to pick out some gifts free of charge for Christmas. There was a free lunch following the shopping trip. Sponsors for the event included the Lima Allen County RTA, local law enforcement agencies, FOP Hall Charities, and private donors. Thank you to all who made this special event happen. It was the first time doing the in-person shopping since 2019.

ACRTA GARAGE EXPANSION - PROJECT UPDATE



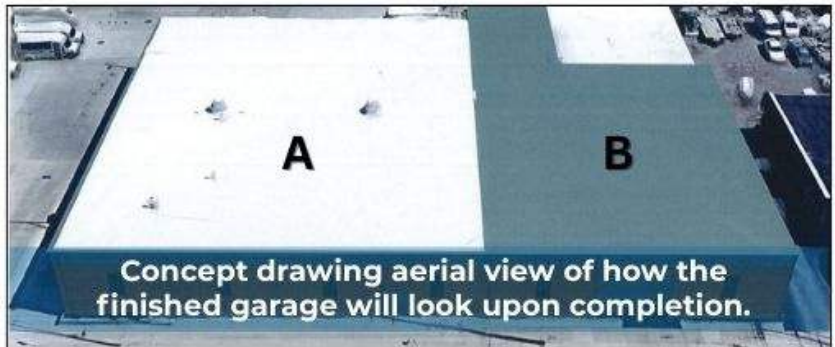
The ACRTA garage expansion project began in November 2023 with an estimated completion date of Summer 2025. The project will incorporate ACRTA's existing garage (show right: A) with the new building (show right: B) being attached to the existing garage.

The façade of the garage will match the façade of many other downtown buildings, like the rest of the ACRTA buildings and Lima Senior High School. The garage expansion will create enough space for all ACRTA vehicles to be housed inside at all times so they will no longer be exposed to the elements when not in use.

There will be a drive-thru bus wash in the space between the old and new buildings, and the old building will see new flooring throughout to match the flooring in the new one. The drive-thru bus wash will allow for daily vehicle cleaning. There is also discussion about the possibility for the garage to accommodate cleaning of other non-profit and/or government vehicles.



Garage prior to the start of the expansion and renovations.



Concept drawing aerial view of how the finished garage will look upon completion.



The work-in-progress, taken in April 2025.



NEW FLEET VEHICLES COMING IN 2025



Replacement Bus <30'



Replacement Bus <30'



New Service Truck



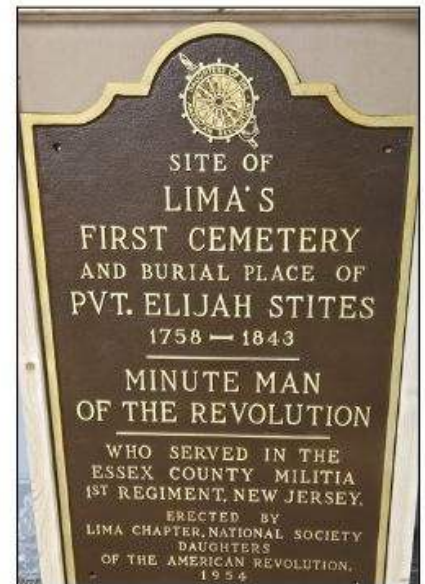
PLAQUE REDEDICATION CEREMONY NOVEMBER 6, 2024

Pictured below are attendees of a plaque rededication ceremony, held at ACRTA's newly renovated maintenance facility on November 6.

The plaque (pictured left) was first dedicated in 1954 by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) until it was recently removed for refurbishment. The plaque was in honor of a fallen hero of the American Revolution, Pvt. Elijah Stites (1758-1843), who was a Minute Man that served under George Washington. Stites is thought to be buried underneath the current ACRTA maintenance building on North Central Avenue. *(For decades, Lima Lumber resided in this location and hosted the plaque.)*

Sent away in early 2024 for extensive refurbishing using private funds, the plaque was carefully restored to pristine condition (pictured right). Upon its return to Lima, it was remounted in the same geographic location, which is now the current ACRTA maintenance facility.

The rededication ceremony in November was also courtesy of DAR.



Funds for the plaque restoration and roundtrip shipping were made possible by the Daughters of the American Revolution and Hume Contracting. Thank you!





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