

Wayne County Transit
and
SARTA's Reduction of Hours

November 8, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

[Community Action Wayne/Medina](#) (CAWM) was informed later afternoon on Monday, November 6th by Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) that stop-gap transportation plans, put into place due to Stark Area Regional Transit Authority's (SARTA) sudden reduction of service hours, does not meet ODOT and the Federal Transit Authority's (FTA) procurement requirements.

In early October, CAWM was notified by SARTA of their inability to continue the operational schedule of 6am – midnight and as of November 13th would reduce service hours from 6am – 6:00pm (which essentially meant the earliest work drop-off is 7:30am and pm pickup is 5:00pm because of transit vehicles being housed in Stark County) This news was completely unexpected and was met with grave concerns from riders and CAWM who depend on WCT for work and dialysis clients, primarily. Days after the news, CAWM began getting calls from WCT riders experiencing immediate trip denials when calling SARTA to schedule trips. They were instructed to call CAWM.

CAWM Transportation immediately engaged in procurement of an alternate provider who could quickly replace the service gap, and secured SHARE Mobility as a provider. Additionally, CAWM developed an Agreement with SARTA to enable CAWM to access the Wayne County grant funding which SARTA holds on behalf of Wayne County Transit (WCT).

So, what is the gameplan? We are engaged with leadership at the County level to mitigate this interruption and will do our best to work through the challenge. In the meantime, depending on the call, please refer inquiries for WCT transportation because of trip denials, loss of service or community impact due to the WCT capacity, to Kathryn khardinger@cawm.org; Jan at jconrad@cawm.org. or James at jfox@cawm.org

This does NOT impact the City of Wooster subsidized program for city residents.