

# RTA downtown bus will run at least one more year

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**BRUNSWICK** — The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority will continue to operate the bus route that transports commuters to downtown Cleveland now that the governing board of the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency has approved \$11.1 million in emergency funding for local transit authorities.

The route, which was to be canceled as of Oct. 1, will

remain operational for at least another year, said RTA general manager Joseph Calabrese.

The funding will also postpone the closing of additional RTA bus routes and reduce the 50-cent rate hike the transit authority had proposed to 25 cents, Calabrese said.

"These funds will allow RTA to continue with no major service cuts until after July 1, when the new two-year state funding cycle takes effect," Calabrese said.

The resolution NOACA passed Sept. 12 also calls for NOACA to urge the Ohio General Assembly to approve more funding for transit when the state's two-year budget is passed next year.

"If there is not a significant increase in state funding in that cycle, we know that there we will need to add an additional fuel surcharge and institute major service reductions in fall 2009," he said.

The \$11.1 million in fund-

ing, generated from unspent Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funds, is being split between six agencies. Medina County's share totals \$343,000 — \$305,000 for the Medina County Transit and \$38,000 for the Brunswick Transit Alternative.

Other agencies that will receive a portion of the funding include RTA, \$9 million; Lorain County Transit, \$645,000; LAKE-TRAN, \$1 million; and Geauga County Transit, \$136,000.