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**MEDIA RELEASE 1/10/18**

*January 9, 2018 the ACRTA Board of Trustees have made the motion to continue the process to plan for another Sales Tax Levy for November 2018 Ballot. Now that the state has passed the law to lower the amount of requirements for the Sales Tax Levy and depending on the results from the Service Reductions and Budget, the RTA Board of Trustees will determine the amount to place on the Sales Tax Levy at a later date. The consideration is the lowest legal amount that would be (.10%) a tenth of a percent that would generate an estimated amount of $1.5 million of designated revenue available for public transportation. This amount would not allow ACRTA to increase any services for the community, have thirty minute service instead the one hour routes, add routes for the Downtown Rhoades college students, increase shuttles to industrial parks or assist the city and county with sidewalks but it would focus to continue current service and prevent ACRTA from reducing any additional service and potentially closing.*

*Due to the unsuccessful passing of the Levy in November 2017 and continued declining of Federal/State Grants, ACRTA had to make some transportation service cuts starting December 1, 2017. This was a difficult decision due to the hardship on the community, economic growth, job access, and the services RTA provides for the Elderly, Disabled and Special Needs Students.*

The Immediate Cuts were:

* No Free transportation for Non-Profit Companies which includes Lima Locos, Lima Warriors, Big Brothers and Sisters, Church Daycares, St. Johns School, Girl/Boy Scouts, Veterans events, FOP Christmas events, Free passenger fare days, Special Needs Christmas event, Sheriff and Police disabled transportation, Emergency Event Plans for Memorial and St. Rita’s Hospital, Changing Seasons functions or any other events.
* No Monthly Discounted Unlimited Ride Passes which include: High School Student ride passes for $10; Elderly and Disabled ride passes for $17; Youth ride passes for $20 and Unlimited Adult Passes for $34. **All unlimited monthly passes will be $40. (Elderly & Disabled with RTA ID can still ride Fixed Route Services for .50 payable at each bus)**

December 2nd Cuts were:

* Shut down Saturday Bus Service
* Shut down Saturday Uplift Service for Elderly and Disabled
* Close Lobby on Saturday and Sundays that were open for Greyhound and Barron Bus ticket sales and passengers.

January 1st Cuts continue:

* Shut down all Bus Services at **6:45pm** instead of 10:15pm; this includes Fixed Route and Uplift Services.
* Shut down the newest Routes with less ridership:

-**Route 7 North East** that services Marimor and DD, Nickles Bakery, Ford Plant, US Plastic, Metakote, Lima Pallet and P&G on Cool road.

-**Route 8 Metcalf** that services Husky, Occupational Health, Heart Institute, Precision Thermo Plastic, Orthopedic Institute and Bob Evans factory.

-**Route 9 Shawnee/Apollo** that services Bradfield Center, Red Cross, Potash, Apollo Center, Ft Shawnee Industrial Park, Central Point Business Park and Shawnee Manor.

* **Route 5 South Main** now will service to deviate to JFS for seven trips per day