

ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Allen County RTA – Connecting Our Community

One of the great assets in our community is the dedicated staff at RTA. They work hard everyday to get their fellow residents to work, medical services, shopping, and other destinations. We would like to give you an update on the current status of RTA.

2017 – Banner year in ridership

As ridership increased to nearly 400,000 rides in 2017, the federal and state funding for the Allen County RTA decreased. Transit providers across the country have faced similar cuts; however, many communities have found ways to provide sustainable, reliable funding sources for their transit services with taxes on everything from property to tobacco products.

Since the Allen County RTA has no local funding, except rider fares and contracted services, the Board of Trustees sought a sales tax increase in November 2017. With the failure of that levy, RTA had no choice but to cut vital services. All weekend and evening routes were cut, which had huge impact on employers, workers, and others reliant on those services. For example, in 2017 the RTA averaged nearly one thousand wheel chair rides a month. In 2018 with the cuts in services, those numbers have dropped below two hundred fifty per month. Likewise, the total number of rides has dropped by more than one third. A number of employers have contacted RTA to discuss options for getting their workers to their jobs.

Reliable, available transit services are critically important to the economy and quality of life in the Allen County community. RTA transports workers to jobs, and employers rely on those services to help them attain and retain employees. Those employees pay taxes and shop at local businesses. RTA also gets people to medical services, shopping, and delivers special needs children to schools throughout the county.

This October, the RTA Board of Trustees voted to place a sales tax levy on the spring 2019 ballot. The reasons they chose the sales tax approach to create continuous funding for the RTA are: It does not affect people’s property tax or rent, it does not affect people’s income tax or utilities, and it does not affect people’s food cost. Seventy percent of Allen County sales tax comes from people outside of Allen County and the amount of the sales tax increase, yet to be determined, would be minimal. Supporting the transit services is really an investment in the Allen County community.

We thank Allen County residents for your support and pledge to provide the best service always.

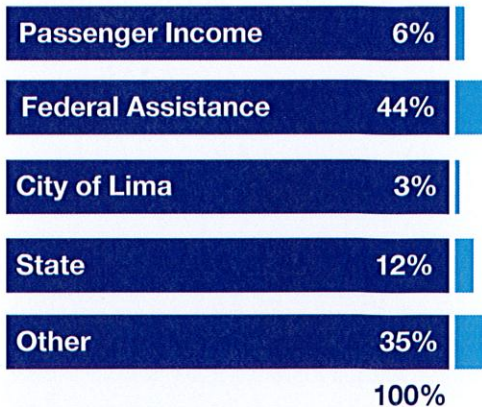
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2017 Revenue



2017 Expenses

