

Friday, January 10, 2003

RTA expands scope of the Euclid Corridor Project

CLEVELAND – The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) has expanded the scope of the Euclid Corridor Transportation Project to include a major transit center near Cleveland State University.

Under the revised scope, the \$18 million East Side Transit Center will be eligible for federal "New Starts" funding. The center will provide greater convenience to customers using public transit, says RTA CEO Joe Calabrese.

"This transit center will have a mini-airport hub environment and will allow RTA customers to wait and to transfer to and from various transit routes in a clean, safe and climate controlled environment," Calabrese says.

"It will include arrival and departure monitors, retail services such as a coffee shop and gift shop, and house a Transit Police sub-station. We are pursuing other joint development opportunities at this location," Calabrese says.

The transit center, approved by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) several years ago, was later put on hold to better coordinate it with the Euclid Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line. That line is now in the final design phase. The transit center, slated for development at Prospect Ave. and E. 21st St., is consistent with CSU's new Master Plan.

In addition to the transit center, \$8 million in various construction work related to sidewalk vaults along Lower Euclid Avenue has also been included in the revised scope of the Project. The work will be done by the City of Cleveland.

The new funding plan totals \$246 million, a \$26 million increase over the current \$220 million plan. RTA is requesting 50 percent federal "New Starts" participation.

The new funding structure is as follows:

\$123 million or 50.0 percent - FTA News Starts (federal share)

\$ 59 million or 24.0 percent - State of Ohio

\$ 36 million or 14.6 percent - RTA

\$ 18 million or 07.3 percent - City of Cleveland

\$ 10 million or 04.1 percent - NOACA

The Euclid Corridor Transportation Project will be presented in detail during four evening public meetings on Jan. 15, 22, 23 and 29.

For more information on the Project, call Danielle Willis, 216-771-4144, send e-mail to dwillis@gcrta.org.

For media inquiries only contact:

Jerry Masek
RTA Media Relations Manager
P: 216.566.5211

F: 216.566.5240
jmasek@gcrta.org