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Press Release
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CARTA Awarded FTA Low Emission Grant To Modernize Fleet and Strengthen Regional Transit

Chattanooga, Tennessee — The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) has been awarded a competitive grant through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Low or No Emission (Low-No) Grant Program to support the replacement of aging vehicles across its fleet, with a primary focus on modernizing Care-A-Van paratransit service.

The total project investment is \$1,010,576 and includes required local matching funds from the City of Chattanooga and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). This funding will allow CARTA to purchase six to seven new vehicles, along with essential onboard equipment such as fareboxes, radios, and onboard security cameras. The investment will improve safety, reliability, and accessibility for riders who depend on Care-A-Van for essential trips to jobs, healthcare, and daily activities.

The FTA's Low Emission Grant Program is designed to enhance safety and renew transit systems nationwide by deploying modern buses and associated equipment, while expanding access to employment, healthcare, recreation, and commercial services. The program also supports workforce development, ADA-compliant facilities, and energy-efficient transit investments.

"This award reflects both the critical importance of paratransit service and the strength of our regional and federal partnerships," said Charles D. Frazier, CEO of CARTA. "We are deeply grateful for the leadership and support of Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp, Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly, and Congressman Chuck Fleischmann. Their advocacy and collaboration are essential to securing federal resources like this FTA grant. These partnerships are how CARTA brings federal dollars home to the Tennessee Valley and builds a safer, more modern, and more accessible transit system for the future."

CARTA has made the replacement of aging vehicles a strategic priority as part of its broader effort to strengthen the foundation of the region's transit system and responsibly steward public resources. This grant represents a significant step forward in renewing the fleet while improving service for riders who rely on CARTA every day.

Procurement of the new vehicles will begin immediately, with delivery and deployment expected in phases over the coming months.

About CARTA

The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) is Chattanooga's public transit system, founded in 1973. As the driving force behind the city's mobility, CARTA connects communities and empowers lives through a comprehensive range of services, including fixed-route buses, paratransit services (Care-a-van), microtransit (CARTA Go), the iconic Lookout Mountain Incline Railway, and the free downtown electric shuttle system. CARTA is also responsible for managing the Chattanooga Parking Authority, overseeing a network of garages, parking lots, and on-street parking. By shaping the future of mobility, CARTA fuels Chattanooga's economic growth, enhances accessibility, and drives the city's progress forward.

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