

September 3, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: James R. Cordes
County Administrator
(440) 329-5760

Press Release

County Transit's New Buses Are Avon Lake Built Fords

Elyria, Ohio – The Lorain County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce that the engines and chaises for the 13 new Cutaway buses will be built at the Ohio Assembly Plant, Avon Lake Ohio. The E-series sized vehicles were specified in the bidding documents. “We are delighted that assemble of the engine, frames and driver-cabins is starting right here in Lorain County by Lorain County Ford Workers. This is a win-win situation for everyone. Our transit system needs new buses and the Ford workers are happy to build them. State and Federal agencies provided the money to help us all,” said Board President, Lori Kokoski.

On July 16, 2009 The Board of Commissioners approved Resolution No. 09-484 to authorize up to \$712,881 of new replacement buses. The official order to procure the vehicles was placed with Ford on Friday, August 28 through TESCO from Oregon, Ohio the successful bidder. “It normally takes nearly one month to complete required paperwork prior to placing the actual order for new vehicles,” said Transit Director, Rich Enty. He continued his comments by saying, “It takes time to work with the Federal, State and local agencies to complete final alignment of the grant funds. Last Friday was a very gratifying day for everyone involved.”

Once the Avon Lake Ford workers complete their work the Ford, E-450 Cutaway vehicles they will be shipped to Indiana for final assembly of the fiberglass bus compartment, seating safety rail, decals and wheelchair lifts. It is anticipated that the final delivery of the new buses will occur in 150 days or by the end of January 2010.

“The new buses were purchased using no local funds. 100% of these funds were Federal ARRA (stimulus funds) or State CMAG funds through NOACA. This is great news for our local economy,” said Commissioner Betty Blair. The funds were available through the Cooperation of Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), Federal Transportation Administration, Ohio Department of Transportation, the Governor of Ohio,

The Ohio Turnpike Commission and the Lorain County Board of Commissioners. The breakdown of the funds included: CMAG (congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Funds) funds \$ 395,431; Ohio Toll Revenue Credit \$ 189,800; and, ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) funds \$127,650. The total order for these 13 buses was \$712,881. These funds could only be used for capital purchases and could not be used for operational expenses.

“The purchase of these buses will result in lower to maintenance costs for our fleet,” said Commissioner Kalo. He continued by saying, “FTA estimates that a bus this size should last no more than 200,000 miles. These new buses will be replacing vehicles in our fleet that have exceeded 400,000 miles. Two were taken out of service this spring with over 500,000 miles which are finally being replaced.”