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COTA Offers Free Fares if Level 2 or Level 3 Snow Emergency Declared

COLUMBUS – In an effort to reduce traffic congestion during snow emergencies and enhance safety on area roadways, the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) will provide free fares on all buses on all routes in the event the Franklin County Sheriff declares a Level 2 or Level 3 snow emergency. This initiative will assist the efforts of countywide snow removal and salting, as well as enhance public safety in central Ohio. The free fare policy will be in effect for the entire day when a snow emergency is declared.

“We offer free fares during high level snow emergencies when conditions make driving hazardous,” said Bill Lhota, COTA President/CEO. “Transit provides commuters with an alternative to driving during periods of severe weather, reduces traffic congestion and assists road crews working to clear major thoroughfares.”

The Franklin County Sheriff identifies Level 2 and Level 3 snow emergencies as the following:

- Level 2: Roadways are hazardous with blowing, drifting snow. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roadways.
- Level 3: All roads are closed to non-emergency personnel. NO ONE should be out during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel.

For more information about COTA's Level 2 and Level 3 snow emergency free fare policy, please contact COTA at (614) 228-1776 or visit www.cota.com.

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Editor's Note: To request this information in an alternative format, please call (614) 308-4403.