

PRESS RELEASE



SUBJECT: CENTRO CONSIDERS SERVICE CHANGES TO BALANCE BUDGET DEFICIT
FROM: CENTRAL NEW YORK REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Syracuse, NY – To close a projected \$5 million dollar deficit in the upcoming fiscal year, Centro is considering significant service changes and a restructuring of its fare media in all of its service areas.

The shortfall is the result of years of major revenue streams not keeping pace with increased costs. Three principal revenue streams, namely - the Mortgage Recording Tax, New York State operating assistance, and member county contributions - have increased on average only ½ of 1 percent in the past seven years collectively. These revenue streams, which are outside the control of the Authority, account for 60-65% of the Authority's operating revenue.

"We have aggressively limited our operating expense increases to approximately 2% during each of the past seven years. Unfortunately, our most significant revenue streams have not kept pace," said Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro) Executive Director Frank Kobliski. "We will hit a wall in April and without additional financial support, we will have to make significant changes to our service."

Kobliski testified January 29, 2015 before the New York State Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways and Means Committees. In his remarks, Kobliski outlined for lawmakers the impact on Centro's bus systems and the measures taken to control expenses. Among the changes being considered for implementation in April 2015 are:

Syracuse / Onondaga County

- 1) Reduction in service hours Weeknights
 - a. Service would end with the 9pm departures from the Syracuse Hub, and will complete their routes by 10pm
- 2) Reduction in service hours on Saturdays
 - a. Service would end with the 6:20pm departures from the Syracuse Hub, and will complete their routes by 7:30pm
- 3) Elimination of all Sunday & Holiday service
- 4) Elimination of midday service on the following bus routes:
 - a. 82 - Baldwinsville
 - b. 462 - Manlius
- 5) Restructuring multi-ride Fare Media Pass Program
 - a. Includes the replacement of 7-Day & 30-Day Unlimited Ride Passes with 20-Ride & 30-Ride Passes
 - b. Re-pricing existing 10-Ride Passes
 - c. Elimination of discounted passes for State Fair service
 - d. **The Centro transit cash fare and Call-A-Bus fares will NOT BE AFFECTED**

Utica

- 1) Reduction in frequency of service during weekdays on most routes
- 2) Reduction in service hours Weeknights
 - a. Service would end with the 9pm departures from the Utica Hub
- 3) The elimination of Weekly and 30-Day Unlimited Ride Passes
 - a. **The Centro transit cash fare and Call-A-Bus fares will NOT BE AFFECTED**

Rome

- 1) The elimination of Weekly and 30-Day Unlimited Ride Passes
 - a. **The Centro transit cash fare and Call-A-Bus fares will NOT BE AFFECTED**

Auburn

- 1) Reduction in service hours Weeknights
 - a. Service would end at 7pm
- 2) Elimination of Sunday intercity service connecting Auburn and Syracuse (236 Auburn – Syracuse via Skaneateles/Camillus)
- 3) Elimination of all Route 5 Lake & Owasco service
- 4) Elimination of Weekly and 30-Day Unlimited Ride Passes
 - a. **The Centro transit cash fare and Call-A-Bus fares will NOT BE AFFECTED**

Oswego/Fulton

- 1) Consolidation of Centro's Mexico and Fulton services, which will result in a reduction in frequency of service in Fulton on weekdays, and the elimination of all Saturday service in Fulton
- 2) Elimination of Sunday intercity service connecting Oswego – Fulton with Syracuse (246 Oswego – Syracuse via Fulton/Phoenix)
- 3) Elimination of Weekly and 30-Day Unlimited Ride Passes
 - a. **The Centro transit cash fare and Call-A-Bus fares will NOT BE AFFECTED**

Centro will announce the times and locations of public hearings / feedback sessions at a later date. It is anticipated that public hearings will take place in March. Any action by the Centro Board of Members would be **after** all public hearings are complete.

Public comments may also be submitted via Centro's website and social media:

Website: www.centro.org / Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GoCentroBus/> / Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GoCentroBus>

