



Date: March 30th 2026

Topic: Press Release

From: Caro Transit Authority Board of Directors

CTA To Manage All Operational Bus Duties

In the late summer of 2026, the Caro Transit Authority (CTA) will continue all operations and begin directly managing what is currently known as the Thumbody Express.

The recent announcement by the Human Development Commission (HDC) to terminate its contract with the CTA should not affect bus service.

All existing distributed tokens will be accepted, and the phone number should stay the same. The HDC has agreed to allow the CTA to port the phone number 989-673-8488 to the CTA. The name of Thumbody Express belongs to the HDC we are told, so the busses will be renamed to "CTA". There will be a new website www.CTATHUMB.COM

All HDC staff who are currently employed to support the Thumbody Express for the CTA will be offered jobs and benefits working directly for the CTA.

The CTA appreciates the long-standing relationship it has had with contracting bus services to the local HDC. The relationship started some 30 years ago and has served the community well.

Even though the HDC has notified the CTA that it will terminate the working agreement, as is the right of either the CTA or HDC, the CTA will continue with full operations to protect service and fare rates to its stakeholders, which are Indianfields Twp, Almer Twp, and City of Caro.

Although many on the board are new to it, the board's history is strong in serving the community. The CTA is ready to take on independent bus operations to continue serving our community. The service hasn't had fares or routes seriously reviewed in over 10 years. The CTA will be reviewing this topic in the months ahead, with the focus on the stakeholders' regions being served first and best.



Caro Transit Authority
Almer Township
City of Caro
Indianfields Township
Greater Tuscola County

Independent of the CTA taking on bus operations, there will be one minor change coming on April 1st, due to the current financial situation. What are called out-of-zone, out-of-county, non-emergency medical rides, or contract rides, such as from Caro to Saginaw, and back, these rides will be paused until rates and fares are fully reviewed. These single-persons trips could include 3 hours of driver time and bus mileage, incurring CTA costs of over \$150, yet the fares are only \$20.

Future changes could additionally support downsizing of the physical buses to best match the average ridership to enhance service responsiveness.

The future is bright for the Caro Transit Authority serving our community.

Thanks you,
Jim Tussey
Chair
CTA