

June 12th, 2017

For Immediate Release:

**City of Athens celebrates the 12th annual National Dump the Pump Day by making all Athens Public Transit routes FREE all day for EVERYONE!**

June 15<sup>th</sup> marks the 12<sup>th</sup> annual National Dump the Pump day! Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the 2017 National Dump the Pump Day encourages people to ride public transportation to take them where they need to go instead of driving a car.

The City's Athens Public Transit program has seen a significant growth in ridership over the last several years after a focused effort was made on improving routes, marketing the system, and developing partnerships with local organizations including Ohio University. The system has progressed from providing 62,887 rides in 2011 to a projected 400,000 this year - a 536% increase!

National Dump the Pump day is a way to say thank you to our riders and to offer an opportunity for residents of our community to try out public transit. The City of Athens is excited to be a part of this special day by encouraging residents of the area to "Dump the Pump" and to ride public transit, ride their bike, walk or carpool to where they need to go.

Below is some helpful information for residents!

- All line schedules and routes are on the APT website at <http://www.athenstransit.org/full-map-and-schedule/>.
- The Athens County Mobility Coordinator, Jessie Schmitzer, is available to help you or your organization plan your trips, read schedules or provide other travel training; contact her at 740-594-8499 or [jessie.schmitzer@hapcap.org](mailto:jessie.schmitzer@hapcap.org).
- Vehicle location technology is available for you to see exactly where your bus is using your smart phone or your desktop computer. Check out the [athenstransit.org/tracker](http://athenstransit.org/tracker) for more details.
- Trip planning is available on the website [athenstransit.org/trip-planner](http://athenstransit.org/trip-planner) using origin and destination addresses to help you plan what route is best for your trip.
- All vehicles are ADA accessible and can also transport bicycles.
- With expanded evening hours, routes through Athens, The Plains and Chauncey, and marked stop locations, riding Athens Public Transit has never been easier.

Athens Public Transit is a partnership of HAPCAP and the City of Athens, with major funding from the Federal Transit Administration and the Ohio Department of Transportation and coordination with Ohio University. Operations are provided by McDonald Transit Associates, Inc.

