



**CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
RESOLUTION 2024-4**

**A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE  
CENTRE AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CATA),  
RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) is a voluntary association of College, Ferguson, Halfmoon, Harris, and Patton Townships, and State College Borough, collectively known as the Centre Region municipalities – who joined together in 1969 to cooperate in providing local government services and to operate regional administration, planning, codes, and parks and recreation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) is a joint municipal authority formed under the Municipal Authorities Act of 1945 to provide public transportation services within the boundaries of its member municipalities – College, Ferguson, Harris, and Patton Townships, and State College Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the COG and CATA respective core service areas largely overlap in the municipalities known as the Centre Region; and

**WHEREAS**, local bus service in the State College area started in September 1946 with the Nittany Transit Company. Over the next 20 years, several companies provided transit service, including Suburban Express and Fullington Auto Bus Company; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1972, Centre Area Transit (CAT) was formed to subsidize public transportation in response to the prospect of private entities abandoning service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) was incorporated, and transportation under the CATA name officially began on May 17, 1974. In the first year of operations, CATA's ridership was 201,000 – a number that has grown to several million riders per year at the current time; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1975, CATA purchased eight new 35-foot GMC buses – a fleet that has grown roughly ten-fold in the ensuing years; and

**WHEREAS**, by the late 1970s, CATA had formed a representative Board of Directors, hired staff, and constructed a garage facility to house daily operations; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1982, CATA reorganized into the joint municipal authority structure still in use today, the widely-known and familiar orange and white paint scheme was selected for CATA's buses, and paratransit service began; and

**WHEREAS**, CATA has been committed to the use of alternative fuels since 1996 when it purchased its first compressed natural gas (CNG) powered buses. Thanks to this initiative, CATA became one of the first transit systems in the eastern United States to have an entire fleet powered by alternative fuels; and

WHEREAS, by 1999, CATA assumed operations of all high-frequency, fixed route transit services on the Penn State University campus, making the LOOP and LINK routes free for the rider. CATA has also partnered with Penn State on park-and-ride and ridesharing programs, as well as a variety of other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, CATA added bike racks on all buses, becoming the first transit provider in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to do so; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 CATA was named the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Outstanding Transit System in North America for its size class – one of the public transportation industry’s highest honors; and

WHEREAS, starting in 2004 CATA initiated an aggressive program to advance technology, including the implementation of GPS-based bus tracking, integration of real-time bus arrival information, mobile phone apps, audible and visual stop annunciators, and automated passenger counters; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 CATA rebranded to reflect its expansion from a local bus service to a comprehensive transportation provider – including new brands CATABUS fixed route service, CATARIDE demand-response service, and CATA COMMUTE ridesharing service. CATA COMMUTE received the Governor's Award for Local Excellence that same year; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 CATA completed a new administration and maintenance building to accommodate its modern and growing operations, which is dedicated to CATA’s long-standing former Board Chair and Centre Region resident Dr. John C. Spychalski; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the agency introduced CATAGO! on-demand microtransit service. This service quickly gained popularity and ridership, and currently serves the Bellefonte, Centre Area West, and Boalsburg zones; and

WHEREAS, CATA continues to play a vital role in community access and mobility, congestion mitigation, and air quality improvement – especially to and from downtown State College, around the Penn State University campus, and within the North Atherton Street corridor; and

WHEREAS, the agency remains one of the top public transportation providers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by ridership, helping the local community to maintain a designation of Small Transit-Intensive Community (STIC) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); and

WHEREAS, CATA maintains an exemplary record of stewardship of public assets, reliability, and safety in service to the local community; and

WHEREAS, both the COG and CATA have partnered on a wide variety of transportation improvements and mobility enhancements within the local community over the lives of both agencies, and look forward to a continued environment of collaboration and partnership in the coming years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Forum of the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) honors, thanks, and commends the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) for 50 years of safe, reliable, and dedicated service to the local community.

DATED this *twenty-ninth day of April 2024*, meeting in regular session.

Attest:  
  
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Eric Norenberg  
Executive Director, Centre Region COG

By:  
  
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Ronald Servello  
Chair, Centre Region COG