



**For Immediate Release**

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**OLEAN AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM (OATS)**

**TO RESUME FARE COLLECTION AND MONTHLY PASS SALES**

**March 7, 2022—Olean—** The Olean Area Transit System (OATS) is proposing to reinstate fares on June 1, 2022.

The proposed fares are:

- Adult one-way within the Cities of Olean and Salamanca \$1.00
- Adult one-way outside the Cities of Olean and Salamanca \$2.00

OATS provides services and collects fares in compliance with the American Disabilities Act, including:

- Fares for eligible ADA riders is one-half the normal fare;
- Route deviation fare is two times the normal fare.

Proposed monthly passes are priced at \$30.00 and can be used for an unlimited number of rides during the month of purchase.

OATS suspended the collection of fares on April 1, 2020 as a precautionary measure toward stopping the spread of COVID-19. The City of Olean was a recipient of Federal CARES Act funding made available through the New York State Department of Transportation to offset the loss of fare and pass sales revenue to the OATS system. The CARES Act funds were made available to support eligible expenses of the OATS system; however, the available funds will be depleted by fiscal year ending May 31, 2022.

“I am very thankful that the Olean Area Transit System was able to suspend fares and continue nonstop operations throughout the pandemic. First Transit and staff did an excellent job keeping the system running,” Mayor Aiello said.

“As we seem to be moving past the pandemic, OATS will continue to serve the Olean area with a dependable and efficient mode of transportation, but as the CARES Act funding is exhausted, the proposed collection of fares, which are the same as prior to the pandemic, need to be reinstated,” Mayor Aiello added.

Public comment regarding the proposed resumption of fare collection is sought from the general public

and human service agencies. Interested parties may comment on the proposed action or obtain more details about services offered by the Olean Area Transit System by contacting or writing to: Keri Kerper, Program Coordinator, Department of Community Development, 101 East State Street, Olean, NY 14760, 716-376-5647, kkerper@cityofolean.org.

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