

CATA to cut some services

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Centre Area Transport Authority is reducing service on six of its routes beginning January 2011, though no student-heavy routes will be affected.

The routes experiencing reduced service effective in January will be the A, AP, K, H, S and W routes. Bernier said the specific trips and routes were selected based on a cross-reference between ridership numbers and the other transportation options available if a particular trip was eliminated.

The rejection of I-80 tolls and the loss of the natural gas tax credit combined with reduced funding coming from state and federal subsidies means CATA has had to take steps toward sustaining its budget, said Eric Bernier, CATA Service Development Manager.

Bernier said half the cost of CATA bus service is covered by riders through bus fares, while the other half has been covered by funding from the state. But with the decrease in funds, CATA is looking for ways to make up the

CATA reduces service to routes

A lack of state funding is causing CATA to reduce service to some routes, Service Development Manager Eric Bernier said.

A Route: The midday trip (12:25 p.m. outbound & 12:39 p.m. inbound trips) will be eliminated.

AP Route: The first outbound (4:55 a.m.) and last two inbound (7:45 p.m. & 12:10 a.m.) trips will be eliminated every day.

K Route: Saturday service will be eliminated. The weekday morning rush hour frequency will be reduced from every 30 minutes to every 60 minutes during Reduced Service. The 7:06, 8:06 & 9:06 a.m. outbound trips will now operate during Full Service only.

Source: www.catabus.com

H Route: The weekday morning rush hour frequency will be reduced from every 30 minutes to every 60 minutes during Reduced Service. The trips that start inbound at the Colonnade at 6:41, 7:41 & 8:41 a.m. will now operate during Full Service only.

S Route: The weekday midday trip (12:01 p.m. outbound & 12:37 p.m. inbound trips) will be eliminated.

W Route: Saturday service will be reduced from every 60 minutes to every 70 minutes. The weekday morning inbound rush hour frequency will be reduced from every 30 minutes to every 60 minutes during Reduced Service. The inbound trips that start at Lowes Center at 6:44, 7:44 & 8:44 a.m. will operate during Full Service only.

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50 percent that riders don't pay for.

"Much of what we receive comes from sales tax, and because of the economy, sales tax is down," Bernier said.

Service changes are typically made in conjunction with the annual budget at the end of June, Bernier said, but because of CATA's tight budget, these changes were made as a mid-year adjustment. Bernier said the changes are likely to remain permanent unless CATA receives more funding.

"If the funding situation continues the way it is, these would have been the first changes we made in August anyway," Bernier said. "Unless things change on a federal and state funding level, it's not likely that those services would be restored."

There are no plans to change service to routes that experience

a high volume of student traffic, like Vairo Boulevard. In fact, CATA would prefer to send more buses to these heavily used routes, but without more revenue, that isn't likely to happen any time soon, Bernier said.

Pamela Nuñez said CATA could have prevented problems had it foreseen budgeting challenges.

"A lot of people need those routes to get home," Nuñez (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said.

State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said it's a shame CATA has to make cuts, but she applauded its effort in considering the needs of residents.

"Let's hope that in the next period of time we find some constant source of state funding that we can rely on," Goreham said.

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PSU receives B+ for green efforts

By Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State's sustainability efforts were put to the test, and they passed with a B+.

The Sustainable Endowments Institute recently published its fifth edition of the College Sustainability Report Card, which assessed the sustainability efforts of more than 300 universities in Canada and the United States.

The survey assessed everything from administration and food to recycling and green buildings, all categories in which Penn State scored an A.

Sustainable Endowments Institute Senior Research Fellow Rebecca Caine said it took eight months to gather and analyze the data for the report card.

"The idea behind the... report card is to get schools to be more sustainable by comparing them to their peer institutions, which seems to be one of the major impetuses of change in the world of higher education," Caine said.

Schools' overall grades are based on cumulative points awarded for 52 sustainability indicators distributed among nine equally weighted categories, according to the survey. Despite 26 student eco-reps and an Earth House living option, Penn State scored a B in student involvement. According to the survey, Penn State's transportation "fleet" uses 100 percent electric

"Green" facts

Penn State has developed a variety of sustainability efforts.

- Penn State has reduced its electricity consumption by 7 percent since 2005, and has a 57 percent recycling rate, well above the national average of 35 percent.

- Penn State plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17.5 percent by 2012, and has already reduced by 15 percent.

- The Forestry Building, University Health Services, Medlar Field at Luban, the Red Hall addition, the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and LEED-approved buildings.

Source: www.college-sustainability.org

powered vehicles, but also scored a B in the transportation category.

Penn State's overall grade came from last year's B ranking on the Physical Plant, sportsman Hall, Ruskin said.

"Penn State has a long record of environmental sustainability, including decades of recycling and energy efficiency initiatives," Ruskin said.

These initiatives include installing green homes, gas emissions of 17.5 percent by 2012, and have already been reduced 15 percent, Ruskin said.

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Students brave itchy faces, ridicule for 'No Shave' challenge

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

This month, Christian Roberts has shaved 30 minutes off of his morning routine each week.

That's because Roberts (junior-telecommunications) and his roommates are donning the bearded look and forgoing a morning shave in conjunction with the tradition of "No Shave November."

"It seemed like something fun to do and I have the facial hair to do it — that's not something that's good to say all the time," he said.

Roberts said he and his roommates are having a competition for who can grow the longest

beard. Because he's had a beard since he was 14, Roberts said he has a head start.

Usually he grows out a beard until it becomes "gross and grimy." But this month, Roberts said he's going well beyond that point. By the end of the month he predicts that his beard will be pretty long.

Other students haven't been as successful in their no-shaving endeavors.

Though he said he can't grow much facial hair, Johnathan Kitz and his friends decided they had to participate in the month because boasting a beard is a sign of manliness.

"It's the only thing we can do better than women," Kitz (freshman-aerospace engineering) said. "We can show off the one thing great about us: our beards."

Spencer Drulik attempted to go an entire month without shaving. But after a week, Drulik (junior-criminology) said no to No Shave November.

"It just got itchy," he said.

For some members of the Alliance Christian Fellowship, giving in to an itchy face is not an option — those who sign up for the month with the group and sneak in a shave must also shave their legs. ACF member Andrew Henning said.

About a dozen members of the organization are competing to see who can grow the best and worst beard, he said. Each participant puts in \$5 and at the end of the month, a quarter of the money will go to the person with the best beard, a quarter to the person with the worst beard and half of the money to a charity. Henning (junior-psychology) said.

"If we're going to look ugly for a month, it should be for a good cause," he said, adding that the proceeds will go towards the fund for the child that ACF sponsors.

No Shave November brings some laughs and friendly competition, he said.

The only downside to the tradition is a bearded Thanksgiving. Henning said "girls don't seem to be too fond of bearded guys."


"A lot of girls just don't like the look of facial hair, especially facial hair," he said.

Henning said he has to get ACF men permission to shave for the month had to ask for permission for the month.

But it will be worth it, he said. After shaving, he said, he has a month of shaving days and a face at the end.

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