

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Human Development Commission to Cease Providing Thumbody Express Services

Caro, MI – After more than four decades, the Human Development Commission (HDC) has decided to end their partnership with Caro Transit Authority (CTA). Since 1984, the Human Development Commission (HDC) has operated in partnership with the Village of Caro to provide transportation services in the Caro Area. In 1988, Almer and Indianfields Townships joined the collaboration and formed the Caro Transit Authority (CTA), contracting with HDC to provide Thumbody Express services to the public.

Throughout the many years of partnership, HDC has cooperated with CTA and their Local Advisory Council to develop and operate the transportation system. CTA receives funds from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local transportation millage dollars from taxpayers in the City of Caro, Almer and Indianfields Townships. The money collected is then used to reimburse HDC for the services provided. On a monthly basis, CTA approves all payments and purchases for HDC to operate the service, as it is the employer of all the Thumbody Express service staff. Whereas CTA owns all the vehicles and equipment used to provide the service.

Unfortunately, after much consideration and many unsuccessful attempts to maintain a positive partnership with the CTA, HDC has made the difficult decision that it is no longer able to work in partnership with CTA to provide this service in the community. As a result, HDC has provided notice to CTA and CTA will need to relocate their bus depot and program owned vehicles, and partner with another entity to provide this very important service in the community.

HDC will continue to provide the Thumbody Express service during CTA's transition to another provider. However, HDC will cease operation of services effective September 30, 2026, if another provider cannot be found sooner.

Any concerns or questions during this transition period can be directed to Lori Offenbecher, HDC Executive Director, at 989-673-4121. In addition, customers are welcome to attend the open CTA meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. at HDC's Main Office located at 429 Montague Avenue, Caro, Michigan.

About The Caro Transit Authority and Human Development Commission

Caro Transit Authority is a locally governed transportation system incorporated in 1988 with representatives serving the board appointed from the City of Caro, Indianfields Township, and Almer Township. CTA serves as the funding and oversight entity for the community's public Thumbody Express transportation program, ensuring responsible stewardship of local tax dollars and maintaining a commitment to reliable, accessible service for area residents.

Human Development Commission (HDC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Community Action Agency committed to "Restoring Hope by Helping People and Changing Lives." HDC operates Thumbody Express and provides vital services and programs designed to promote self-sufficiency, health, and overall well-being throughout the communities it serves.

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