

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT- FY 19

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WHO WE ARE

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) was established by CNMI Public Law 17-43 on May 27, 2011. COTA is responsible for the development and establishment of a public transportation system in the Commonwealth.

COTA is administered by a Special Assistant for Public Transportation who is appointed by the Governor and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

COTA has a six-member Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board established by Public Law 18-51.



Alfreda P. Camacho

Special Assistant for Public Transportation



MISSION STATEMENT:

COTA shall provide the citizens of our communities with a dependable, reliable, safe and cost-effective public transit system in order to reduce energy consumption, strengthen cultural values, and contribute economic development for the residents of the Commonwealth.

PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS

- **Call-A-Ride Saipan (CARS) Demand Response Service**

In the process of procuring four (4) additional ADA Accessible Vans valued at \$399,980 for the island of Saipan. Currently, CARS has a fleet of four (4) ADA accessible vans.

*Ridership: Number of trips: 5,744 (a decrease of 33% from FY2018 due to Super Typhoon Yutu impact and other storms).



- **COTA Fixed Route System**

- ❖ Procured 2 mini-bus for the fixed route system
- ❖ Completed replacement of bus stop sign posts and signs damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu
- ❖ Currently, the COTA Fixed Route System has a fleet of three (3) ADA compliant buses.

- **Training**

- ❖ Transit Information Specialist & Transit Operators undergone the Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity (PASS) Training and Certifications
- ❖ The COTA personnel undergone the Customer Service Excellence and Team Building Training
- ❖ The COTA personnel undergone the Professional Development and Standard Operating Procedures Training

- **Super Typhoon Yutu Mass Evacuation**

COTA participated in the mass evacuation of residents before the arrival of Super Typhoon Yutu. COTA also participated in the recovery phase, transporting individuals to the FEMA Disaster Relief Center, American Red Cross, medical facilities and back to their residence. COTA has transported a total of 679 individuals.



- **ADA Accessible Vans for Rota and Tinian**

COTA is in the process of procuring one (1) ADA accessible van for the islands of Rota and Tinian.

- **Website**

A new COTA website is now under construction. This new website will be ADA compliant.

- **Maintenance Facility**

- ❖ In the process of retaining a Construction Manager to oversee the Construction of COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility
- ❖ Issued IFB for the construction of COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility

- **Sustainable Transportation Master Plan**

The COTA submitted a federal grant application for the United States Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration: Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning for the opportunity to fund the development of the CNMI Sustainable Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan.

Number of TITLE VI Complaints Received : 0

Number of ADA Complaints Received : 0

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

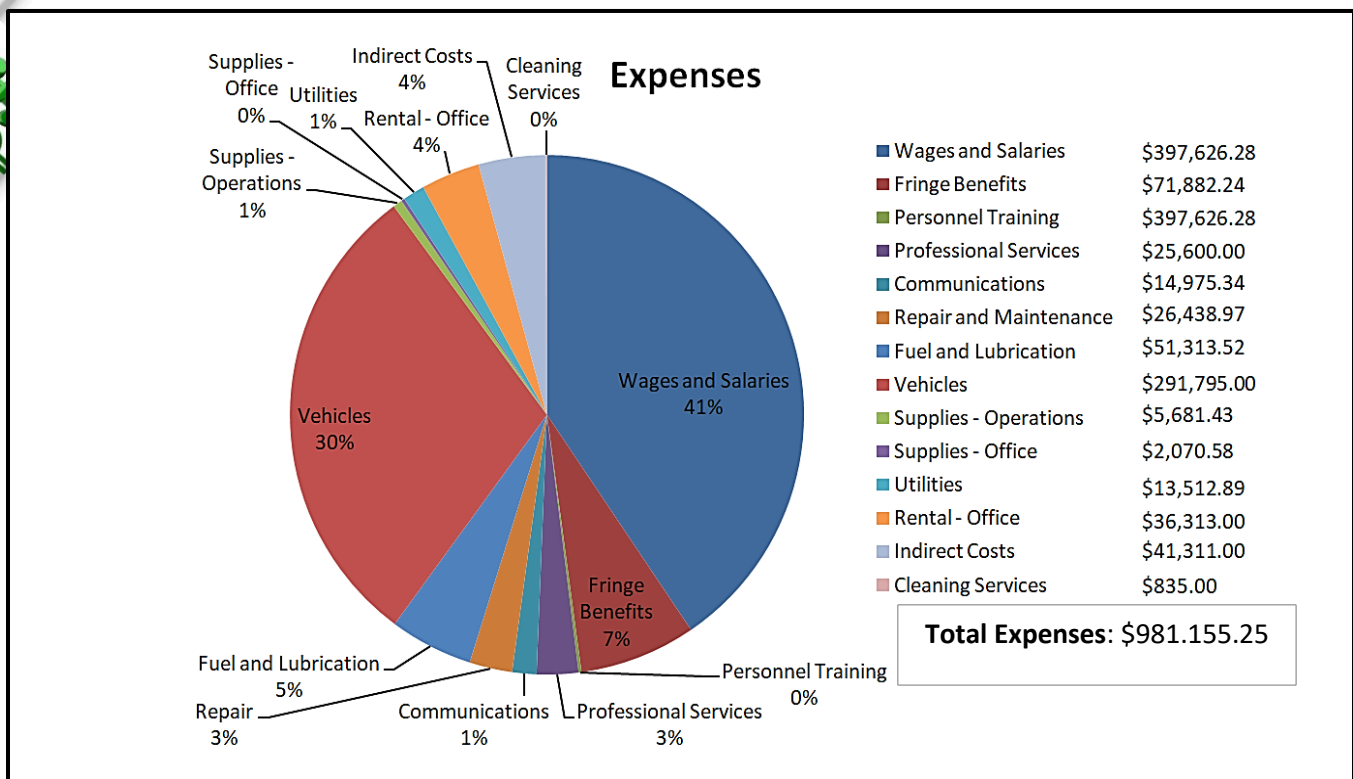
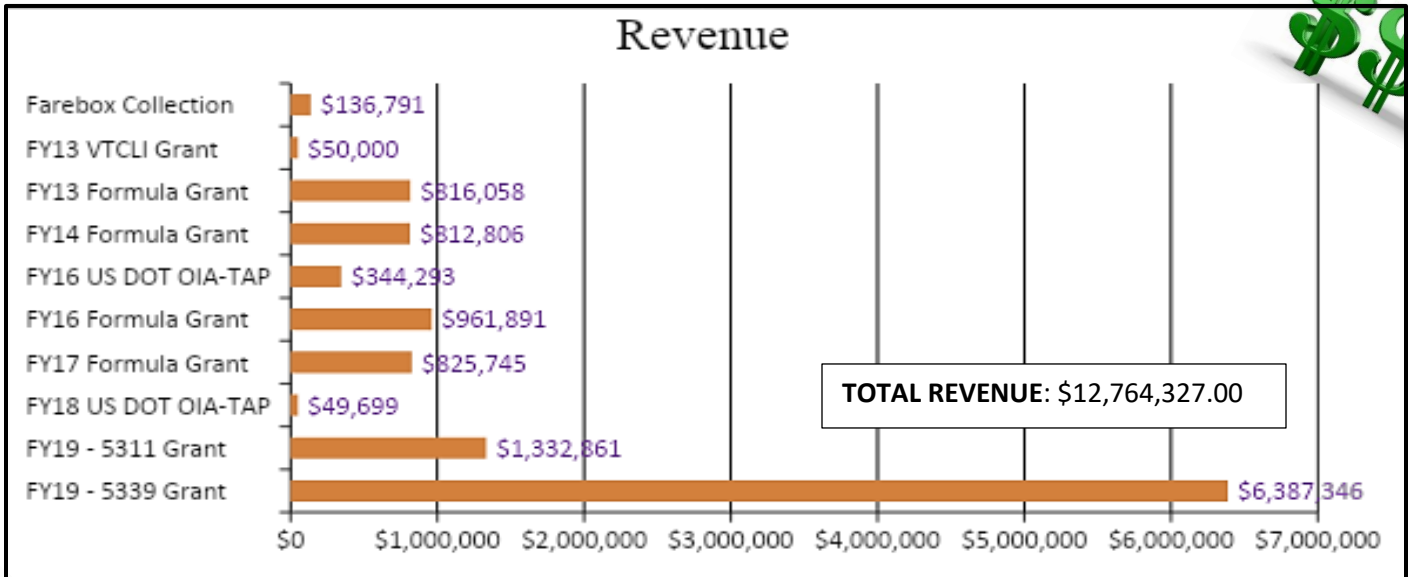
The COTA was awarded a total of \$6,387,346.00 United States Department of Transportation: Federal Transit Administration 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment program 5339 (b) competitive grant application to fund the following:

- Construction of COTA Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility
- Construction/Installation of Thirty-seven prefabricated solar bus shelters along the COTA's Fixed Route System
- Procurement of twelve ADA Compliant transit buses for the COTA's fixed route system for the island of Saipan

REVENUES & EXPENSES

FAIR BOX COLLECTION

COTA's revenue includes the fare collection received from the community utilizing the public transportation services. Agencies and establishments such as schools, clinics, and government offices also generates COTA's revenue through their support of our services.



LOOKING FORWARD

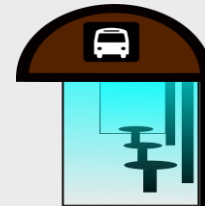
COTA anticipates the construction of the COTA Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility ground breaking in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2020.



CALL-A-RIDE Saipan Demand Response Service ridership for FY 2020 is projected to increase to over 9,000 trips from 5,744 for FY 2019.



Installation of bus shelters along the COTA's Flame Tree Line 1A and 1B Fixed Route System (core route) will commence in later part of Fiscal Year 2020.



-CHALLENGES-

COTA continues to seek ways to:

- Increase ridership on Flame Tree Line 1A Fixed Route while awaiting the full implementation of its fixed route system.
- Ensuring revenue vehicles are kept in state of good repair.
- Apply for federal grant opportunities to fund its operations and capital projects.
- Expand and successfully implement a full-fledge public transportation system.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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