

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

**CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2020**



## 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 serves 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

## MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

As required by Public Law 20-83, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) under the CNMI Office of the Governor is pleased to present our Citizen Centric Report for FY2020. Our hardworking team here at COTA continues to strive towards the development and implementation of a reliable, safe, affordable and efficient mode of surface transportation for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Between the groundbreaking of our new maintenance facility and administrative building back in August, continuously supporting the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force through fulfilling the ESF-1 function from March 2020 to present day, and expanding our Call-A-Ride Saipan Demand Responsive Shared Ride Program to 7 days a week including holidays, COTA's commitment to serve our Commonwealth remains our top priority. We recognize the growing need for public transportation services through a 61% increase of our ridership in just this fiscal year alone and continue our efforts on integrating new and innovative ways to improve and expand our transportation services for our CNMI community.

Please visit our website at [www.cota.gov.mp](http://www.cota.gov.mp) or give us a call at 664-2690 to learn more about our public transportation services.

COTA will continue "Driving You Forward."



### 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.



### CONTENTS:

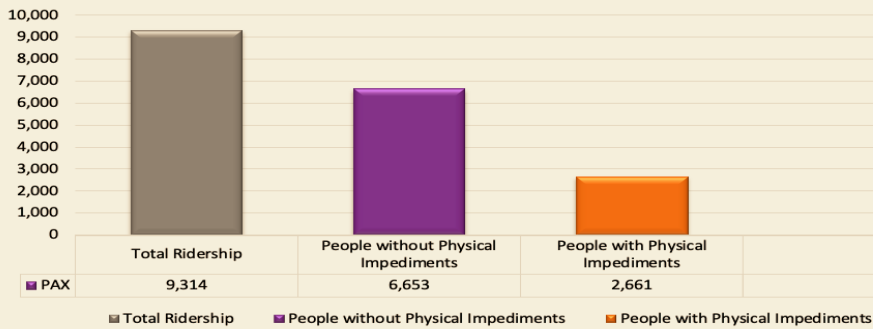
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# PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS

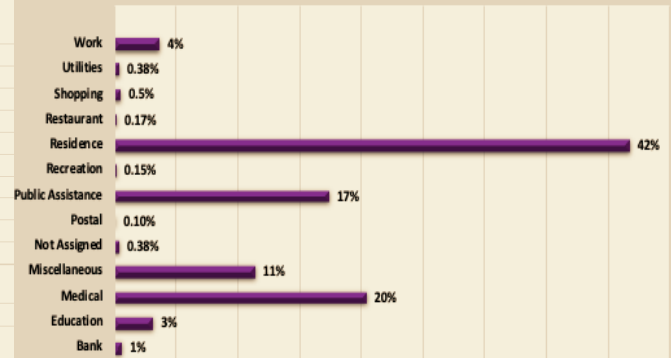
## Call-A-Ride Saipan (CARS) Demand Responsive Shared Ride Service

- ❖ On January 6, 2020, COTA expanded its hours of operations to include Sundays and Holidays.
- ❖ COTA completed the procurement of four (4) ADA Accessible Vans on January 7, 2020.

## Fixed Route & Demand Responsive-Shared Ride Service Ridership Data for FY 2020



## Trip Purpose Breakdown



## COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

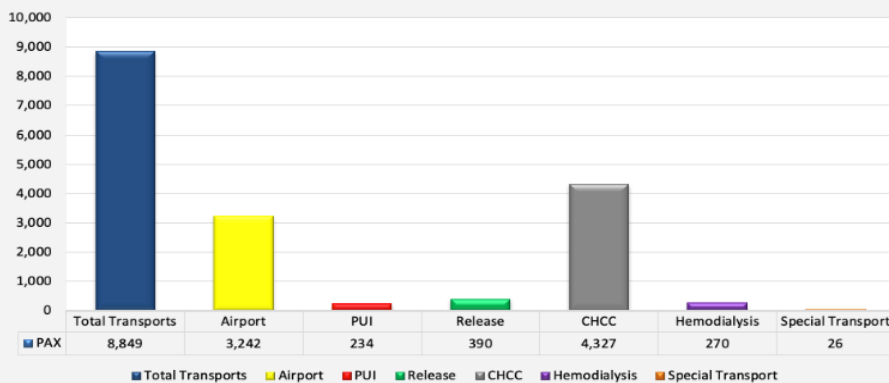
- ❖ COTA has been activated under Emergency Support Function-1 (Transportation) in support of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.
- ❖ Transported all passengers from incoming flights and all Persons under Investigation (PUI) to healthcare facilities and quarantine locations.
- ❖ COTA provided shuttle services to CHCC employees (nurses, doctors, staff).
- ❖ COTA provided transportation services to hemodialysis patients to CHCC.



## Training and Certification

- ❖ Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity Training and Certification for all Operations and Mobility personnel through the Community Transportation Association of America.
- ❖ State Management Review training through FTA Region IX for preparation of COTA's upcoming audit in FY2021.
- ❖ FTA Triennial Review Workshop Region IX for preparation of COTA's upcoming audit in FY21.
- ❖ CNMI COVID-19 Table-Top Exercise FEMA Region IX for scenario-based training on August 25, 2020.

## FY2020 COVID-19 Task Force Operations March 23 to September 30, 2020



**TITLE VI Complaints Received: 0**

**ADA Complaints Received: 0**

## COTA CNMI Transit Mobile Application

- ❖ COTA's Transit Mobile Application is currently in its implementation stage.
- ❖ The App will be available for both IOS and Android users.

## Grant Award

- ❖ COTA was awarded Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) ACT **\$1,047,695.00** for operational expenses.
- ❖ COTA was awarded FTA Emergency Relief Program **\$351,000.00** to reimburse eligible expenses incurred during pre-disaster and post recovery of Super Typhoon Yutu.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

On August 20, 2020, COTA held its groundbreaking ceremony for its new \$3.4 Million Administrative and Maintenance Facility, located at Lower Base, Saipan. The project is fully funded by the Federal Transit Administration under the US Department of Transportation.

Project Start Date: July 29, 2020

Project Completion Date: October 2, 2021

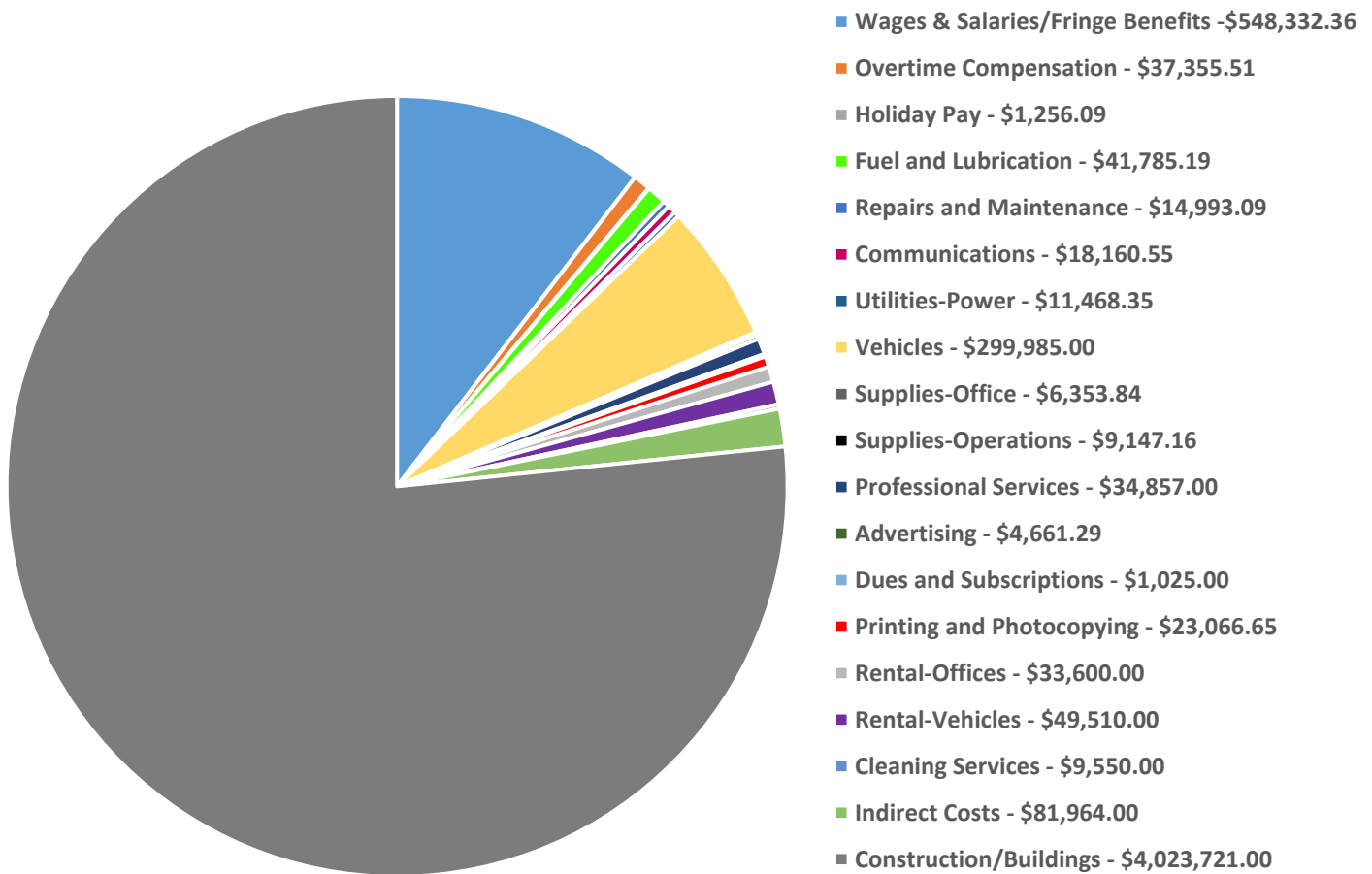


# REVENUES & EXPENSES FY2020

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 generate COTA's revenue through their support of our services. COTA's revenue also includes all federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration and the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program. All figures are balances from COTA's accounts as of the beginning of FY 2020.

REVENUE	
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grants	\$10,528,101.00
Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Grants	\$32,832.00
COTA Program Income	\$22,575.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$10,583,508.00</b>

## Actual and Encumbered Expenses FY2020



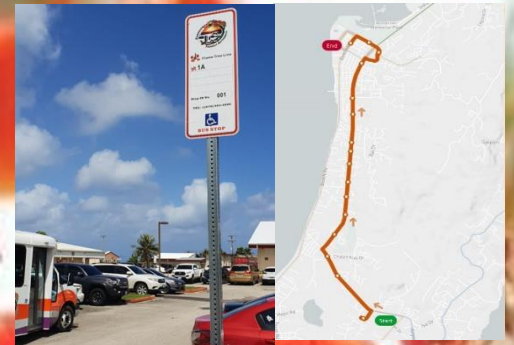
**Total Expenditures: \$5,280,792.08**

# LOOKING FORWARD

COTA foresees the substantial completion of its Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility.



COTA is looking forward to the re-launching of its Fixed Route Services on the Island of Saipan.



Procurement of Additional ADA Accessible Transit Buses for COTA's Fixed Route Services and ADA Accessible Transit Vans for the Islands of Rota and Tinian.



Site Selection and Environmental Documentation for the installation of fixed route bus shelters and amenities.



## CHALLENGES MOVING FORWARD

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic:

- Maximization of revenue vehicle capacity due to social distancing requirements.
- Procurement of revenue vehicles and operational supplies.

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