



## KELSEY ELLINGSEN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS - COTA

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[www.uarotary.org](http://www.uarotary.org)

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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



**Emma Speight** introduced today's speaker **Kelsey Ellingsen**, COTA Government Affairs. Kelsey shared information about LinkUS – a plan for growing transit and mobility services in COTA's Central Ohio service area.

The LinkUS initiative is a comprehensive package of COTA service improvements/expansions; sidewalk, trail and bikeway development and more opportunity for people to more easily navigate their movements from home to work and other nearby destinations.

LinkUS is a multi-year program that aims to install the proposed improvements. A block of changes is proposed for implementation by 2030 while another block looks further into the future with a 2050 goal. Funding for LinkUS would come from a variety of sources including COTA revenue, Federal grants and sales taxes. Issue 47 in the upcoming November 5 election would help underpin the initiative. Issue 47 provides for the continuation of a .25% sales tax that is set to expire in 2026 and an additional .5% sales tax in Franklin County and some surrounding service areas. The overall cost for LinkUS through 2050 is estimated at \$8 billion. The earlier package of improvements through 2030 is about \$2 billion.

The Columbus/Central Ohio region is the largest in the country without rapid transit. This plan in-

cludes the addition of bus rapid transit lines. Five such lines are on the drawing board. In addition, LinkUS proposes 14 new transit lines and 8 COTA Plus lines. COTA Plus is a on-demand service for people with mobility needs.

LinkUS is being developed due to anticipated growth in population (one million more people by 2050), additional housing needs (200,000 more units by 2050) and the presence of "opportunity gaps" with 40,000 Franklin County households without basic transportation.

The 2026-2030 portion of the proposal includes improvements in infrastructure and 55 multi-jurisdictional projects. A number of the projects are focused on safer and expanded sidewalks, bikeways and trails – totaling 500+ miles of additional infrastructure.

Some project examples which may impact the Upper Arlington area in the future include more direct connection between OSU and UA, re-imagined Olentangy River Road development (smart development vs simple sprawl) and expansion of the Heritage Trail featuring connectivity between UA and other communities – including UA, Marble Cliff/Grandview and the Arena District. We received a handout which detailed a number of other proposed service improvements for the Upper Arlington area.

Kelsey pointed out that every dollar spent on transit yields \$190 in economic development.

In response to a question she told us that the entire COTA fleet is planned to be zero emission by 2035. The emphasis will be on electric – with hydrogen in the background as a potential resource.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

## GREETERS

### October 1

Tom McClain  
Terry Starr

### October 8

Rod Essig  
Chris Copeland

### October 15

Jim Henson  
Rich Irelan

## REGISTRATION DESK

### October 1

Kevin Brown  
Janine Hummer

### October 8

Ted Foster  
Brendan King

### October 15

Rick Barth  
Tom Westfall

## CALENDAR

### October 1 - Scioto CC/Zoom State Issue 1 Forum

Host: Brad Frick

### October 8 - Scioto CC/Zoom Kristin Ronai – Ohio High School Athletic Association

Host: Brad Frick

### October 15 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Mark Savan,  
Amateur Astronomer  
and Astrophotographer

Host: Tom Westfall

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**OCTOBER 1ST**  
Scioto Country Club / Zoom

Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



## THE MEETING



President **Angela Lanctot** opened the meeting and asked **Brian Bainbridge** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Today's meeting was held at The Boathouse at Confluence Park.

**Jim Nicklaus** introduced visiting Rotarian **John Jaynes**. **Debbie Johnson** introduced **Emma Speight, Betsy Gillespie, Shannon Tolliver** and **Casey Blazor**.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**Mike Kull** made a final call for volunteers to help at the September 29 Homes for Families event at Wolfe Park. The time commitment is from 1:00 to 3:30. We still need four Rotarians to step up.

Our next social event will be Thursday, October 24 at the Columbus Italian Club where Bocci will be the featured activity once more. More details to follow.

**John Trapp** asked us to take a moment to scan through our contact list and send a message about Rotary membership to one or more of the folks in that list. Angela led the charge. He highlighted the upcoming interesting program topics.

## SORTING OUT WHERE TO CONTRIBUTE

Where do your contributions go? There are three main organizations where we as Upper Arlington Rotarians direct our Rotary giving. Sometimes it can be confusing, so here is something to hopefully help keep things straight.

ORGANIZATION	DONATION DESIGNATIONS	ADDRESS	MEMBER CONTACT	EMAIL
Upper Arlington Rotary Club	Club dues	P.O. Box 12013 Columbus, OH 43212	Peggy Concilla	concillapl@gmail.com
Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation	Annual \$365 and some other club funding requests	1704 Sundridge Dr. Columbus, OH 43221	Andy Livingston	andy.w.livingston@gmail.com
Rotary International Foundation	\$125 Club, Paul Harris and Polio Plus	2902 Halstead Rd. Columbus, OH 43221	Milt Lustnauer	milt@miltselfshomes.com