

Archdiocese of Detroit

For Release May 23, 2003

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Archdiocese of Detroit Praises DARTA Agreement

Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, has praised the agreement to improve mass transit in Southeast Michigan. The agreement creating the Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority (DARTA) was signed May 22 by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano, Detroit Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick and Macomb County Board of Commissioners Chairperson Nancy M. White.

Creation of a Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority (DARTA) will facilitate the creation of a new board overseeing the agency, the hiring of an executive director and the planning for the implementation of comprehensive regional mass transit. The United States Congress had previously allocated \$850,000 to fund the initial activities of DARTA.

"Mass transit is critical for people without other means of transportation, the elderly, people with special needs, as well as those who ride by choice. Improving our mass transit is an issue of justice and expanding our transportation options will also help us to grow and prosper economically as a region, revitalizing our core city and established communities," said Cardinal Maida.

"The Archdiocese of Detroit has supported DARTA since its inception and we are encouraged for the future of our communities with its creation. This is, however, a first step. We need to continue to work together as one metropolitan region, across city, suburban and rural areas to improve mass transit for all and continue building one community."