



State of Ohio Transportation Budget FY 24-25 Talking Points for OPTA Members:

- Ohio's public transit systems play a key role in supporting Ohio's workforce and economic development efforts. As the pandemic has shown, rural and urban public transit is essential for workforce development and economic mobility.
- As Ohio continues to attract historic investment to our state, with announcements like Intel, Ford, and Honda, we must ensure our public transit providers are adequately funded to meet the needs of the workforce.
- A report by the American Public Transportation Association notes that 50% of trips on public transit are to and from work. A recent study by Fund for Our Economic Future called "Where are the Workers", found that 27% of unemployed individuals surveyed consider a lack of transportation an important barrier to finding and keeping a job. This lack of options impacts the bottom line of businesses when they cannot attract and retain dependable workers.
- The business community has been unified in highlighting transportation funding as a priority issue in their advocacy efforts, recognizing the need for enhanced public transit systems to serve Ohio's growing and increasingly regional workforce.
- The public transit agencies of today are innovative and forward-thinking with mobility services including on-demand micro-transit, first and last mile solutions, bus rapid transit and regional connections.
- To continue this innovation, state funding is essential to allow agencies to draw down millions in potential federal funding. Without an available local match, generational federal funding for Ohio may be left on the table.
- OPTA urges the Ohio House and Senate to maintain the \$70M in funding included in the DeWine Administration's budget which is consistent with the funding that was allocated in the previous budget for FY 22-23.
- OPTA applauds the Ohio House for creating the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program which earmarks \$30M of funding over the biennium for regional transit authorities to work together to provide service for the workforce between the territories and support the employment needs of economically significant employment centers.