



Ohio Public Transit Association **MEMBER NEWS**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To OPTA Members:

Welcome to 2021! I know we are all hopeful, now that 2020 is behind us, that 2021 will be a year of growth and success for our member agencies and our communities. While 2020 is in the rearview mirror, we do need to continue to address the on-going challenges that we are still experiencing.

CALL TO ACTION!

It is imperative that all of Ohio's public transit systems take the time to contact and meet your legislative representatives in your communities.

Although COVID-19 has impacted transit ridership, there are still thousands of riders who rely on public transportation services as vital to access jobs, schools and critical services. Our systems continue to experience operational costs and revenue losses that have strained our ability to provide these essential services to those who need it most.

You will hear much more in the coming days and months about budgets and funding for public transit provided by federal, state and local entities. We are in this together and, if we work together, we can protect the critical funding needed.

Your commitment to meet with elected officials is critical to help secure this necessary funding and keep transit working at the levels our communities need.

Materials links to assist with your meetings and calls as follows:

[Ohio Still Needs Transit Talking Points](#)
[Ohio Legislative Contact List 2021](#)

This is Very Important!

Schedule time with your elected officials - either virtual or live meetings. If you need more information, contact Matt Carle at matt@cwhadvisors.com.

Thank you to all!



Claudia Amrhein
President, OPTA | General Manager & CEO, PARTA



Transit is Essential! | We Move People
#OhioLovesTransit

February 7 - 14, 2021

Every segment of Ohio – businesses, communities, individuals and families – benefit from public transportation, an essential service that impacts economic development, insures sustainable lifestyles and a higher quality of life.

Ohio's systems provide ridership of over 93 million trips each year.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Ohio's transit systems have much to share and much to celebrate. During Ohio Loves Transit Week, share your stories, your successes and your commitment with your ridership and essential workers alike!

OHIO LOVES TRANSIT MATERIALS

To assist you with your Ohio Loves Transit Celebration, visit www.ohioneedstransit.org Member Portal.

Password is OPTAmember - case sensitive.

- Resolution Templates
- Ideas & Assets
- Virtual Digital Backgrounds
- Logos - Headers - Social Media Files
- Letterhead
- Legislative Communications & Contacts
- OLT News Release Template
- Promotional Products

PROPOSED STATE OF OHIO BUDGET

Governor Unveils State of Ohio Budget Proposes \$1 Billion in Economic Recovery Spending

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted unveiled the Executive Biennial State Operating Budget for FY 2022-2023. The proposed budget provisions focus on spurring Ohio's economic recovery, post pandemic, by investing nearly \$1 billion of one-time spending in Ohio's communities, people and businesses. The funding comes from a combination of:

- Federal dollars
- Re-financing state debt
- Reduced state workforce
- Mid-year cuts to state agencies

Notably, the Governor indicated that his budget proposal does not include any tax increases. Click to view the full budget details...

[State of Ohio Budget Overview 2022 - 2023](#)

[Thriving Economy](#)
[Communities](#)
[Healthy People](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCE CALL MEETINGS

OPTA Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 | 1:30 - 3:00 pm

OPTA Member Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 | 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Details and documents for Executive Committee and Board Meetings will be posted to Board Book It prior to the meetings. Visit Board Book It to access meeting documents.

All meetings will continue to be scheduled as conference calls.

For more information, contact admin@ohioneedstransit.org

