

# OHIO **NEEDS** TRANSIT



Good afternoon,

We are extremely excited to welcome everyone who plans to attend the Ohio Needs Transit Conference and OPTA Expo 2021 in Akron, Ohio, on September 15<sup>th</sup> – September 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not yet registered, [PLEASE DO SO HERE!](#)

For travel purposes, please note that the programming on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, begins at 9:30 AM in the morning. To review the full conference agenda, please do so [here](#).

OPTA is fully committed to a completely in-person conference although we actively monitor the Delta Variant situation in Ohio and across the United States. We are aware of the concerns that you may have in attending our annual conference in-person and we wanted to share the specific COVID protocols that are in place for all attendees.

The John S. Knight Center's protocols require attendees who are un-vaccinated to wear a mask. For those who are vaccinated masks are optional, but strongly encouraged. The staff of the John S. Knight Center and OPTA event staff will wear masks during the conference.

Upon registration, we will ask your comfort level in terms of physical contact. We will provide a color-coded designation to place on your name badge. The designations will be as follows:



To encourage distancing, we have maximized the venue space available to facilitate social distancing seating. Again, we encourage everyone to wear masks when deemed necessary according to official CDC guidelines in place at the time of the conference.

If you have already registered for the conference or still plan to, please note that if at any point between now and the start of the conference you have any concerns related to the above criteria, we encourage you to contact us directly. In addition, we will monitor continually and advise of adjustments in real-time through the conference app to download [HERE](#).

We hope these increased measures will alleviate any safety concerns you may have. We look forward to seeing you in person. We have planned a great event that we are excited to share with you.

If you have not yet registered, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you in advance for helping make this year's conference a success.

Claudia Amrhein  
President, Ohio Public Transit Association  
General Manager & CEO, [PARTA](#)

Matt Carle  
Executive Director, Ohio Public Transit Association