



## Ohio Public Transit Association

### 2023 Accomplishments

1. Held board meetings in person as much as possible.
  - OPTA hosted the June, September and December (planned) Board meeting in person, a first since the pandemic.
2. Outreach to administration officials in preparation for introduction of 2024-25 Biennial Budget.
  - Participated in numerous in-person meetings and conducted regular calls with the Governor's office and staff throughout the budget process, including calls with the Governor's Chief of Staff, Policy Director, Legislative Director and Deputy Legislative Director.
3. Retained \$70M in funding for public transit in the 2024 biennial transportation budget cycle; continued to work with legislators and governor's office to identify a dedicated funding source for transit.
  - Retained \$70M in funding for public transportation in the 2024-2025 biennial transportation budget.
  - Additionally, worked with the Ohio legislature 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.
4. Participated in the transportation budget process through legislative outreach and testimony before legislative committees.
  - Personally met with over 70 members of the Ohio House of Representatives to discuss OPTA's priorities throughout the 2024-2025 Transportation Budget process.
  - Personally met with over 20 members of the Ohio Senate to discuss OPTA's priorities throughout the 2024-2025 Transportation Budget process.
  - Coordinated testimony before the relevant committees from eight (8) transit agencies in the Ohio House of Representatives and eight (8) transit agencies in the Ohio Senate.
5. Continued meeting with newly elected legislators and incumbent members about funding public transit.
  - Traveled to meet with nearly a dozen newly elected legislators to discuss OPTA legislative priorities.
6. Planned and held a highly successful Ohio Needs Transit conference and EXPO in Columbus, September 18-20, 2023.
7. Successfully passed legislation that would protect public transit operators.

- Passed “Distracted Driving” law, SB 288 which became effective on April 4, 2023
8. Developed key messaging themes for funding ask and vital need for state support.
    - Developed numerous iterations of talking points and budget priorities for members during the 2024-2025 Transportation Budget Process.
    - Hosted annual Ohio Loves Transit Day/Week with a legislative reception at the Ohio Statehouse, allowing OPTA members to communicate with elected officials.
  9. Continued to actively engage lawmakers at home and tell stories about essential public transit services.
    - Since the passage of the 2024-2025 Transportation Budget, continued to regularly engage with members of the Ohio General Assembly to discuss OPTA priorities.
  10. Continued working with mobility managers to engage local legislators.
    - Spoke on a statewide mobility manager conference call to discuss statewide engagement of legislators by mobility managers.
    - Worked with several mobility managers to help conduct outreach to members during the 2025-2025 Transportation Budget process.
  11. Continued to communicate key messages and priorities to membership and media.
    - Continued to produce and engage in regular communications with OPTA members.
    - OPTA President and Executive Director presented at the Small Operators Summit.

#### **Looking forward to OPTA’s 2024 Strategic Priorities**

- Host the Ohio Needs Transit Conference & OPTA Expo Nov. 18-20, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio
- Host Ohio Loves Transit Day/Week from February 11-17 with Ohio Loves Transit Day being Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>
- Participate in and support the Small Operators Summit