



**Darryl Haley**  
CEO & General Manager  
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February 15, 2021

The Honorable Scott Oelslager  
Finance Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Re: Supporting Southwest Ohio Public Transit / SORTA**

Dear Representative Oelslager,

As the public transportation provider for Southwest Ohio, I write to express the need for the State of Ohio to prioritize transit funding in the biennial budget bill now under consideration.

Public transportation is central to our region's economic and cultural vitality. The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) provides about 13.5 million trips a year helping citizens connect to jobs, healthcare, education, retail and more.

Ohio made significant investments in public transportation in the last budget and that investment paid off. Ohio more than doubled its investment through federal funds, nearly every community benefited, jobs were maintained and agencies like ours across the state stepped up to connect essential works to jobs and kept our community moving during the pandemic.

Ohio's existing budget funds public transit at \$70 million per year statewide. We would request the state not reduce funding below this current level (as has been suggested) and take us backward. In fact, we believe an increase should be considered.

The economic vitality of our region depends greatly on and benefits from a robust public transit system. We thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darryl Haley".

Darryl Haley  
SORTA CEO & General Manager