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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

## OHIO HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### PROPONENT TESTIMONY -- HOUSE BILL 74 (TRANSPORTATION BUDGET)

February 18, 2021

Jon Honeck  
Senior Policy Analyst

Chair Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and members of the Ohio House Finance Committee:

I am writing to express the support of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio for House Bill 74, the biennial transportation budget. House Bill 74 will provide revenue from Ohio's motor fuel tax to Ohio's 88 counties to be used for road and bridge design, repair, and construction. Ohio counties are responsible for more than 29,000 miles of roads and 26,000 bridges.

We would like to draw the committee's attention to a provision in the bill that should be improved: funding for public transit. Ohio's public transit agencies are vital to moving thousands of our residents each day to allow them to get to work, school, and medical appointments. Public transit received a historic investment of \$70 million per year in the transportation budget bill in 2019. However, just two years earlier, transit authorities lost \$40 million per year in local sales tax revenue as a result of the elimination of Medicaid managed care sales tax. Transit authorities will need increased state and federal investment to address short-term and long-term challenges, such as aging capital assets.

As the pandemic eases, more Ohioans are returning to work, and transit agencies will play a key role in the state's recovery. We urge the committee to increase the appropriation for public transit to the same level as the previous transportation budget in order to keep Ohio moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Cc: House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation



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