



Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Substitute House Bill 33. My name is Ryan McManus and I am the CEO of SHARE Mobility. Our company is committed to providing transportation that works for everyone - especially those who lack reliable transportation or need to cross county lines to go to work. Our mission is to make transportation an employee benefit that helps companies fill jobs and retain employees.

I'd like to express my support for the Connect4Ohio Program. Transportation is a very real barrier when it comes to our workforce. Ensuring Ohio's Workforce has an easier commute is an important aspect of economic development. In fact, roughly 17% of Ohioans in the 6 major metropolitan areas (Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron, Toledo) do not have access to a vehicle. Unemployment in our state is high, currently at 3.9%, or 224,000 people. Meanwhile, there are roughly 1.9 jobs available for each unemployed person. While this may seem like a crisis in and of itself, the timing also presents a unique opportunity to turn this hardship completely upside down.

Given these statistics, I am proposing \$10M of the \$1B allocated for the Connect4Ohio Program be used for a Commuter Benefit Incentive to support companies that pay for employee transportation. Businesses who provide transportation as an employee benefit could apply for \$2,500 per employee through ODOT, for instance. This is specifically to support employee transportation when public transit is not available and companies that contract to provide charter transportation services. The original idea I proposed in my transportation budget testimony was a Commuter Benefits Tax Credit, but this type of workforce incentive would fit perfectly into your vision for the Connect4Ohio Program.

This proposal would financially encourage companies to provide transportation as an employee benefit, resulting in improved access to jobs, reduction in roadways costs, and increased buying power for workers. Ultimately, providing this type of benefit would support Ohio's economic vitality and maximize the State's workforce productivity by helping employers recruit and maintain their employees. Ohio businesses like Wrap-Tite, RSR Staffing, Pile Dynamics, Nissen Chemitec, and Konecranes, support this concept.

SHARE Mobility has proven that transportation as an employee benefit directly impacts employee retention by more than 200%. An allocation of \$10M for employer-funded Commuter Benefits in the Connect4Ohio Program would help 4,000 people get to work at jobs that would otherwise be out of reach.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.