



Greater Cleveland  
Regional Transit Authority

1240 West 6th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1302  
Phone: 216-566-5100  
[riderta.com](http://riderta.com)

**Testimony of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
Before the Ohio House Transportation Committee  
In Support of House Bill 54  
Room 122 | February 11, 2025 – 3:30 PM**

Chairman Willis, Vice-Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and Members of the House Transportation Committee, good afternoon. My name is India Birdsong Terry, and I am here today on behalf of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Ohio's largest public transit agency. For the past 50 years, GCRTA has connected communities, businesses, and workers—providing critical access to jobs, education, healthcare, and other essential needs. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, our commitment remains the same: delivering safe, innovative mobility solutions and strengthening the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio and the state as a whole.

On behalf of our more than 2,400 employees and the riders we serve, I want to express our appreciation to Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Ohio Legislature for their continued support of public transit. Your investments make a tangible difference in the lives of Ohioans, and I am here today to highlight the impact of that funding, while also emphasizing the need for continued sustainable investment in transit infrastructure and workforce mobility.

Recent state funding has played a vital role in advancing our ability to provide efficient, reliable, and modern transit services. Thanks to state support, GCRTA has been able to accelerate our railcar replacement program with a \$9 million investment from the Ohio Transit Partnership Program. These funds are helping us procure two new railcars and install LED signage at HealthLine stations, keeping passengers better informed and enhancing the customer experience. To date, 48 of the 60 needed railcars have been ordered.

In addition, we are improving bus stops and shelters across 44 locations through a \$400,000 grant from the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program, ensuring that riders—particularly those commuting to and from jobs—have safe, accessible waiting areas. We also continue to modernize our fleet and infrastructure by replacing aging vehicles and expanding Microtransit services, increasing accessibility to key employment centers. Currently, we have 40 new 40-foot buses and 17 paratransit vehicles on order, ensuring that our system is equipped to meet the evolving needs of our riders.

Public transit is more than a mode of transportation—it is an economic driver that connects Ohio's workforce to opportunity. Nationally and on our system, 50% of transit trips are work-related. Nearly 39% of workers earning under \$25,000 cite unreliable transportation as a barrier to maintaining employment. Ohio's ability to attract and retain major employers, such as Sherwin-Williams, Intel, Ford, Honda, and Amazon Web Services depends on a well-funded transit system. Every dollar invested in public transit generates five dollars in economic returns.



Greater Cleveland  
Regional Transit Authority

Despite its impact, Ohio currently invests just six dollars per capita in public transit—one-tenth of the national average. Twenty percent of Ohio's counties lack adequate transit service, limiting access to jobs and healthcare. The Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program provides a \$15 million investment supporting workforce transportation. Without continued funding, Ohio risks leaving millions in federal transit dollars that could modernize infrastructure and enhance service for urban and rural workers alike.

In order to strengthen Ohio's transit future, we urge the Ohio Legislature to increase current transit funding levels by at least \$15 million and continue funding the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program with both Flex Funds and GRF funds. Ensuring that state transit investments leverage available federal funding is critical to keeping Ohio competitive.

For 50 years, GCRTA has driven workforce development, economic growth, and mobility solutions for Ohioans. Investing in transit means investing in Ohio's future economic development and competitiveness. We appreciate your continued support and urge passage of House Bill 54. I would be happy to answer any questions.