



Chairman Willis, Vice-Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee: I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on a subject that means so much to many Ohioans, which is state funding for public transportation or H.B. 54.

My name is Brandon Policicchio, and I am the Chief Customer and Business Development Officer at the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, also known as RTA. RTA provides more than 6 million rides per year, connecting people to jobs, education and health care.

RTA employs hundreds of dedicated individuals, providing stable, good-paying jobs that strengthens the local economy. RTA makes strategic use of our state funding. This year we are investing the \$2.3 million in state general revenue funds allocated to RTA to support vehicle and facility maintenance. These funds are used to leverage \$11.5 million in federal funds which in turn allows us to directly employ 100+ skilled mechanics and maintenance support staff. We also spread the funds through the community through the use of support contractors as well as the purchasing of supplies, parts, and equipment.

\$508,000 in state GRF funding is used as an investment towards RTA's trolley bus infrastructure maintenance that ensures long-term viability of safe electric transportation solutions. These general revenue funds leverage \$2.5 million in federal funds which provide direct and indirect jobs for our region.

\$1.6 million in state controlled federal funding for transit is making other critical RTA projects possible such as the renovation of the 45-year-old Longworth campus, which houses our buses and maintenance shops. The improvements are aimed at providing a safe and efficient facility for RTA employees and protecting RTA assets.

RTA is very appreciative of the investment we receive from the state. This funding is strategically invested in projects that create employment opportunities for local, skilled trade workers, stimulate economic growth, support family-sustaining jobs, and strengthen the economic vitality of numerous communities we serve. This approach ensures that state investments have a lasting impact, fostering both immediate job creation and long-term economic development across the region.

We are proud to be a partner in Ohio's economic growth and development. We pledge to continue to make smart use of state funds allocated to public transportation. We believe it is critical to continue to invest in public transportation through H.B. 54.

Thank you, Chairman, and the members of this committee for allowing me to submit this testimony today.