



Ohio General Assembly

Troy Miller, Director of Government Affairs, SORTA

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Chairman Cirino and Finance Committee:

- Investing in better public transportation improves economies, supports communities, and changes lives.
- Cincinnati Metro would like to thank the General Assembly for allocating federal funds for public transportation in House Bill 54.

Removing Public School Busing Language

- On the regulatory side of things, we urge you to remove the language that places further restrictions on public school districts' ability to use public transit as a means to connect students to school. (Am # TBD)
- There are significant concerns with the proposed language:
 - As written, it is unclear which systems and which transit hub locations would be subject to these new mandates.
 - Given the complexity and the location of public, religious, and charter schools within our community, it would be practically impossible to legally meet the requirements of the amendment.
 - Lastly, the proposed language, if not clarified, stands in contradiction with federal regulations regarding public transit's role in student transportation. Attempting to comply with this proposed legislation, as written, could place hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funds at risk in the State of Ohio.
 - **Most importantly, the amendment would place transit operators in legal jeopardy when complying with the amendment. Under this language, a bus operator would be committing an illegal act by simply picking up a passenger waiting at a public bus stop.**
 - Public transit agencies are, by definition, open to the public and are legally prohibited from refusing service to individuals, including students.
- We urge the language to be removed.
- Thank you for all that you do in support of our transit systems, our communities, our economies, and the citizens of Ohio.