



Ohio Senate Finance Committee – HB 96 Hearing

Thursday June 5, 2025

Chair Senator Jerry Cirino
Vice Chair Senator Brian Chavez
Ranking Member Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

On behalf of the METRO Regional Transit Authority and the many Ohioans who rely on public transportation every day, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your leadership and thoughtful consideration in the handling of House Bill 96. We are especially grateful for the removal of the provision that would have prohibited students from transferring at central transit hubs.

Your willingness to listen to transit professionals, community advocates, and concerned constituents ensured that the final version of the bill reflects a more practical approach to student transportation. This decision not only protects access to education for thousands of young people across our state but also ensures that Ohio remains in compliance with federal transit regulations — safeguarding critical funding and operational flexibility for local transit agencies.

Thank you for recognizing the vital role that public transportation plays in connecting communities, supporting educational opportunity, and ensuring mobility for all. We deeply appreciate your engagement and your commitment to sound, comprehensive policy.

We look forward to continued partnership as we work together to strengthen Ohio's transportation future.

With gratitude,

Dawn Distler
Chief Executive Officer
METRO RTA