



## **Ohio Senate Transportation Committee**

**Andrew Aiello, Deputy General Manager, SORTA**

### **Written Testimony**

March 14, 2025

Chairman Willis, Vice-Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee:

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) was a recipient of Ohio Workforce Mobility Grant Program funds last year.

This funding has been absolutely critical in helping SORTA maintain its existing bus fleet, launch new and innovative services, and remove bureaucratic barriers for our region's disabled community.

These funds were used to buy new vehicles for Metro's wildly popular new service, MetroNow! This app-based on-demand transportation service is connecting residents in low-density parts of our community to jobs, healthcare, and grocery stores that were previously only accessible by owning a car. MetroNow! is currently providing over 100,000 trips per year and this Workforce grant will allow us to launch a third service zone in 2025.

These funds also support a regional One Call / One Ride program for individuals with disabilities. This innovative program removes needless jurisdictional barriers for folks with disabilities to have access to a one-seat ride to work, school, or doctor's appointments. This is government removing the red tape to provide better service to our most vulnerable neighbors.

Lastly, we are using these funds to replace transit buses that have exceeded their useful life of 12+ years and 500,000+ miles. Regular vehicle replacement is at the foundation of every transit system and allows us to move people throughout the region to more jobs and more economic opportunities.

We support the continued funding of the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership and are ready to turn these funds into mobility and opportunity for southwest Ohioans.

Thank you!

