



March 13, 2025

Ohio Senate Transportation Committee – Proponent Testimony H.B. 54
Laura Koprowski, Chief Executive Officer
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

My name is Laura Koprowski, and I am the Chief Executive Officer at the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority also known as TARTA. TARTA's services connect people to essential destinations such as jobs, education, and healthcare. Our ridership rose by 56 percent on one of our busiest routes and 22 percent throughout our entire system.

Since 2022, TARTA's service area has greatly expanded so that we now cover nearly all of Lucas County as well as the City of Rossford in Wood County, making public transit a viable option for thousands more northwest Ohioans. Without question, the largest need we see in our community is to provide reliable transportation options to our regional employers. It is the number one request we receive, and it is the main topic of conversation when we speak with our many chambers of commerce.

The Workforce Mobility Partnership Program in the last transportation budget bill was crucial to meeting this need. It financially supported projects in the rural and urban areas of Ohio that are challenged to transport workforce to significant employment centers or to places of employment outside of their resident community. TARTA has been awarded two grants from this program that will address workforce transportation gaps in Wood County and increase service to critical job sites in the TARTA service area.

We urge our legislators to continue funding the Workforce Mobility Partnership Program especially when so many businesses are challenged with getting workers to their jobs.

Thank you.

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