



Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA)

2000 Summit Rd. Kent, OH 44240

(330) 678-7745 PH

(330) 676-6310 FAX

www.partaonline.org

Amrhein.c16@partaonline.org

Proponent Testimony on HB 54 – Senate Transportation Committee – March 14, 2025

Claudia B. Amrhein, GM/CEO, PARTA

Chairman Patton, Vice Chair Schaeffer, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for your support of public transportation in the state transportation budget for FY 2026-27. My name is Claudia Amrhein, and I am the GM/CEO of Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority in Portage County, and the immediate past president of the Ohio Public Transit Association, (OPTA).

I am writing to thank you and the Senate Transportation Committee for supporting public transit funding and amendments submitted by OPTA to support transit workers and services.

In addition, I urge you to restore \$15 million annual funding for the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership program (OWMP) recently struck from the Senate's proposed budget.

Transit authorities across the state are focused on developing service and capital investment plans to support the growing need for workforce transportation. Without continued funding, projects supported by the OWMP program in FY 2024-25 may not reach fruition.

For example, FY2025 OWMP funding is supporting PARTA's efforts to study and develop plans for addressing commercial and employment center developments built over the past decade. Job sites are far from where potential workers live and not readily accessible, creating a transportation barrier.

Continued OWMP program funding is a vital investment for supporting Ohio businesses that need to attract and retain dependable workers, and for workers across the state who depend on public transit to reach these jobs.

For these reasons, I urge you to consider restoring OWMP program funding of \$15 million per year in the FY 2026-27 transportation budget.

Chairman Patton, thank you for the opportunity to testify again in support of transit investment in the transportation budget. I truly appreciate your time, attention, and service and am happy to answer any questions you may have.