

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Stephanie Kunze
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
Senate Building, 1st Floor S.
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Kunze:

I write to encourage you and the other members of the Senate Transportation Committee to restore the language found in the As Introduced version of HB74 that would assist our regional transit system, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA).

The Chamber supports the development of an efficient, robust, and responsive transit system that promotes the economic well-being of the region. We are supportive of the effort to give TARTA a temporary opportunity to place an issue before the voters in Lucas County and City of Rossford that will allow them to transform their operations and increase accessibility.

Public transit is a workforce and economic development issue. As witnessed by the recent announcement by *Site Selection* magazine, Ohio and the Toledo region not only continue to attract significant investment and development opportunities, but lead the nation in doing so. If we want to continue that trend, we must also be able to meet the expectations of those individuals who are relocating to the region from other areas of the county that have robust public transportation systems in place. Employers and employees alike must be able to rely on an efficient transit system for the continued growth and success of the region and our state.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Brian Dicken, IOM
Vice President, Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives