



## CITY OF CHILlicothe

**LUKE M. FEENEY**  
MAYOR

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March 5, 2021

The Honorable Stephanie Kunze  
Chairwoman, Transportation Committee for the Ohio Senate  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Supporting Chillicothe Public Transit and Ohio's Public Transit Network

Dear Chairwoman Kunze,

We write to express our strong concern of the proposed 2022-2023 transportation budget, which would cut funding for public transportation by 90%. Cutting public transportation funding now would be devastating to our community's long-term economic recovery and growth.

Over 30% of household units in Chillicothe have only one vehicle available and another 10% of households are without a vehicle, making our public transit system critical for families to access employment, food, childcare, education, and medical care. The value of public transit to Chillicothe and Ross County has been proven during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Chillicothe Transit System (CTS) providing transportation to employment, medical appointments, grocery stores, testing sites and vaccination clinics. CTS employs over 30 front line employees who have kept our city moving during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ohio's transit systems generate \$3.6 billion in economic activity and create and support 180,000 private sector jobs. Ohio's public transit authorities advance economic opportunity while providing access to essential services to our most vulnerable populations, including veterans, seniors and those with developmental disabilities.

Because public transit is crucial for the recovery of Ohio's economy, we respectfully ask that you work with your colleagues to restore the biennial transportation budget to the previous \$70 million.

Sincerely,

Luke Feeney  
Mayor

Asti Powell  
Director of Transportation