



**Before the House Finance Committee**  
**House Bill 141 – Increase Funding for Public Transportation**  
**Sponsor Testimony by Representatives Michael J. Skindell and Terrence Upchurch**  
**December 1, 2022**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 141.

H.B. 141 was introduced prior to the H.B. 74, the 2023-2024 biennial State Transportation Budget, where, with bipartisan support, \$140 million was provided to support public transit. Under the budget, each year \$37 million is provided from the GRF and \$33 million from the Federal Highway Administration flex funds. Although this appropriation, which matched the prior biennial allotment, was a positive step forward, it came after nearly two decades of significant underfunding of public transit.

H.B. 141 seeks \$100 million from Ohio's General Revenue Fund and \$50 million in revenue from Federal Highway dollars annually over the two-year budget, to go to public transit. Representative Upchurch and I also introduced this legislation into the 133<sup>rd</sup> GA as House Bill 93.

An Ohio Statewide Transit Needs Study conducted in 2015, concluded that with a growing economy and population, public transportation services in the state are being unmet. Those needs include providing service in areas that do not currently have access to any public transportation as well as areas that have service but need more. Recognizing that public sources of funding are stretched thin across all levels of government the aforementioned study is a resource for maximizing the efficiency of funds. A strong public transportation system is essential to a growing economy, attracting and retaining young talent, supporting our elderly community while also providing access to essential medical and human service programs. The funding provided in H.B. 141 is more in line with the recommendations of the 2015 study.

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Finance Committee, I would be happy to answer any questions relating to this legislation.