



City of Greenville

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

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Respected Members of the Ohio Senate,

I am deeply concerned by the proposed 2022-2023 transportation budget, which would cut state funding for public transportation by 90%. As a small rural transit system, the majority of our funding comes from Federal and State grants. As a condition of the Federal grants, we are required to provide local match funds. We use private contract funding as a significant amount of this local match. These contracts are with local nursing home facilities, schools, and other human service agencies. Due to COVID-19 there was a severe decline in our trip numbers for these organizations. This decrease in this revenue will very likely result in a need to apply for additional State funds during 2022-2023. With the proposed cut to State funding for public transportation there is a concern about the ability to continue providing the same level of service to our community. Our passengers rely on our services for transportation to work, medical appointments, shopping, etc. If we were unable to provide this much needed service, many of these people would not be able to leave their homes. This would also have an impact on our local economy. 52% of our trips are for the purpose of shopping & recreation. 21% of our trips are for the purpose of taking our passengers to work. If we were unable to provide these trips it would be a major hit to a community of our size. We also provide limited transportation to residents outside the city limits. If these residents were unable to use our service many of them would have no other option than to leave their homes to move in to town, which many of these people are unable to afford.

These are just a few examples of the impact public transportation has on our community, and we are only one system. There are many other communities within our state that will be affected as much, or more, than ours. For this reason, I implore you to work with your colleagues to restore the biennial transportation budget to the previous \$70 million.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Erin Kies