



Senate Transportation Committee
Interested Party Testimony, State Transportation Budget (HB74 – Oelslager)
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for providing me the opportunity to share interested party testimony regarding Sub. House Bill 74, the state transportation budget for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

My name is Brittney Madison, and I am the Co-chair of [Clevelanders for Public Transits](#)' (CPT) Policy Committee. CPT is a grassroots community organization of riders that believe in safe, accessible, affordable, reliable, and sustainable public transit for Clevelanders.

At CPT we believe, public transportation systems bring many benefits to individuals, communities, and the local economy. Some of those benefits include, but are not limited to:

- **Financial benefits to communities** - For every dollar invested in public transportation, approximately \$4 in economic returns are generated. *
- **Reduction in traffic congestion** - Public transportation can convey many more people in much less space than individual automobiles, which helps to keep traffic congestion lower, which in turn reduces air pollution from idling vehicles, and helps riders avoid the stress that comes from daily driving in highly congested areas.
- **Increased mobility** - For those who don't, or can't drive, public transportation allows them to get to work, to school, to the grocery store or doctor's office, or just to visit friends.

In addition to the benefits listed above, we were pleased to read the DeWine Administration's recent COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint recommendation to "improve access to public transportation to better connect communities of color to health care, jobs, and education." Thus, we urge you to ensure the state budget reflects this important commitment.

For all the above-mentioned reasons we would like to see public transit adequately funded.

While we have provided several reasons as to why public transit is important, CPT feels that HB 74 fails to adequately address the critical issue of public transit funding.

CPT recommends the following change be made to HB 74:

Transit and rail funding should be increased to \$150 million per year, over the Biennium. In addition, we call for the establishment of a multi-modal development fund within the ODOT budget.

Both recommendations are in line with the needs identified in ODOT's own 2015 Transit Needs Study.

Ohio's dependence on safe, reliable transportation infrastructure will only increase as our state continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions on travel continue to be lifted. We strongly encourage the adequate funding of public transit. Thank you for your time, and we are hopeful that you will consider our above-mentioned recommendations.

*APTA's report, [*The Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment: 2014 Update*](#)

Respectfully,
Brittney Madison