



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

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Testimony of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
The Ohio House of Representatives
Finance Committee
February 21, 2023
10:00 a.m. Room 313

Good afternoon. The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) is Ohio's largest public transit agency. We have, since 1975, been connecting the community.

On behalf of our more than 2,000 employees and the communities we serve, I would like to say thank you to Governor DeWine, his administration, and the legislature for their continued support of public transit.

I want to provide you with an update on the capitol priorities that the state has graciously provided support for, which include our railcar replacement program, bus replacement, TRAC funding, and social impact initiatives like Microtransit and infant mortality.

In state fiscal year 2022, we were awarded \$8.9 million for our rail car replacement program and in state fiscal year we were awarded another \$8.0 million from ODOT's OTP2 (Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership) program.

These awards contribute to the \$213 million we have identified for our rail car replacement program. This project is an organizational and strategic priority. We are leveraging the ODOT funding in an effort to secure a \$130 million FTA grant from their new Rail Vehicle Replacement to close the funding gap for this project.

In state fiscal years 2022 and 2023, we were awarded \$3.6 million each year from ODOT's Urban Transit Program to replace a total of sixteen buses.

Thanks to the last Legislature's revision to TRAC eligible projects, in state fiscal year 2022, we were awarded \$4.3 million from ODOT TRAC funding for our Light Rail Track Replacement Program. We currently have two applications before ODOT TRAC for the current round of funding - one for \$12 million for our West 25th Street BRT (one our priority corridors for TOD) and Light Rail TRAC replacement of \$30.7 million for the remainder of the Light Rail Track Replacement Program.

Additionally, in state fiscal year 2022, we were awarded OTP2 funding to expand our Microtransit workforce development mobility project and our baby on-board infant mortality



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project. We recently posted our 2nd RFP for another Microtransit project funded using OTP2 dollars.

Last week we had a ribbon cutting for our Solon Microtransit pilot with Senator Matt Dolan (who was responsible for helping to drive this partnership). It was also attended by County Executive Chris Ronayne, Mayor Eddy Kraus, Mayor Annette Blackwell, Councilwoman Meredith Turner, Maple Heights Councilman Ron Jackson, and other public officials.

We would like to express our support for the proposed Ohio Regional Workforce Mobility Partnership Program. This fund will create the economic means for purposeful work to invest in seamless transportation between public transit authorities through technology and shared services. Investments like this will help enhance Ohio's job creation and talent attraction abilities by providing transit services to employment center currently with little or no public transit service.

In December, every major economic development organization in the State signed a letter in support of public transit: Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Greater Akron Chamber, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Columbus Partnership, REDI Cincinnati, RGP Northwest Ohio, Toledo Regional Chamber of commerce, Ohio Southeast Economic Development, TeamNEO, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Cincinnati Regional Chamber, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Business Roundtable, and Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber. This strong support is indicative of public transit as vital to economic and workforce development.

We urge your continued support for public transit in this bill, and I would be happy to answer any questions.