



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

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Testimony of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
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The Ohio Senate Transportation Committee
March 8, 2023
10:15 a.m. Finance Hearing Room

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, we would like to thank Governor DeWine, his administration, the Ohio House of Representatives, and you all in the Ohio Senate for your continued support of public transit.

We are here in support of the Transportation budget as passed by the House, which includes a \$70 million appropriation for transit statewide and a new \$30 million competitive grant process for innovative programs to help Ohioans get to work.

We would like to express our support for the proposed Ohio Regional Workforce Mobility Partnership Program added in the House. This \$30 million 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 centers currently with little or no public transit service.

In fact, two weeks ago, we hosted a ribbon cutting for our Solon Microtransit pilot to help the Northeast Ohio workforce with the "last mile" challenge to reach large employers in the manufacturing sector in Solon. We are excited about this new public-private partnership and appreciate Senator Dolan's leadership in helping put this together. The funding in this budget will allow for more innovation like the Solon pilot program.

In terms of workforce development, we have an ongoing community training and development job hub partnership with Cuyahoga Cuyahoga Community College and a workforce readiness program where we have partnered with the Ohio Turnpike on front-line supervisor training for both agencies.



Attached please find a letter from every major economic development organization in the State in support of public transit as vital to economic and workforce development.

We urge your continued support for public transit in this bill and are happy to answer any questions.