



# OHIO LOVES TRANSIT 2024

## FEBRUARY 11-17



### Ohio Loves Transit Week/Day Talking Points for OPTA Members:

- Thank you to the Ohio Legislature for supporting public transit funding at historic levels in the recent State of Ohio Transportation Budget.
- Ridership continues to grow in Ohio and has not only grown but bounced back from the pandemic. Most recent ODOT statistics show that **59 million** rides were given on Ohio public transit in calendar year 2022. (2023 stats are not yet available).
- This is a marked increase from 2020 levels of 51 million rides and 2021 levels of 52 million rides.
- Ohio's public transit systems play a key role in supporting Ohio's workforce and economic development efforts. Rural and urban public transit is essential for workforce development and economic mobility for all Ohioans.
- As Ohio continues to attract historic investment to our state, with announcements like Intel, Ford, and Honda, public transit providers are playing a vital role in transporting the workforce to work on a daily basis.
- A report by the American Public Transportation Association notes that 50% of trips on public transit are to and from work. A recent study by Fund for Our Economic Future called "Where are the Workers", found that 27% of unemployed individuals surveyed consider a lack of transportation an important barrier to finding and keeping a job. This lack of options impacts the bottom line of businesses when they cannot attract and retain dependable workers.
- In addition to being vital to the workforce (both employers and employees), public transit is a lifeline to vulnerable populations like the elderly and medically challenged. Public transit takes riders to doctor's appointment, dialysis, groceries, etc.
- The public transit agencies of today are innovative and forward-thinking with mobility services, including on-demand micro-transit, first and last mile solutions, bus rapid transit and regional connections.
- Public transit agencies in Ohio are also leading the way nationally in incorporating new technologies in fuel efficiency like hydrogen, as demonstrated by Ohio's participation in the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub, recently announced by the U.S. Department of Energy.