



## **Fiscal Year 2022- 2023 Transportation Budget (HB 74) Overview**

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Governor's Transportation Budget (HB74) was introduced on February 9, 2021. In the as-introduced budget, the proposed discretionary General Revenue Fund (GRF) allocation for public transit was approximately \$7.4M per fiscal year. This represents a 90% cut from the previous biennium, where the amount was \$70 million per fiscal year.

Overall, the Governor's budget boosts state General Revenue Fund spending by 3.4% in the budget's first year, then by 11% in the second year. Despite these increases, DeWine and his administration gut discretionary support for transit systems. These cuts come as all of Ohio's public transit systems were hard-hit by COVID-19 in terms of ridership and revenue. Yet, during the pandemic, transit systems have continued to provide a lifeline to jobs, medical appointments, grocery shopping, access to critical drugs at pharmacies and COVID-19 vaccinations for Ohioans.

### **COMMITTEE HEARING & TESTIMONY:**

The Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee heard or accepted testimony from the following individuals regarding public transit:

#### **February 4, 2021**

- Director Kim Murnieks – Ohio Office of Budget Management

#### **February 9, 2021**

- Director Jack Marchbanks- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

## February 17, 2021

- India Birdsong- Greater Cleveland RTA
- Kelly Hatas- Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Partnership
- Carolyn Conley – Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Partnership
- Shannon Hursey- Acces Tusc Transit
- Matthew Dutkevicz- Butler County Regional Transit Authority
- Mary Habig- Seneca-Crawford Area Transportation
- Mark Donaghy- Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority
- Leslie Braus- Wayne Medina Community Action
- Kirt Conrad- Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
- Kim Dunham- Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
- Dawn Distler- Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority
- Darryl Haley- Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
- Claudia Amrhein- Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority
- Ben Capelle- Laketrans
- Carrie Woody- Lancaster Public Transit System
- Asyln Rodriguez- Central Ohio Transit Authority

## TIMELINE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

- **February 25, 2021** - Amendments to the Transportation Budget to be adopted in a substitute bill in the Ohio House Finance Committee.
- **March 2, 2021** – Adoption of an Omnibus Amendment to the Transportation Budget in the Ohio House Finance Committee.
- **March 2 – March 4, 2021** – Transportation Budget voted out of the Ohio House Finance Committee.
- **March 3 – March 4, 2021** – Transportation Budget passed out of Ohio House of Representatives.
- **March 9, 2021** – Senate Finance Committee begins hearings on the Transportation Budget.
- **March 18 – March 23, 2021** – Adoption of a substitute bill and omnibus amendment to the Transportation Budget in the Senate Finance Committee.
- **March 23-March 25, 2021** – Transportation Budget Passed out of the Ohio Senate

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

- Rep. Carfagna - Provides \$112 million in discretionary funding to public transit over the biennium and maintains \$80M of federal pass through revenue.
- House Democratic Caucus- multiple amendments that propose \$100M or more in funding for public transit over the biennium.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Contact via phone or email every Republican member in the Ohio House of Representatives asking them to support Representative Carfagna's amendment increasing support for public transit.
- Write letters or emails to Republican Legislators asking them to support increased funding for public transit.
- Write a letter to the editor in your local or regional paper discussing the devastating cuts to public transit proposed in the Governor's Transportation Budget.
- Write an op-ed in your local or regional paper discussing the devastating cuts to public transit proposed in the Governor's Transportation Budget.