



Thank you for your consideration to join the Ohio Public Transit Association as an Associate Member. As the primary advocate for public transportation in Ohio, OPTA provides leadership, resources, media outreach and governmental relations services to strengthen the role of public transportation in improving the quality of life for all Ohioans.

Membership in OPTA connects your organization in tangible ways to a community that understands your challenges and stands ready to help.

While COVID-19 swept the nation, OPTA assisted its members in the following ways:

- **Regular COVID-19 Updates** - Weekly virtual meetings hosted by OPTA provided a credible source for the latest information impacting Ohio public transit systems during the early days of the pandemic and beyond
- **Development of COVID-19 Guidelines** – OPTA lead the way in producing and distributing a set of recommended best practices which specifically addressed the unique challenges faced by public transportation providers and state-funded human service transportation agencies
- **Ride Easy Ohio** - OPTA launched this statewide initiative in September providing its membership with access to, and use of, a complete marketing campaign designed to promote public transportation as a safe and viable option during the COVID-19 pandemic

Please make the commitment to join OPTA and become a part of this dynamic association. OPTA accomplished a great deal in 2020 and we look to achieve more in 2021.

In just a few short months, the Ohio General Assembly will take up discussion of the next biennial budget. OPTA needs the support of its members as it advocates for funding on behalf of public transit. We anticipate a tight state budget next year, so it is critical that OPTA has the resources it needs to ensure state legislators hear an accurate and compelling story regarding public transit in Ohio. ***Transit experienced a 20% reduction in allocated funds in 2020. As public transit's voice in the statehouse, OPTA will lead the charge to educate lawmakers about the need to provide adequate funding in the future.***

Please take a few minutes to review the information accompanying this letter regarding membership in OPTA. If you have questions about joining, please contact our administrator, Phyllis VanArsdale by email at pvanarsdale@ohioneedstransit.org.

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Ohio Public Transit Association – Join Us!



Membership Has Its Benefits

OHIO PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Thank you for supporting the Ohio Public Transit Association as an Associate Member. OPTA offers a wide array of benefits and services that enable our members to enhance their operations, stay informed of critical legislation and public policies, grow their businesses and play an active role in shaping the future of public transportation.



THE VOICE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

OPTA serves as Ohio's voice for public transportation. Members are involved in establishing OPTA's state and national policy priorities and goals. Our members have the opportunity to significantly influence the legislative and regulatory process via direct contact with elected officials and government agencies during our annual Ohio Statehouse Lobby Day and scheduled visits with Congressional members and staff in Washington, DC.

Weekly legislative updates keep our members informed and engaged with the work being done at both the state and national levels.

OPTA is the primary advocate for public transportation in Ohio. The association provides leadership, resources, training, support, technical assistance, media outreach at the state and national levels, public engagement and governmental relations services to transit agencies and businesses across the state.

As the powerful and unified voice of our members, the 60,000 men and women they employ and the millions of people, including seniors, veterans, students, people with disabilities and commuters who use transit every year, OPTA strives to increase funding opportunities and improve Ohio's quality of life.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

OPTA's Associate Members provide valuable support and leadership to the innovation and success of Ohio's public transit industry.

Businesses and organizations that supply goods and services to the transit industry; provide professional consultation services; or engage in the construction of transit facilities.

Categories include:

Manufacturers/Suppliers | Consulting Companies | Construction Contractors



Associate Member Benefits

COST OF MEMBERSHIP – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

NEW FEATURE for OPTA Membership 2021 and 2022

OPTA renewing members have the option to pay membership dues for both 2021 and 2022.

By providing your dues payment for both 2021 and 2022, your organization will enjoy the benefits of membership with no dues increase for two full years.

| Associate Membership | One Year | Two Years |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Industry Partners Businesses providing goods and services to the Transit Industry | \$500 | \$1,000 |
| Out-of-State Transit Partners Transit providers with no vehicles in Ohio | \$500 | \$1,000 |
| Non-Profit Organizations 501-C6 or 501-C3 Gross revenues greater than \$25,000 | \$500 | \$1,000 |
| Gross revenues less than \$25,000 | \$250 | \$500 |

OPTA PUBLIC TRANSIT BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Your Associate Membership ensures that Ohio's public transit and your organization benefit from OPTA's advocacy initiatives, peer-to-peer networking, thought leadership, professional development, visibility and best practices.

ADVOCACY

OPTA works on behalf of our public transit members to ensure they receive increased funding at the federal, state and local levels that ensures they meet the needs of Ohioans today and into the future. OPTA maintains an active and robust governmental affairs program designed to influence public policy, legislation and regulation at local, state and federal levels.

Members receive weekly legislative updates to stay informed.



LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OPTA provides opportunities for members to be involved in the leadership of OPTA, from serving on OPTA committees and working groups. Opportunities are open to serve on committees dedicated to marketing, maintenance, legislative affairs and other transit-related topics.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

OPTA members have the exclusive opportunity to participate in OPTA's programs and events that provide educational and professional development, connections to government officials and business leaders, collaborating and networking with public transit colleagues.



The annual Ohio Needs Transit Conference & Expo draws hundreds of attendees from across the state and Midwest and promotes professional growth through education, training, information sharing and networking. OPTA brings the state and nation's experts together for three days of immersive learning and exchange of ideas.

OPTA and its stakeholder partners present Ohio's most important public transit and mobility conference featuring incredible speakers and multiple tracks of programming addressing the latest trends, innovations and best practices

Members receive exclusive discounts on Conference and EXPO registrations.



OPTA's statewide programs provide support and visibility for members to share their importance to their employees, ridership and stakeholders.



OPTA members have the opportunity to promote statewide initiatives that celebrate transit and how we Move Ohio Forward. Held annually at the Ohio State Capitol, this is your opportunity to meet with Ohio's government officials to discuss the importance of transit in Ohio.



The OPTA Excellence Awards are presented annually and honor Ohio's transit individuals and organizations who have exemplified leadership and advocacy. Transit employees, board members and community stakeholders who, by their commitment, work, actions and passion, deserve to be celebrated.



VISIBILITY & INFORMATION

OPTA supports its members through a vibrant marketing and communication platform that provides information and opportunities through multiple channels that include email newsletters, social media, website platforms, media and public relations postings, member requests and the sharing of career opportunities.

Marketing and communications content includes local, state and national public transit announcements.