

**Public Transit is the safest, most effective way to provide Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation**

* Public Transit operators are already the experts at moving people safely and efficiently in a local area. They have strong safety records, regular and complete maintenance on their fleets, background checks on their employees. They already do the service, do it well, and do it cheaper than private entities.

**Critical Infrastructure & Critical Funding**

* The provision of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) is a vital and often life sustaining service for nearly three million Ohioans. Revenue from NEMT services is also vital to the continuation of public transportation in Ohio, with at least 70 public transit systems in Ohio relying heavily on NEMT revenue to match Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding. NEMT service revenue accounts for 89% of the required local match for some Ohio transit systems. Without the NEMT revenue for match Ohio’s rural transit systems face drastic service reductions and closures.
* Ohio’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant recipients comprise a fleet of over 4113 vehicles of which 96% are ADA accessible. This fleet of vehicles combined with the fleets of OPTA’s members who do not receive FTA funding provide ample opportunity for availability of transportation in rural areas and throughout the state.
* While vehicles are not dispersed equally throughout the state, just the number of federally funded vehicles available would allow for 46.78 vehicles per county and 411.6 in each of the 10 human service and public transportation coordination regions.

**Already Strong Stakeholder Partnerships**

* OPTA members already have strong relationships with health systems and other stakeholders.
* OPTA and its members work closely with community coordination partners. Health system partners are always included in coordination efforts as medical transportation is always identified as an unmet need. In addition to coordination efforts, OPTA assembles, analyzes, and wildly disseminates data and information on mobility and other issues affecting transit.

**Case Study**

* One county, Hamilton, has already experimented with privatizing Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation. Hamilton County’s costs are nearly **TRIPLE** those of Cuyahoga County despite being a less populated county resulting in fewer trips. Hamilton County spends roughly $9 million a year on NET, while Cuyahoga County spends around $3 million a year. This results in millions of dollars less for Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services

**OPTA’s Policy Team**

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