



Building on Momentum

Greater Ohio Policy Center's FY2024-25 Transportation Budget Recommendations

Since FY2020, the Ohio General Assembly has invested a record \$141.5 million in Ohio's public transportation agencies. This has been an important down payment for Ohio's future, but now is not the time to pull back support for public transportation funding.

Ohio has made notable progress by investing in public transportation, diversifying our transportation network, and emphasizing public safety in roadway construction and design. This work has greatly enhanced opportunities for multi-modal transportation system access in large and small cities throughout Ohio. Likewise, the adoption of the Walk.Bike.Ohio plan by ODOT – Ohio's first-ever statewide active transportation policy must be followed by critical investment in active transportation policies and projects. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law enacted by Congress in 2021 presents an even greater opportunity for Ohio to invest in a transportation network that is designed to accommodate all users, is financially sustainable, and above all else, addresses local needs.

FY2024-25 Transportation Budget Recommendations



Grow GRF allocations to public transportation to at least \$75 million per year or \$150+ million for the biennium

- The FY22-23 state transportation budget relied on a combination of GRF and federal highway "flex funding" to achieve a net allocation of \$70 million per year for Ohio's public transit agencies.
- However, the requirement that local agencies provide matching funds to draw down federal funding means this funding (used for capital projects and fleet management) is, functionally, inaccessible to small, rural systems.
- With the availability of federal funds to address capital needs, GOPC recommends that 'flex funding' be paused in the FY2024-25 biennium budget in favor of 100% GRF funding.
- GOPC recommends a full commitment of GRF funding of at least \$75 million per year for public transportation system operations in Ohio annually for each fiscal year. (\$150+M total)



Match federal funding for the 'Safe Routes to Schools' Program with State GRF Funds

- Safe Routes to Schools is a federal initiative that provides funding to local communities to build infrastructure around school facilities, such as sidewalks and protected crosswalks.
- This is a popular, oversubscribed program that is protecting children's lives.
- GOPC recommends the state match Ohio's federal allocation of \$5 million per year with \$5 million in GRF per year. (\$10M total)