local PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

2021–2022

ADVOCACY TO PROPEL THE COLUMBUS
REGION INTO THE NEXT ERA OF MOBILITY

COTA

2050 IS COMING—

let's go

At the heart of COTA's 2021/2022 Public Policy Agenda is the recognition that Central Ohio and the Columbus Region are in a period of great change—demographics are shifting, new technologies are on the horizon and the physical landscape is being remade as communities evolve.

Public transportation is at the intersection of these dynamics. With the right policies in place, here's how we can move Central Ohio into the future.

FUNDING

Pursue robust state programs and policies that foster improved mobility and transit-supportive development.

INNOVATION

Advance technology policies that enable COTA to more equitably support the mobility needs of the region's diverse and growing communities.

REGIONALISM

Advocate for state programs, policies, and funding that support projected growth in the region by fostering economic progress, efficient use of resources, and a shared prosperity for all.

The Central Ohio Transit Authority State Public Policy Agenda was crafted in partnership with the region's transportation stakeholders and COTA's Board of Trustees, who are appointed by constituent municipalities in the Columbus region.

FUNDING

PURSUE ROBUST LOCAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES THAT FOSTER IMPROVED MOBILITY AND TRANSIT-SUPPORTIVE DEVELOPMENT.

- Seek investment in transit supportive infrastructure, including complete sidewalks.
- Advocate for tax benefits for employer mobility benefits and other workforce development programs that incentivize transit use.
- Support increasing transportation dollars returned to localities and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Garner support for future ballot initiatives to fund inclusive and equitable innovative mobility solutions.

INNOVATION

ADVANCE TECHNOLOGY POLICIES THAT ENABLE COTA TO MORE EQUITABLY SUPPORT THE MOBILITY NEEDS OF THE REGION'S DIVERSE AND GROWING COMMUNITIES.

- Support efforts that leverage ODOT, DriveOhio, MORPC, Smart Columbus, Smart Region Task Force, Transportation Research Center, Vision Zero and the 33 Smart Mobility Corridor and advocate for regional policies that prepare Central Ohio communities for additional smart-infrastructure and innovative technology investment.
- Advocate for programs that enable local governments to integrate smart infrastructure upgrades into road and bridge repairs and improvements.
- Pursue policies and funding that measurably improve transportation safety and equity and advance Vision Zero, Artificial Intelligence and predictive analytics efforts at the local level.
- Advocate for policies and funding for first mile/ last mile and on-demand service, including microtransit services, paratransit services and shared mobility devices (i.e. scooters and bicycles).
- Encourage the adoption of data governance policies at the local level that promote open data and standardization, while protecting the security of private, personal, and otherwise sensitive information.

REGIONALISM

ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND FUNDING THAT SUPPORT PROJECTED GROWTH IN THE REGION BY FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH, EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES, AND A SHARED PROSPERITY FOR ALL.

- Support for economic development policies and incentives that encourage transit supportive infrastructure and building standards.
- Pursue policies and funding to improve quality of life through expanded transportation options connecting marginalized communities in rural, suburban, and urban areas.
- Collaborate with regional partners to enhance the national competitiveness of central Ohio through multimodal transportation.
- Advocate for policies and funding that support a broad spectrum of housing options within key transit corridors to meet the region's growing residential and workforce needs.
- Work with MORPC and other partners to encourage modal shift pursuant to the congestion relief and air quality goals outlined in 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- Support planning and coordinated development for secure, reliable, and affordable broadband in every home, business, school, and service provider within the region.
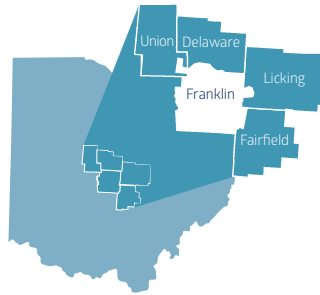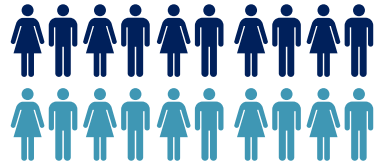
we are moving

OUR TEAM

712 operators

13 Board of Trustees members

more than **1,100** employees

President/CEO
JOANNA M. PINKERTON

COTA SERVES MUNICIPALITIES IN THE COLUMBUS METRO AREA

Union · Delaware
Franklin · Licking
Fairfield

Bexley
Columbus
Dublin
Gahanna
Grandview Heights

Grove City
Hilliard
New Albany
Reynoldsburg
Upper Arlington

Westerville
Whitehall
Worthington

OUR RIDERSHIP

19,141,454
2019 total rides

▲ **+1.2%**
FROM 2018

OUR FUNDING

.25% Permanent local sales tax

.25% Renewable local sales tax (Through 2026)

Link US Moving our region. Together.

LinkUS seeks to provide a complete mobility system along key regional corridors

we are smart

MOBILE TICKETING

MULTI-MODAL TRIP PLANNING

CONNECTED VEHICLES

WI-FI

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

MICROTRANSIT

we are sustainable

COTA's transit fleet will be low or no emission vehicles by 2025

LEED

We are committed to building LEED facilities

we are collaborative

downtown **CPASS**

MORPC MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

DriveOhio The Future of Smart Mobility

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH

TRC Transportation Research Center Inc.

HONDA

ONE COLUMBUS Partners for Regional Growth & Prosperity

SMRT COLUMBUS

RTC SERVICES PUBLIC TRANSIT

LANCASTER PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM LPTS Lancaster, Ohio

DELAWARE COUNTY TRANSIT

GREAT GROVEPORT RICKENBACKER EMPLOYEE ACCESS TRANSIT

SMARTRIDE

NEW ALBANY

Dublin Connector

waycare

VIA

SHARE Mobility

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CapitalUniversity

Columbus College of Art & Design

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

60+ NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS