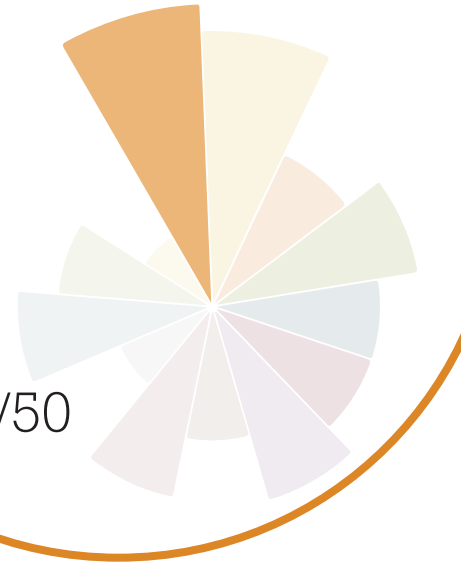


Public Transit Access and Spending

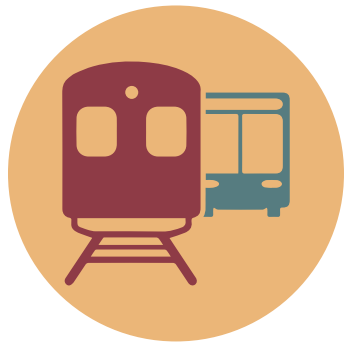


OHIO'S 2019
U.S. RANKING

23/50

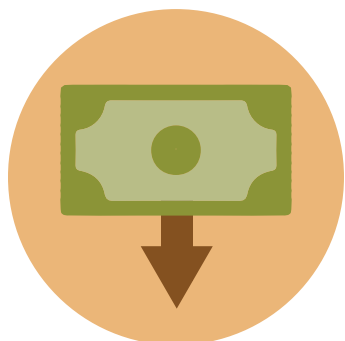


Reliable transportation is crucial for workers, particularly low-income workers who are less likely to work from home or have flexible work schedules. Public transportation in Ohio is funded primarily through federal funds and local taxes. An over-reliance on local funding makes disparities between different areas more likely because some regions will have the means and desire to provide access to public transportation and others will not. Access to public transportation is a support for low-wage workers. In communities where there is no access to public transportation members who work in low wage jobs may be in a more precarious position in terms of long-term employment and better paying jobs across town. Lack of transportation access creates communities that are under resourced in terms of incomes and income taxes to support infrastructure. Diminished economic opportunities and high unemployment rates are community level risk factors for intimate partner violence as is income inequality at the societal level. Consequences of under resourced communities having little or no access to public transportation include risk for increased incidents and prevalence of intimate partner violence.¹



Ohio's public transit system has over **115 million rides** in 2017.² The number is expected to reach **250 million** by 2025.³

There are **61 urban & rural** transit agencies in the state that are funded by a mix of local, state, and federal funding.⁴



State funding is very low. In 2017, Ohio ranked **45th** in public transit spending despite having the 14th largest ridership.⁵

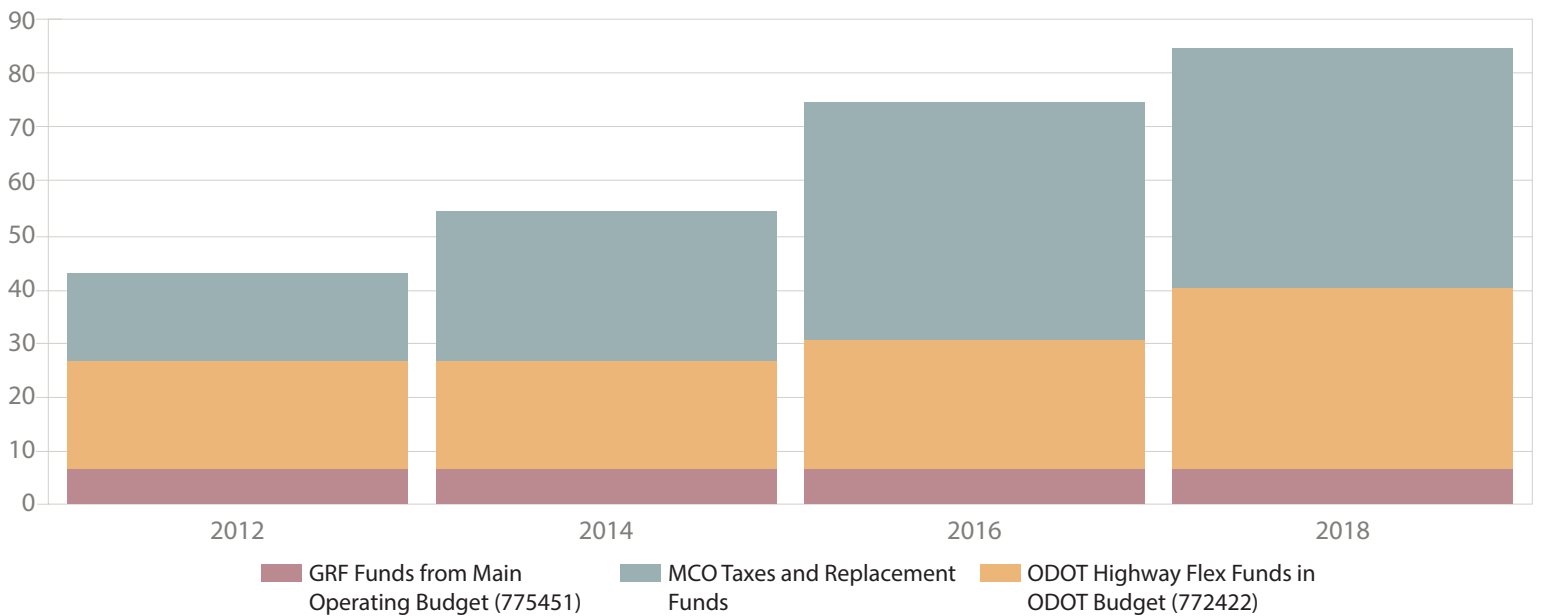
Just **3%** of Ohio's public transportation budget comes from the State of Ohio.⁶



Barriers to Closing the Gap

- The impact of COVID-19 on the Ohio State Budget will likely be felt for years to come. This impact may mean there will be less allocated for public transportation in the 2021-22 biennial budget.
- When local, regional, and state budgets cut spending for public transportation the poorest and most marginalized are most effected and are the most likely to depend on public transportation for rides to work.
- Shrinking public transportation budgets translate to fewer routes and fewer means of transportation such as busses and light rail. Ultimately, this makes the lives and livelihoods of those who cannot afford their own transportation more difficult.

Transit Spending by Agency Line Item (in millions of dollars)⁷



Remedies to Closing the Gap

- Replace older vehicles with vehicles that are at least 90% fuel efficient or are all electric to reduce overall operating expenses.
- Invest in fuel efficient or all electric vehicles to protect Ohio residents from polluting emissions which is often felt most by those most resource challenged.
- Ensure all Ohioan's have access to public transportation, especially those who are most challenged due to income disparities and/or due to disability, so everyone can get to their places of employment, doctors, and grocery stores.⁸
- Rebalance Ohio's transportation budget to de-emphasize improvements for Ohio's roads and to emphasize improvements in Ohio's public transportation system as well as access to safe bike routes.