

federal 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 funding for 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 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 Federal 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 FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS AND POLICIES THAT FOSTER IMPROVED MOBILITY AND TRANSIT-SUPPORTIVE DEVELOPMENT.

- Increase funding for the Federal transit grants to transit agencies nationwide above the authorized levels of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
- Increase funding and modify requirements within the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program; a key Federal funding source for high-frequency transit service to support comprehensive and equitable corridor development within the region.
- Support an increase in federal transportation funding returned to localities and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) such as MORPC.
- Support continued funding of the BUILD and INFRA programs for transit and multi-modal connectivity.
- Increase formula funding to support COTA's strategic mobility initiatives and to serve as a catalyst of regional integration.
- Advocate for funding and grant programs to support alternative fuel buses and low-to-no emissions buses, such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric buses.

INNOVATION

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

- Advocate for programs and policies that support efforts in Ohio to integrate smart infrastructure upgrades into federally-supported road and bridge repairs and improvements, such as an increased Federal share for innovative technologies and practices.
- Advocate for policies and funding for first mile/ last mile and on-demand service, including microtransit and paratransit services.
- Support planning and development for secure, reliable, and affordable broadband in every home, business, school, and service provider within the region.
- Support next generation of transportation technology that will prepare Central Ohio communities for additional smart-infrastructure and innovative technology investment.
- Encourage the adoption of data governance policies at the federal level that promote open data and standardization, while protecting the security of private, personal, and otherwise sensitive information.

REGIONALISM

ADVOCATE FOR FEDERAL 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 policies and incentives that leverage existing and new transit-oriented infrastructure; encourage redevelopment and reinvestment in Central Ohio's neighborhoods and commercial districts.
- Seek federal support and funding through Commuter Tax Benefits for innovative employer transit pass programs, such as the Columbus Downtown "C-pass" Program, with aspirations to expand throughout the county.
- Collaborate with regional community and business partners to enhance the global competitiveness of Central Ohio through multimodal transportation initiatives that support jobs and economic development across the region.
- Advocate for policies and funding that support a broad spectrum of equitable housing options within key transit corridors to meet the region's growing residential and workforce needs.

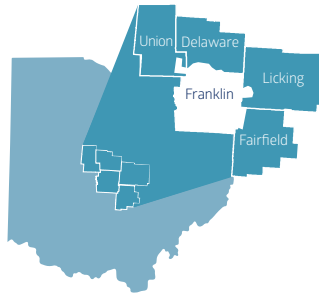
we are moving

OUR TEAM



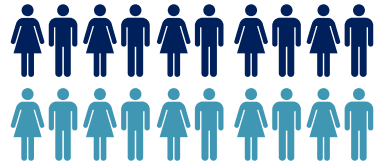
President/CEO
JOANNA M. PINKERTON

COTA SERVES MUNICIPALITIES IN THE COLUMBUS METRO AREA



- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Bexley | Grove City | Westerville |
| Columbus | Hilliard | Whitehall |
| Dublin | New Albany | Worthington |
| Gahanna | Reynoldsburg | |
| Grandview Heights | Upper Arlington | |

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)



LinkUS
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



We are committed to building LEED facilities

we are collaborative



60+ NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS