

Agenda

1. Call to Order Oral
Roll Call
2. Meeting Minutes Attachment 2a
Minutes from February 23, 2023, Meeting (Motion Required)
3. Guest Communications (2-minute limit) Oral
4. General Manager's Report Attachment 4
5. Committee Reports Did Not Meet
a. Administration Scheduled to Meet 3/21
b. Finance Did Not Meet
d. Operations Did Not Meet
e. Personnel Did Not Meet
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - Presentation
8. Resolutions - Roll Call Approval Required

#2023-03-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR FY 2024 TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS. THESE GRANTS MAY INCLUDE THE OHIO ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSIT FARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE URBAN TRANSIT PROGRAM, THE OHIO TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (OTP2), AND THE SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (SECTION 5310).

#2023-03-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA).
9. Executive Session, as needed
10. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting:
April 27, 2023 @ 7 p.m.

PARTA
PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES**

February 23, 2023

Board Members Present:

Karen Beck
Marge Bjerregaard
Richard Brockett
Jeff Childers

Debbie Davison
Dave Gynn, President
Mike Lewis, Vice President
Jack Murphy

Stacey Wilson
Karen Wise, TPO
Marvin Woods

Staff Present:

Claudia Amrhein
Denise Baba
Marcia Fletcher

Kelly Jurisch
Justin Markey, Roetzel & Andress
Rebecca Schrader

Greg Springer
Brian Trautman

Board Members Not Present:

Virginia Harris (3rd excused absence)
R. T. Mansfield (1st unexcused absence)

Frank Vitale (2nd excused absence)

Guest:

Matt Stewart, AMATS

CALL TO ORDER

President Dave Gynn called the February 23, 2023, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and asked for a roll call. After roll call, it was determined that **a quorum was participating.**

Mr. Gynn noted that Ms. Virginia Harris's husband passed away and services were pending. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2022, Board meeting. **Ms. Marge Bjerregaard** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by **Ms. Karen Beck**. The **motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gynn asked the guest in attendance to introduce himself.

Mr. Matt Stewart said he was from AMATS and just observing.

Mr. Gynn welcomed Mr. Stewart and then moved on to the General Manager's report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Claudia Amrhein said it has been a few months since the Board met and it's good to see everybody. Staff were extremely busy kicking off this new year installing parts of the new software platform. It has been a big haul, but everyone has been doing a great job. The demand response portion has been in play for about three weeks. While that's going on, the State of Ohio is in budget mode. She was absent from the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday because she was in Columbus testifying on the

transportation budget and will likely do that again in another week or two. It is a busy time but positive because the Governor's office released a \$70 million budget, which is the same as last year, and the House Finance Committee adopted a \$30 million economic development piece to help with transit and places like Intel in Licking County and developments that need to get employees to work. Public transit is in a much better place than two years ago when the budget was \$7 million.

Mr. Gynn thanked Ms. Amrhein for her representation in Columbus at the legislature. He asked if there were any comments or questions.

Ms. Karen Wise asked if there was any talk of Investment Recovery Act (IRA) or transportation money coming down to the states that would impact budgets at all.

Ms. Amrhein said she would have to investigate that because it's not ringing a bell. There was COVID and stimulus funding, with the last batch of COVID funding being drawn down.

Mr. Gynn thanked Ms. Amrhein and moved on to the committee reports.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Gynn said the Administration Committee did not meet but will probably meet next month as the elections will be coming up.

BY-LAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Gynn said the By-Laws Review Committee did not meet.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Gynn said the Finance Committee had two meetings since the last time the Board met and asked Mr. Mike Lewis to give his report.

Mr. Lewis said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday and had a very in-depth discussion on the unaudited year end. There might be some minor adjustments but nothing too severe at this point. Overall, it was a good year. KSU Revenues was over budget by \$322,724. Investment Income was above budget by \$207,218 for the year. Sales Tax Revenues was still strong at \$286,651 over budget. Expenses were all in line except for Other Fringe Benefits, which was \$207,758 above budget; however, a lot of that was due to payouts on vacations. Overall, salaries minus health insurance were at 91.3% of the budget, which was down even though the one category was slightly elevated. Many of the use items – Tires and Tubes, Fuel and Lubricants, etc. - were below budget for the year because there was less activity but were trending better and probably will catch up. YTD Actual was \$2,593,514, with a YTD Budget of \$1,646,220, for a Variance of \$947,294 above budget. That was including the little over \$1 million in ARPA money that was decided not to be drawn down in July but is still available.

Moving on to the Kent Central Gateway (KCG), Mr. Lewis said cars were up 17.2% from 2021 to 2022 and up 55.5% from 2020 to 2021. KCG had a very strong year financially. Ms. Rebecca Schrader did a very good job with her team in looking through the budget and most things were in line. Other Fringe Benefits was the same as for PARTA. Advertising/Promotions Media was up by \$4,000 because the promotion was done and paid differently. YTD Actual was \$139,262, with a YTD Budget of \$1,289, for a Variance of \$137,973 above budget. KCG is bouncing back after the last couple years coming out of COVID. It was expected but good to see. He asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Lewis said the Board packet included the updated Investment Policy. Although it will not show in the current reporting, as of the first business day of 2023, \$8 million was invested with Fifth Third and the Finance Committee will start seeing quarterly reports. If anyone is interested in knowing more about this, he asked that they call him.

Mr. Lewis concluded his report by saying the Finance Committee also reviewed and recommended Resolutions #2023-02-01 and #2023-02-02 to the Board.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Moving on, Mr. Gynn said the Operations Committee did not meet.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Gynn said there was no need for the Personnel Committee to meet.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gynn said there was no Old Business and moved on to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gynn asked Ms. Kelly Jurisch and Mr. Brian Trautman to give their presentation.

Ms. Jurisch and Mr. Trautman presented their PowerPoint on *PARTA*'s guiding principles in 2023, which is attached.

Following the presentation, Mr. Gynn asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Jurisch and Mr. Trautman and moved on to the resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Gynn presented the first resolution.

#2023-02-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO SUNOCO, LLC DBA GLADIEUX ENERGY, LLC TO PROVIDE DIESEL AND GASOLINE FUEL FOR 2023 AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO SIGN A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE ON BEHALF OF *PARTA*. THIS IS A JOINT PURCHASING VENTURE WITH AKRON METRO RTA, WESTERN RESERVE RTA, AND STARK AREA RTA, ET AL.

Motion: Mike Lewis

Second: Debbie Davison

Ms. Amrhein said this is an annual resolution. When fuel goes out for bid with the other transit authorities, there is a very strict deadline for executing the lowest bid. It is received in the morning and must be executed by the afternoon, which doesn't align with the Board meeting. Fuel is necessary so the Board, some years ago, passed a resolution to allow her to sign the agreement and then come back to the Board for ratification.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he asked for a roll call.

| Roll Call: | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Virginia Harris | <u>EXCUSED</u> | | Marvin Woods | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> |
| Debbie Davison | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> | Karen Wise | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> |
| Jeff Childers | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> | Frank Vitale | <u>EXCUSED</u> | |
| Richard Brockett | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> | Stacey Wilson | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> |
| Marge Bjerregaard | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> | Jack Murphy | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> |
| Karen Beck | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> | Mike Lewis | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> |
| R. T. Mansfield | <u>UNEXCUSED</u> | | David Gynn | <u>X</u> | <u>---</u> |

Mr. Gynn said that resolution passed and then presented the next resolution.

#2023-02-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AMENDING THE INVESTMENT POLICY.

Motion: Marvin Woods **Second:** Jack Murphy

Mr. Gynn said the Investment Policy was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and a redlined copy was provided with the Board packet showing some minor revisions. The policy was originally issued in December of 2002. He asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Gynn said he talked to Mr. Frank Vitale, who was not able to attend the Board meeting, and Mr. Vitale asked him to make three statements on his behalf for the record. Mr. Vitale thinks that the investments should all be approved by the Finance Committee, the policy needs better oversight, and Fifth Third Bank should have a representative report directly to the Finance Committee. Mr. Gynn concluded by asking if there was any further discussion.

Mr. Richard Brockett asked what was done with the money before the decision was made to invest it.

Ms. Amrhein said for many years there wasn't a lot of extra money. When there was some, it was put in STAR Ohio, which receives a market rate, but could be taken out whenever it was needed. Because some funds have been accumulated over the past few years with COVID support and the sales tax increasing, there was a surplus in STAR Ohio. There were no good rates for years and now they are up to 4% and higher. The Finance Committee was consulted, along with Mr. Lewis, as Chair of that committee and in his role as a banker. Ms. Schrader met with and interviewed several bank representatives at an annual Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) conference and liked Fifth Third. Ms. Jurisch and Ms. Amrhein met with the Fifth Third representative. Ms. Amrhein consulted with a second advisor who she's associated with through another nonprofit. The entire plan was brought forth in December and reviewed with the Finance Committee, which gave the go ahead to invest. The policy was planned to be brought to the Board in January but then the Board didn't meet. Since then, procedures have been drafted internally. The Board doesn't approve procedures because they must be flexible, and this is somewhat of a new process.

Mr. Lewis said the committee went over the reports and they are available to everybody. PARTA is not able to do anything that's a risk due to investment guidelines. Any market will see ups and downs. The idea is to build a ladder to provide protection from the ups and downs and try to build some stability and consistency in the investment portfolio over time. If anybody can say what the economy is going to do over the next six months or how quickly it has gone up in the last six months, please let everyone know because it's hard to judge right now.

Ms. Amrhein said PARTA has safely invested in some CDs, Treasury Bills, and different vehicles that will mature some in the first year and then on a laddered basis over the next three years. PARTA's investments are governed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked for a roll call.

| Roll Call: | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Jack Murphy | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> | Karen Beck | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> |
| Mike Lewis | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> | R. T. Mansfield | <u>UNEXCUSED</u> | <u> </u> |
| Virginia Harris | <u>EXCUSED</u> | <u> </u> | Marvin Woods | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> |
| Debbie Davison | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> | Karen Wise | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> |
| Jeff Childers | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> | Frank Vitale | <u>EXCUSED</u> | <u> </u> |
| Richard Brockett | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> | Stacey Wilson | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> |
| Marge Bjerregaard | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> | David Gynn | <u>X</u> | <u> </u> |

Mr. Gynn said that resolution was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Gynn said there was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing nothing further, Mr. Gynn entertained a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Karen Beck** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Ms. Stacey Wilson**. Mr. Gynn asked all in favor to say aye. He asked any opposed to say no. Hearing no opposition, the **motion to adjourn passed unanimously**.


The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Fletcher
Executive Assistant

PARTA
2000 Summit Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: *PARTA* Board of Trustees 

FROM: Claudia B. Amrhein, General Manager

DATE: March 2023

Committee Meetings and Resolutions. The March meeting agenda includes resolutions required annually to authorize state and federal grant filings. **The finance committee will meet on Tuesday, March 21, at 11:30 a.m.** to review January and February financial reports. In lieu of holding an administration committee meeting this month, the finance committee also will review Resolutions #2023-03-01 and -02. Lunch will be provided.

Presentation. During the March meeting, we'll highlight key next steps for developing short- and long-range plans to guide transit service development and capital planning over the next ten (10) years.

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#2023-03-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA).

Annual Federal and State Grant Award Resolutions. *Resolutions #2023-03-01 and -02* are template resolutions required annually by ODOT and FTA to authorize the filing of applications for federal and state transportation assistance grant funding each fiscal year. The grant dollars we receive through these funding sources support the day-to-day delivery of transit services and capital construction and maintenance activities.

Applications for funding through FTA's Buses and Bus Facilities program are due by April 13. We are preparing an application in partnership with the City of Kent, Kent State University (KSU), Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), and the State of Ohio to apply for \$4,438,800 in funding for transit amenities for the City of Kent's East Main Street Corridor Improvements project. City Engineer Jim Bowling presented an overview of this project during the May 2022 board meeting (see enclosed). The transit improvements include crosswalks, bus pull-offs, shared use paths, bus shelters, and lighting, amongst other amenities that will substantially improve safety, accessibility, and mobility on one of *PARTA*'s primary service corridors. If awarded, the city of Kent and KSU will fund the required local match.

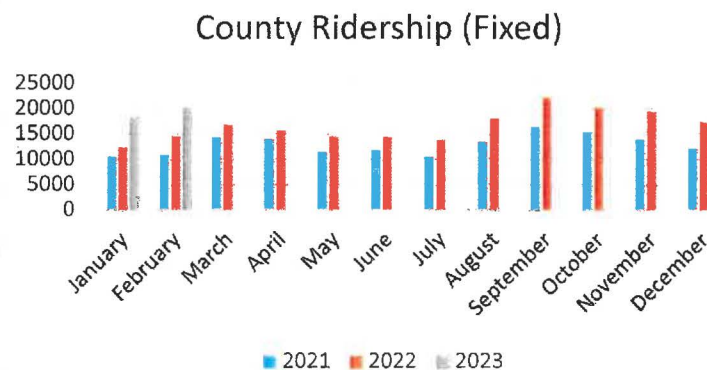
New Tenant Assumes Salon Lease. Effective March 1, a new tenant assumed responsibility for the lease held by Wave Salon, which vacated the space in late January. The new tenant, Jennifer Stanley, will operate a salon under the name, "Sunkissed Hair." The terms remain the same and are effective through 2026.

Transportation Budget Moving Through Ohio Senate. On March 1, the Ohio House of Representatives passed an amended version of the FY 2024-2025 transportation budget. Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) members testified on February 21 to maintain the \$70 million in public transit funding proposed in the Governor’s budget and to add a \$30 million program to support workforce development. Leaders of Ohio’s regional economic development organizations also supported additional transit funding to support workforce development. The House included the amendment to create the “Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program,” which will provide competitive grants to one or more regional transit authorities working to provide service to support workforce development of economically significant employment centers. OPTA testified again on March 8 before the Senate Transportation Committee in support of the transportation budget. Once adopted by the General Assembly, the budget returns to the Governor for signing by April 1. The support letter from regional economic development organizations and budget talking points are included in this packet.

Transit Driver Appreciation Day (TDAD). Every year, we celebrate the work of transit drivers and all transit employees who keep communities moving every day. On March 17, we treated employees to a hot breakfast of waffles, bacon, sausage, and other goodies followed by pizza for lunch. We are grateful for the work all our employees do to ensure transit runs smoothly and appreciate the hard work and dedication they demonstrate every day. Some photos from the day are enclosed in this packet.

Service Reports. The new transit software platforms we currently are implementing offer improved report-writing abilities for describing service statistics. Over the next few months, I’ll revise the ridership and compliance portions of the board report to show service metrics in easier-to-read formats.

County fixed route ridership continues to climb following the dramatic decline that began in March 2020. The table at right shows ridership in the months of January and February in 2021, 2022, and 2023. February 2023 ridership nearly doubled as compared to February 2021, with 20,329 trips this month and 10,918 in February 2021.



On-Time Compliance. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. ADA on-time compliance was 85.34% in February as compared to 95.96% in January. Of 696 trips, 102 were performed late, with the latest running 58 minutes behind, a 10% decline month-over-month. This is partly attributed to the change in scheduling software. The old scheduling software tracked on-time performance only within a 30-minute pick up window. The new software allows tracking by each passenger’s priority of either their pick-up time or their drop-off time, with one (1) minute equating to being “late.” This measurement better aligns with passenger preferences and FTA regulations. We expect on-time performance to return to normal, 90% or better on-time compliance as drivers become accustomed to the new system while operations continue fine-tuning scheduling algorithms to best predict on-time performance.

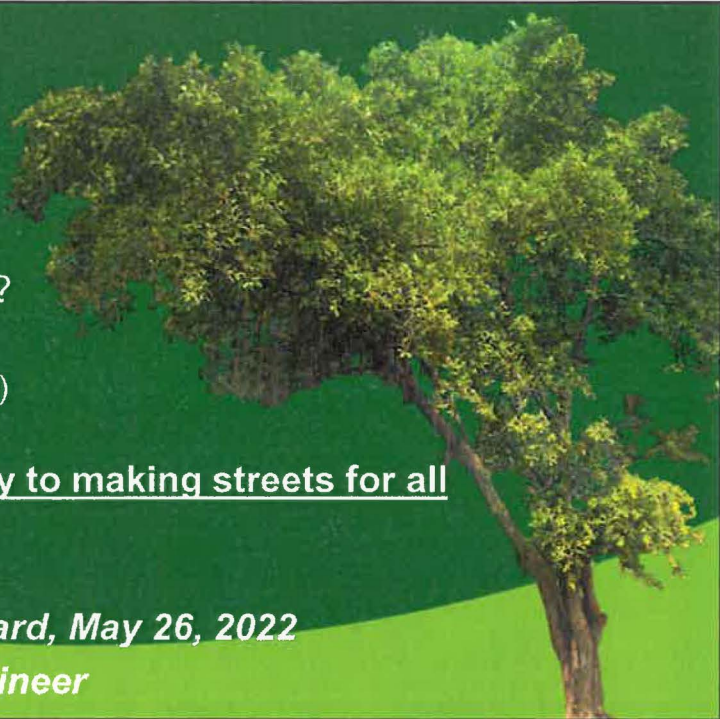
Parking Deck. A total of 8,421 cars used the deck in February, nearly equal to the 8,445 cars using the deck in January. Year-to-date totals reflect an increase of 7.2% as compared to February 2022.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you have any questions prior to the Board meeting, please feel free to contact me by calling (330) 676-6315, or by e-mail at Amrhein.c16@partaonline.org.

Streets for all Users

- Repurposing Streets
- Why the Significant Changes?
- Upcoming Street Changes
 - E Main Street (KCG to Horning)
 - SR 59 (Horning to SR 261)
- PARTA/City Partnership... key to making streets for all users

Presentation for PARTA Board, May 26, 2022
Jim Bowling, Kent City Engineer



1



Repurposing Streets for All Users – Downtown Streets



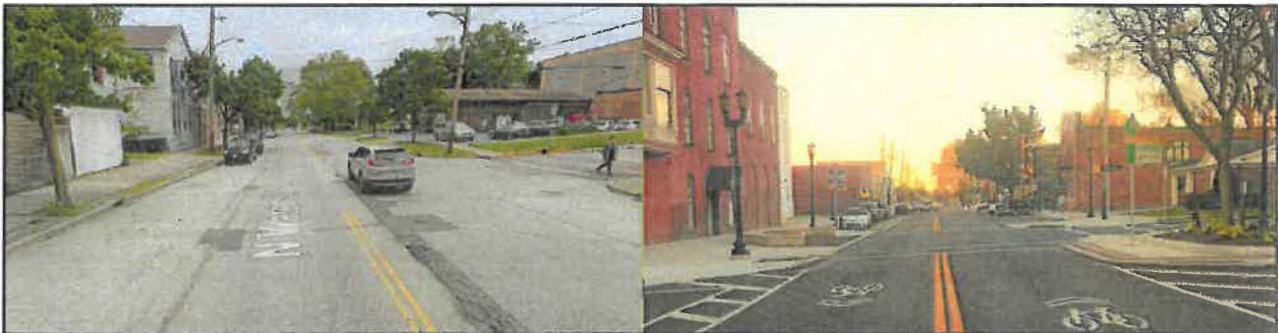
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Repurposing Streets for All Users – Summit Street



3



Repurposing Streets for All Users - N Water Street



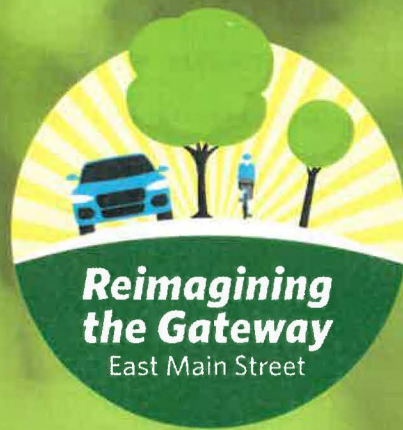
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Why?

- Safety
- Quality of Life
- Place Making (Economic Development)
- Sustainability
- Equity
- ??



5



6







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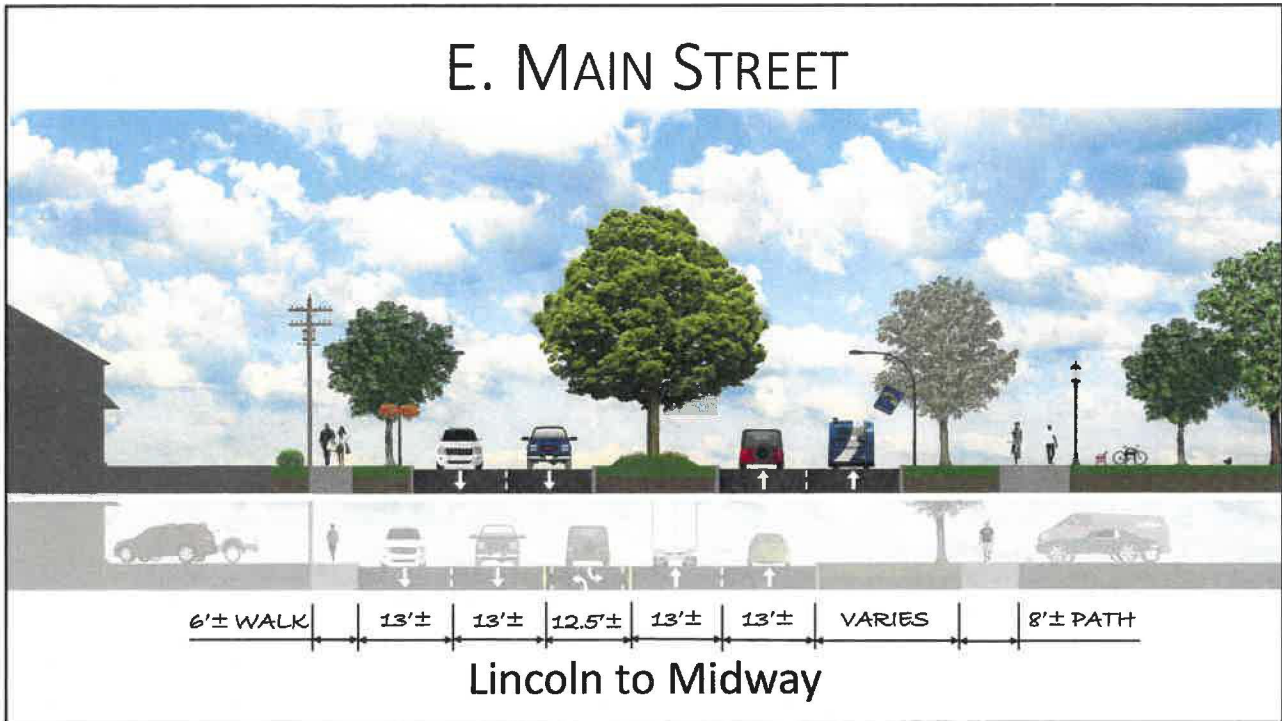
Why are we doing the Project?

- Vehicular Crashes
 - **Worst** Crash Corridor in AMATS Region (2014-2016; 2015-2017 & 2016-2018)
 - Three Intersections on AMATS Intersection Crash List (2015-2017)
 - **Over 12%** of all crashes Citywide (2016-2018)
- Pedestrian Crashes
 - **Eight** pedestrian Crashes (2016 – 2018)
 - Over **15%** of all pedestrian crashes Citywide (2014-2016)
- Pedacycle Crashes (1)

- 8 of 9 Ped/Bike Crashes occurred in marked Cross Walks

8



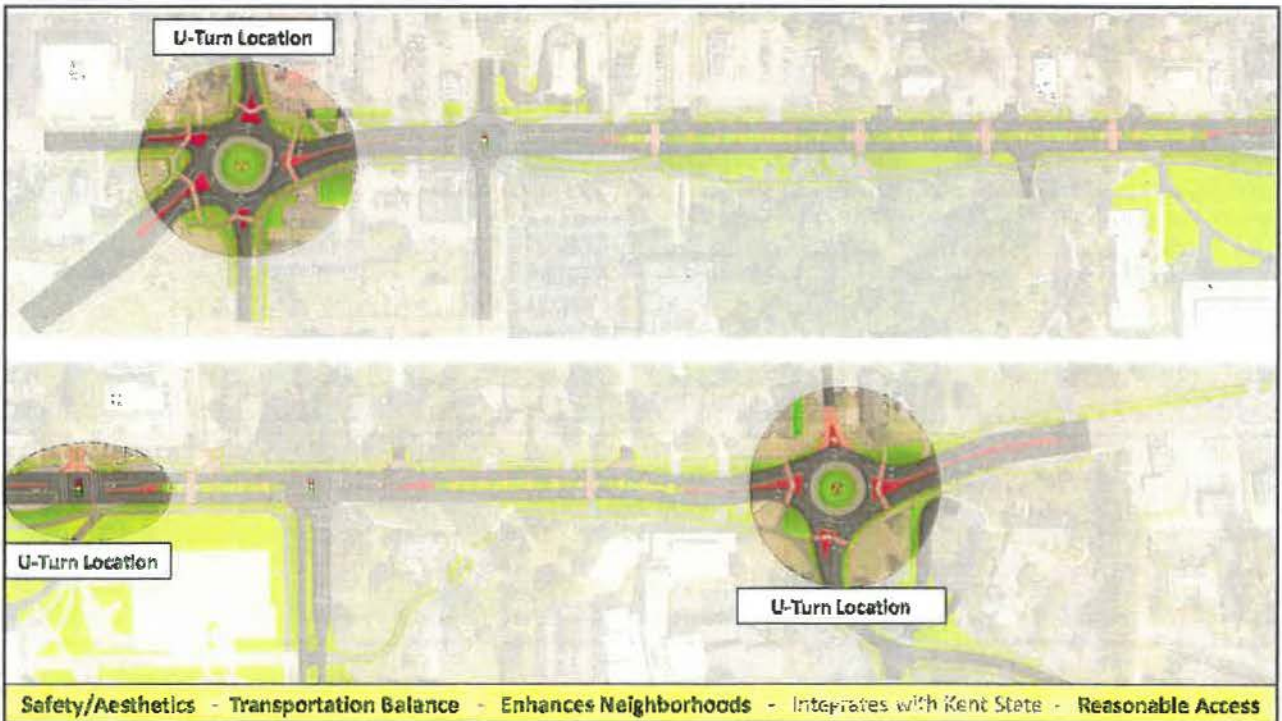
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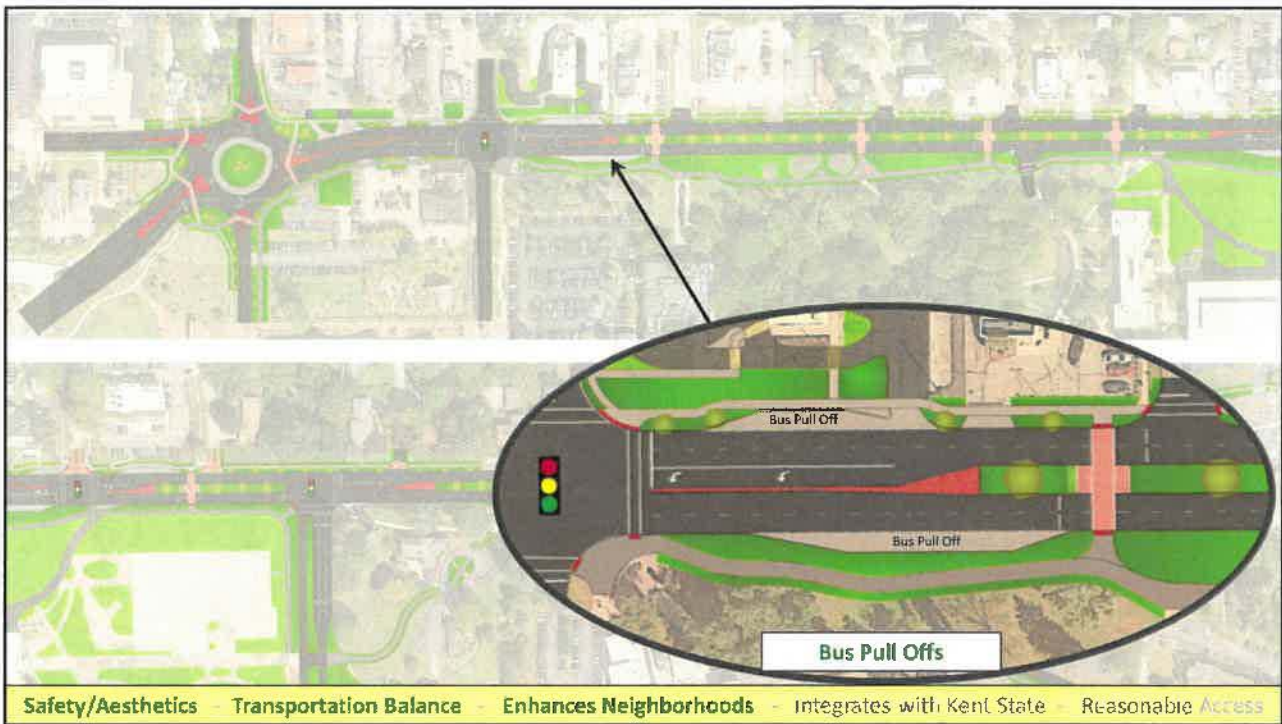
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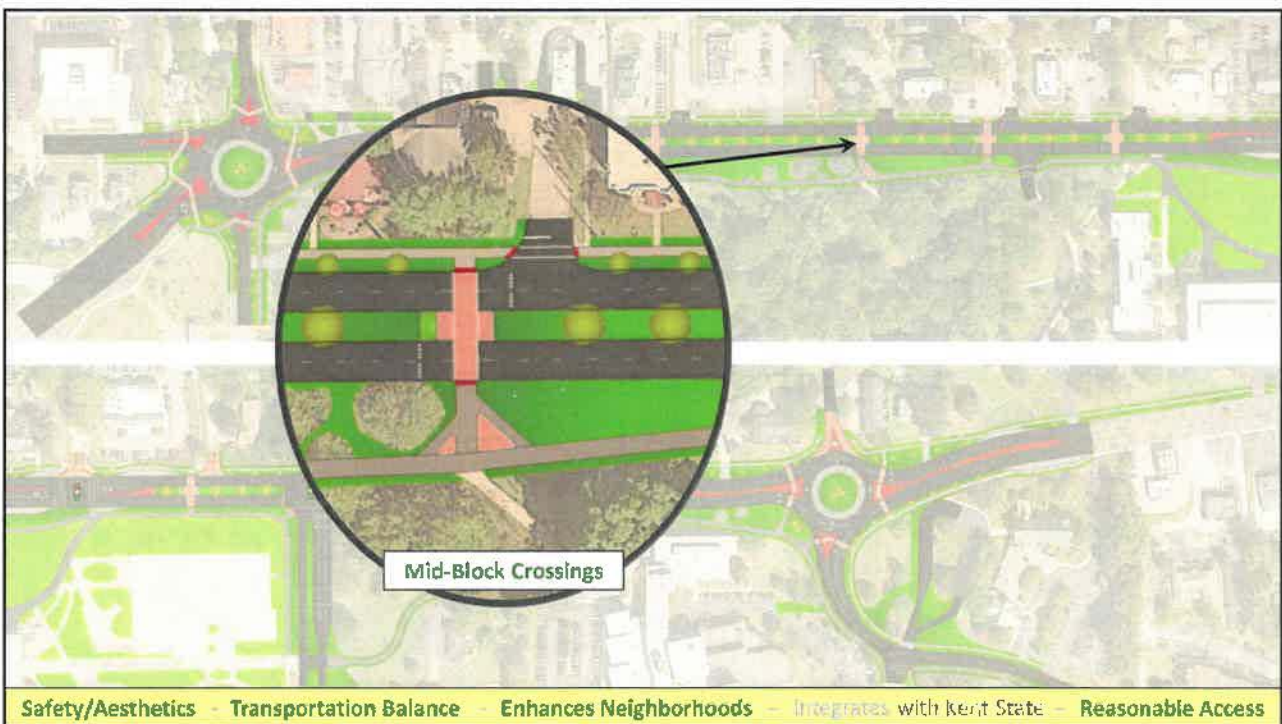
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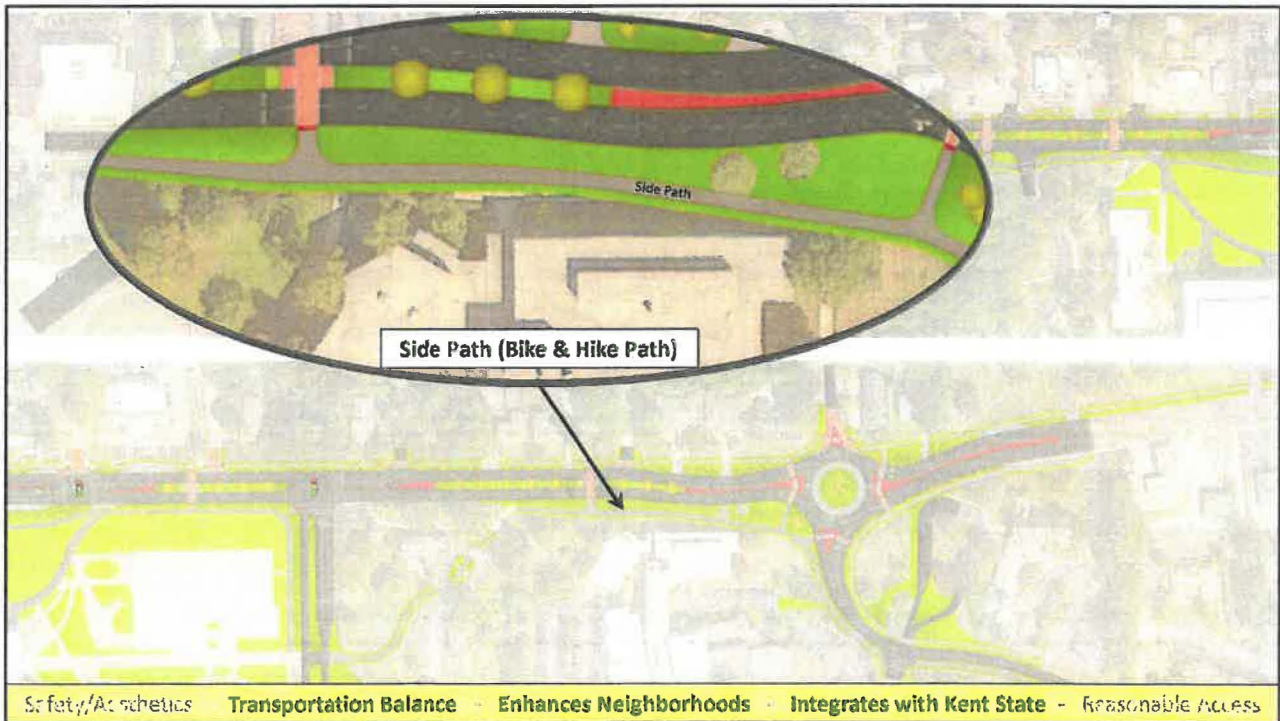
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Tree Lined Boulevard

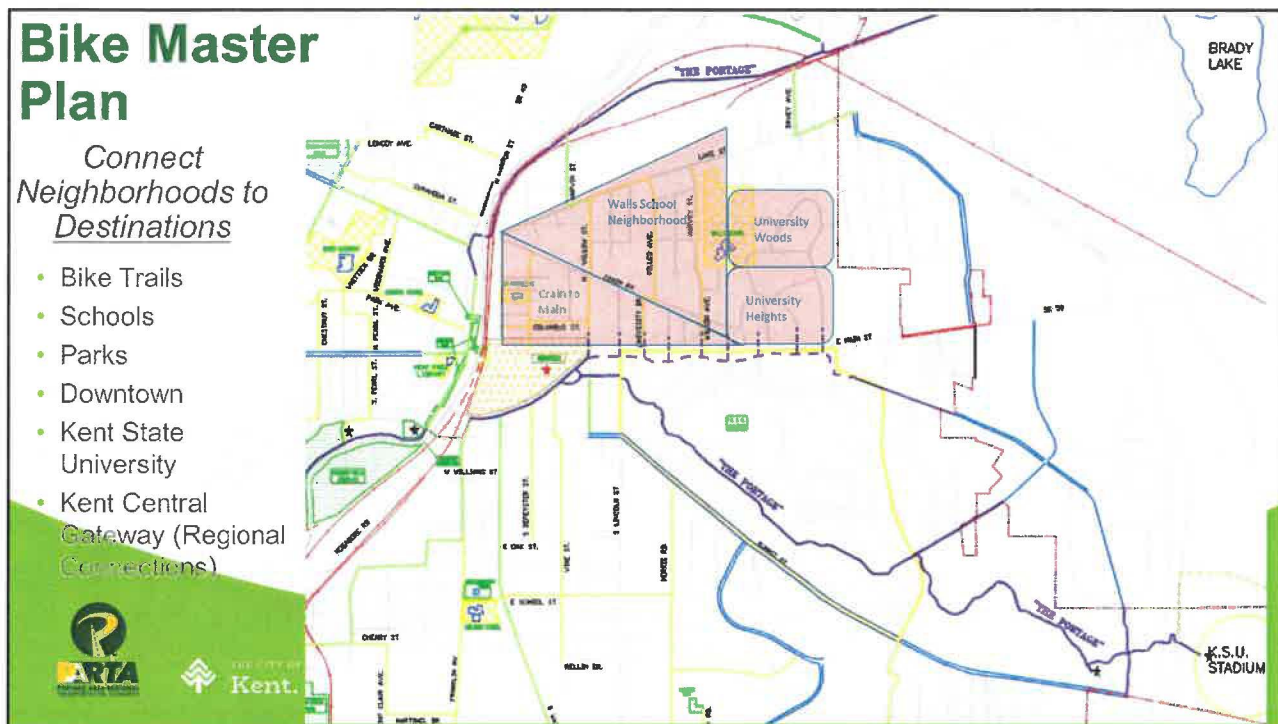
- Pedestrian Crossing Treatments



15



16



17

SAFETY

- Anticipated Crash Reduction - 18.644 per year (23 %)
- Crash Modification Factors
 - Signal to Roundabout (-7.008 Crashes per year)
 - Right in/out at Stop Signs (-4.906 Crashes per year)
 - Resurface Pavement (-2.201 Crashes per year)
 - Raised Median (-2.116 Crashes per year)
 - Others (5) (-2.413 Crashes per year)
- **Summit Street Actual Reduction – 60%**

The slide features logos for ARIZ, Kent, Ohio, KENT STATE, and Reimagining the Gateway East Main Street.

18



19



20

SR 59 Improvements – Identified Problems

Sidewalk Gaps



Poor/No Crosswalks



No Bike Facilities



No/Poor Bus Stop Amenities



THE CITY OF
Kent, Ohio

KENT

21

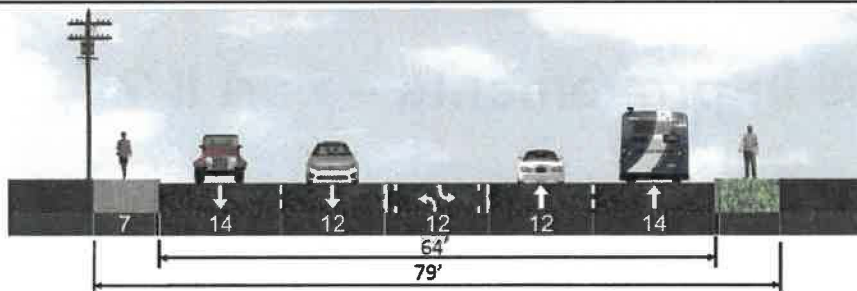


FIGURE 16 Existing corridor right-of-way and lane widths.

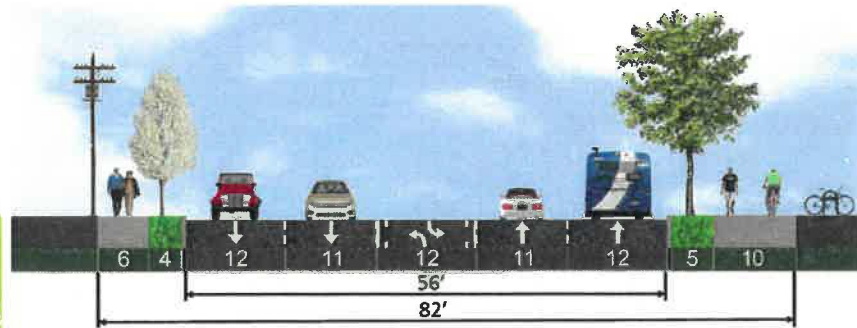


FIGURE 17 Proposed corridor right-of-way and lane widths, with continuous sidewalks and multi-use path.

22



THE CITY OF
Kent, Ohio

KENT



FIGURE 13 Proposed mid-block crossing with pedestrian island

23

SR 59 Improvements – Part II ?

- Overall Project Cost - \$4.2 million
- Partnership – PARTA/Franklin Township/Kent/ODOT
- Phased Approach
 - Planning/Funding Phase (Very Small Investment)
 - Design Phase (Small Investment)
 - Construction **(All-in)**



Kent, Ohio

KENT STATE



24

Partnership

- It's how we succeed





December 21, 2022

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Support of Public Transit Funding in State Transportation Budget

Dear Governor DeWine:

As the leaders of Ohio's regional economic development organizations, we write to express our strong support for Ohio's public transit systems and the key role transit plays in supporting our workforce and economic development efforts. Specifically, we would ask that you maintain \$70 million in GRF funding for public transit in the State Transportation Budget -- the same level as approved in the previous FY22-23 biennial operating budget. We also ask that you consider additional funding for workforce mobility and regional connection efforts to align with Administration priorities and recently announced job centers.

As the pandemic has shown, rural and urban public transit is essential for workforce development and economic mobility. As Ohio continues to attract historic investment to our state, with announcements like Intel, Ford, and Honda, we must ensure our public transit providers are adequately funded to meet the needs of the workforce. We must be able to connect workers not only to jobs, but all Ohioans to food, education, healthcare, and recreation.

Public transit is a catalyst for economic development. A report by the American Public Transportation Association notes that 50% of trips on public transit are to and from work. A recent study by Fund for Our Economic Future called "Where are the Workers", found that 27% of unemployed individuals surveyed

consider a lack of transportation an important barrier to finding and keeping a job. This lack of options impacts the bottom line of businesses when they cannot attract and retain dependable workers.

Additionally, the business community has been unified in highlighting transportation funding as a priority issue in our advocacy efforts, recognizing the need for enhanced public transit systems in order to serve Ohio's growing and increasingly regional workforce.

The public transit agencies of today are innovative and forward-thinking with mobility services including on-demand micro-transit, first and last mile solutions, bus rapid transit and regional connections. In order to continue this innovation, state funding is essential to allow agencies to draw down millions in potential federal funding. Without an available local match, generational federal funding for Ohio may be left on the table.

We respectfully request that the FY24-25 Executive budget proposal recognize public transit's pivotal role in serving Ohio's growing economy and maintain this critical funding.

Sincerely,



Pat Tiberi
President and CEO
Ohio Business Roundtable



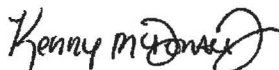
Rick Carfagna
Senior Vice President
Ohio Chamber of Commerce



Jill Meyer
CEO
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber



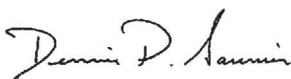
Don DePerro
President and CEO
Columbus Chamber of
Commerce



Kenny McDonald
President and CEO
Columbus Partnership



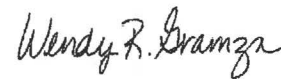
Dean Monske
President and CEO
Regional Growth Partnership



Dennis Saunier
President and CEO
Canton Regional Chamber of
Commerce



Mike Jacoby
President
Ohio SE Economic
Development



Wendy Gramza, CCE
President and CEO
Toledo Regional Chamber of
Commerce



Kim Lauterbach
President and CEO
REDI Cincinnati



Steve Millard
President and CEO
Greater Akron Chamber



Chris Kershner
President and CEO
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce



Guy Coviello
President and CEO
Youngstown Warren
Regional Chamber



William Koehler
CEO
Team NEO

Baiju Shah
President and CEO
Greater Cleveland Partnership



State of Ohio Transportation Budget FY 24-25 Talking Points for OPTA Members:

- Ohio's public transit systems play a key role in supporting Ohio's workforce and economic development efforts. As the pandemic has shown, rural and urban public transit is essential for workforce development and economic mobility.
- As Ohio continues to attract historic investment to our state, with announcements like Intel, Ford, and Honda, we must ensure our public transit providers are adequately funded to meet the needs of the workforce.
- A report by the American Public Transportation Association notes that 50% of trips on public transit are to and from work. A recent study by Fund for Our Economic Future called "Where are the Workers", found that 27% of unemployed individuals surveyed consider a lack of transportation an important barrier to finding and keeping a job. This lack of options impacts the bottom line of businesses when they cannot attract and retain dependable workers.
- The business community has been unified in highlighting transportation funding as a priority issue in their advocacy efforts, recognizing the need for enhanced public transit systems to serve Ohio's growing and increasingly regional workforce.
- The public transit agencies of today are innovative and forward-thinking with mobility services including on-demand micro-transit, first and last mile solutions, bus rapid transit and regional connections.
- To continue this innovation, state funding is essential to allow agencies to draw down millions in potential federal funding. Without an available local match, generational federal funding for Ohio may be left on the table.
- OPTA urges the Ohio House and Senate to maintain the \$70M in funding included in the DeWine Administration's budget which is consistent with the funding that was allocated in the previous budget for FY 22-23.
- OPTA applauds the Ohio House for creating the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program which earmarks \$30M of funding over the biennium for regional transit authorities to work together to provide service for the workforce between the territories and support the employment needs of economically significant employment centers.

**TRANSIT DRIVERS' APPRECIATION DAY (TDAD)
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023**







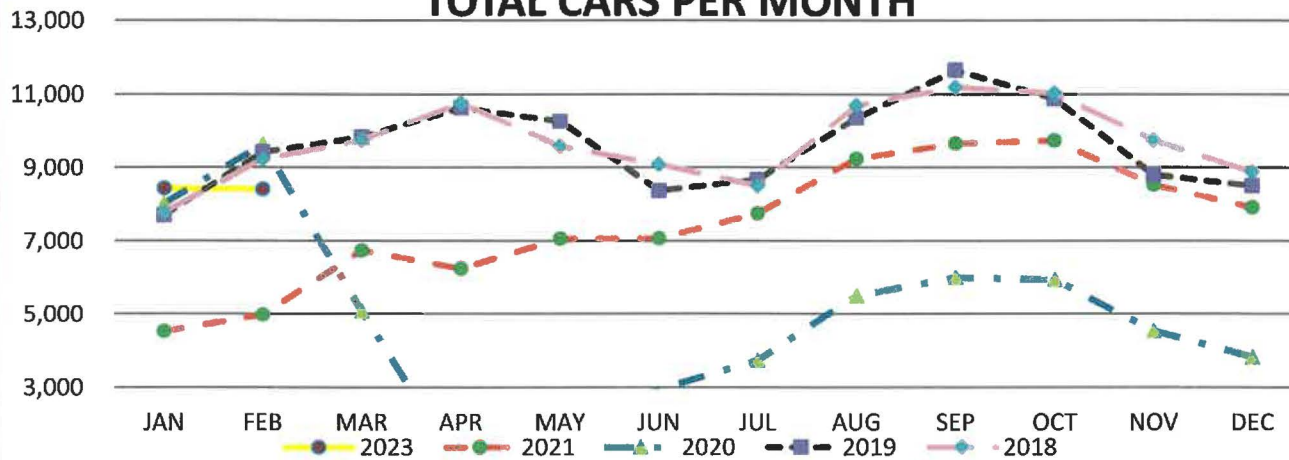
KENT CENTRAL GATEWAY PARKING SUMMARY - February 2023

| 6 Month Lookback | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|------|-----------|
| | Monthly | Transient | Total | Cars/Day | Last | Last Year |
| Sep-22 | 4,733 | 5,016 | 9,749 | 325 | 3% | 1% |
| Oct-22 | 4,552 | 5,141 | 9,693 | 313 | -1% | -1% |
| Nov-22 | 4,347 | 4,493 | 8,840 | 295 | -9% | 4% |
| Dec-22 | 3,637 | 5,057 | 8,694 | 280 | -2% | 10% |
| Jan-23 | 4,167 | 4,278 | 8,445 | 272 | -3% | 15% |
| Feb-23 | 4,328 | 4,093 | 8,421 | 301 | 0% | 0% |

Annual Comparison

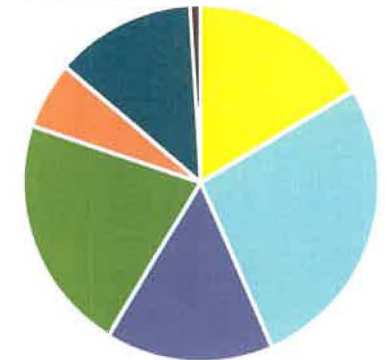
| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| JAN | 8,445 | 7,349 | 4,534 |
| FEB | 8,421 | 8,391 | 4,982 |
| MAR | | 9,363 | 6,738 |
| APR | | 8,923 | 6,249 |
| MAY | | 8,529 | 7,067 |
| JUN | | 7,967 | 7,084 |
| JUL | | 8,009 | 7,762 |
| AUG | | 9,437 | 9,248 |
| SEP | | 9,749 | 9,665 |
| OCT | | 9,693 | 9,749 |
| NOV | | 8,840 | 8,538 |
| DEC | | 8,694 | 7,919 |
| TOTAL | 16,866 | 104,944 | 89,535 |
| | 7.2% | 17.2% | 55.5% |

TOTAL CARS PER MONTH

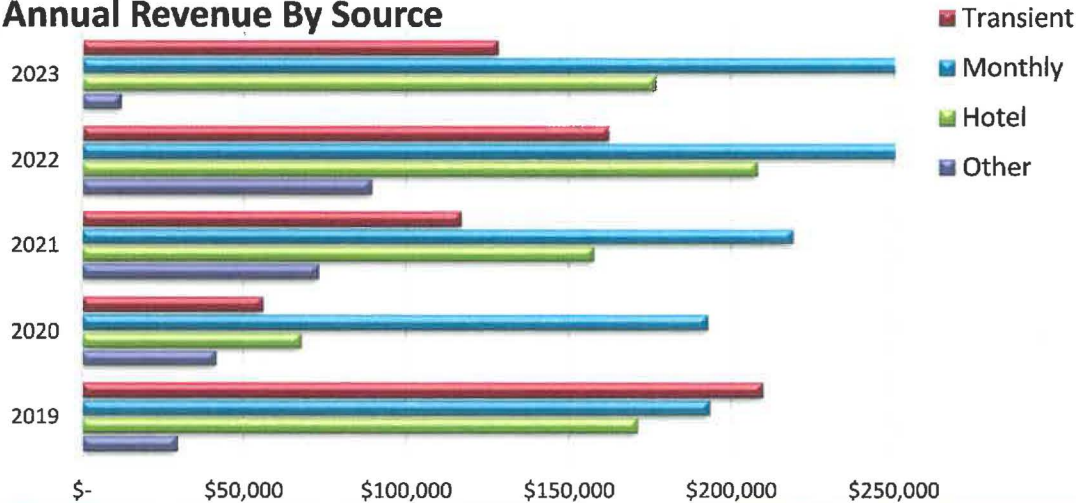


Rate Types Collected

- \$1.00
- \$2.00
- \$3.00
- \$4.00
- \$5.00
- \$6 - \$9
- \$10 - \$15
- >15

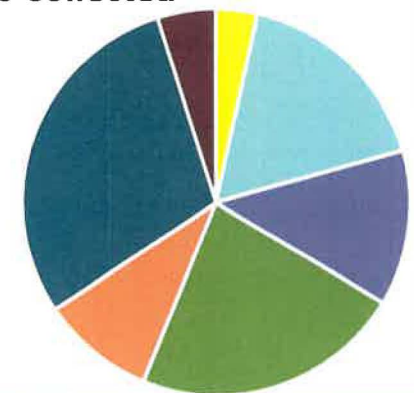


Annual Revenue By Source



\$ Rate Types Collected

- \$1.00
- \$2.00
- \$3.00
- \$4.00
- \$5.00
- \$6 - \$9
- \$10 - \$15
- >15



RESOLUTION #2023-03-01

A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR FY 2024 TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS. THESE GRANTS MAY INCLUDE THE OHIO ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSIT FARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE URBAN TRANSIT PROGRAM, THE OHIO TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (OTP2), AND THE SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (SECTION 5310).

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through its FY 2024 programs, has made available funds to assist public transportation systems in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) is the transit operator for Portage County; and

WHEREAS, PARTA is presently providing transit service and observing all federal and state rules regarding these programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees that:

1. The General Manager, or her designee, is hereby authorized to file applications and execute contracts for the FY 2024 Ohio Elderly and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program, the FY 2024 Urban Transit Program, the FY 2024 Ohio Transit Partnership Program, and the Specialized Transportation Program (Section 5310) on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA).
2. The General Manager, or her designee, is authorized to furnish such additional information as the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) may require in connection with these applications.

CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 23, 2023.

Date

David Gynn, President
Board of Trustees

Attested

RESOLUTION #2023-03-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA).

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has been delegated authority to award federal financial assistance for a transportation project; and

WHEREAS, the grant or cooperative agreement for federal financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant and may require the applicant to provide the local share of the project cost; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has or will provide all annual certification and assurances to the FTA required for the project; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is the Designated Recipient as defined by 49 U.S.C. §5307 (A)(2).

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees that:

1. The General Manager, or her designee, is authorized to execute and file an application for federal assistance on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23, United States Code, or other federal statutes authorizing a project administered by the FTA.
2. The General Manager, or her designee, is authorized to execute and file with its application the annual certification and assurances and other documents the FTA requires before awarding a federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.
3. The General Manager, or her designee, is authorized to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the FTA on behalf of PARTA.

CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees held on March 23, 2023.

Date

David Gynn, President
Board of Trustees

Attested

The Portager

Today is Feb. 27, 2023.

News briefs

Need a job? Ravenna's got jobs

Ravenna High School is hosting a job fair on March 30. The fair will be open to high school students from noon to 2:30 p.m. and will be open to the public from 3:30-6 p.m. Major companies around the county will be represented, including Davey, East, Kent Displays, PARTA and more. Email renee.donofrio@ravennaschools.us for more information.