



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TED STRICKLAND, OHIO GOVERNOR | JOLENE M. MOLITORIS, ODOT DIRECTOR

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT:

Ohio Department of Transportation  
Office of Transit  
Monday, October 18, 2010



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transit Partnerships for Ohio's Next Generation

### OVERVIEW:

Through significant project savings and additional federal resources, ODOT has identified up to \$50 million in the current fiscal year - and is pledging \$50 million in each year of the next biennial budget - to invest in a sustainable transit partnership for Ohio's next generation, with targeted funding to preserve existing transit services (operational support), provide 'clean and green' new vehicles, and add innovative new services - all to better connect Ohio's younger generation to new job centers and new opportunities.

### INVESTMENT:

Understanding the need of Ohio's transit agencies for budget predictability and dependability, ODOT will invest up to \$50 million in State Fiscal Year 2011 and allocate the same amounts in 2012 and 2013, under the next State Transportation Budget. The funds will be invested on a competitive and formula basis in the areas of Capitalized Operations (\$25 million), Clean and Green Buses (\$15 million), and Innovative New Service Starts (\$10 million).

### BACKGROUND:

The demand for transit choice continues to rise, especially among Ohio's Next Generation - the surge of young Americans born since 1982 who currently live, study or work in the Buckeye State. In Ohio's cities, 60% of bus trips are work-related - providing young people with access to education, first-time jobs, sporting events, or just a home cooked meal; in our rural areas, more than half of the riders are senior citizens or people with disabilities - public transit provides the only access to health care, education and opportunity.

As a result of the recession, many of Ohio's transit agencies were forced to cut needed transit services. This critical investment will allow the state to help preserve existing services, as determined by the local transit operator, and add critically-needed services, as well as provide job security for transit workers. An investment in new vehicles will improve transit agencies' fuel efficiencies, reduce maintenance costs, and decrease harmful emissions into the environment. Overall, these investments will better connect more Ohioans - in particular young people who increasingly demand transit options - to education centers and job opportunities.

## Next Generation Transit Partnership Programs for State Fiscal Year 2011

### Operational Support for Ohio's Transit System

**\$25 million** (*Formula-based Funding*)

Funds can be used to preserve existing transit services, as determined by the local transit operator, that would otherwise have been cut as a result of reduced local funding or to add new critically-needed transit services. To fund this investment, ODOT will redirect flexible federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, partnering with the Federal Transit Administration for the specific purpose of funding

capitalized operating expenses. For the state's nine largest transit systems, ODOT will use the current FTA distribution formula - based on specific performance measures - to allocate the majority of the funds. ODOT will reserve some of the funding for the state's rural transit agencies, which can apply to ODOT's Office of Transit for this assistance individually.

<b>Operational Support for Ohio's Transit System</b> SFY 2011 Formula Allocation for Capitalized Operating Assistance	
<b>Transit System</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority	\$5,421,436
Central Ohio Transit Authority (Columbus)	\$3,562,703
Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority	\$2,794,964
Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (Cincinnati)	\$4,078,388
Metro Akron Regional Transit Authority	\$2,593,392
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority	\$2,441,553
Laketran (Lake County)	\$779,262
Stark Area Regional Transit Authority	\$1,276,596
Western Reserve Regional Transit Authority (Youngstown)	\$1,043,159
Small Urban System Investment	\$1,008,547
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,000,000</b>

These capitalized operating assistance funds build upon ODOT's commitment to supporting Ohio's transit agencies. In 2008, ODOT and the state's metropolitan planning organizations redirected approximately \$25 million to help local transit agencies with operating support when record fuel costs led to service reductions.

**Clean and Green Transit Vehicles** **\$15 million** (*Competitively-Awarded Funding*)  
 Funds will be distributed based upon similar criteria used for ODOT's current Clean and Green Transit Program with the primary criteria involving the replacement of vehicles beyond useful life. These funds are in addition to the \$15 million previously awarded by ODOT under the current 2010-2011 State Transportation Budget (which allowed ODOT to provide funding for forty-one environmentally-friendly, clean-fuel buses for eleven local and regional transit authorities across the state).

**Innovative New Service Starts** **\$10 million** (*Competitively-Awarded Funding*)  
 Funds will be distributed on a competitively-awarded basis. ODOT's Office of Transit is currently developing the application criteria, including prioritization for new services connected to job centers in both rural and urban areas and new services aimed at younger populations, workforce retention, or other targeted ridership. This effort to invest in Innovative New Service Starts will complement the work of Ohio's Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) - the nine-member independent committee that assists ODOT in selecting its largest investments - which adopted new criteria for prioritizing transit projects more than \$5 million in cost that add new service capacity.

For more information: Contact the ODOT Office of Transit at (614) 466-8955  
[www.transportation.ohio.gov](http://www.transportation.ohio.gov)

