

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2016-0094

<p>Sponsored by: Councilmembers Brady, Brown, Conwell, Jones, Hairston, Miller and Gallagher</p> <p>Co-sponsored by: Councilmembers Germana and Simon</p>	<p>A Resolution urging the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to exhaust all available options and identify all potential resources in order to avoid or mitigate reductions in services and increased fares for riders and to urge the State of Ohio and U.S. Department of Transportation to increase available funding for public transportation.</p>
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WHEREAS, on December 30, 1974 Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland established the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (“GCRTA”) by agreement for the purpose of providing mass transportation of persons within the territory of the City and the County; and

WHEREAS, the GCRTA Board of Trustees is comprised of ten members, four of whom are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Cleveland and confirmed by City Council, three of whom are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, and three of whom are elected by the mayors, managers, and other chief executives of the County; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the GCRTA provided over 47 million rides to local residents and visitors, employed approximately 2,400 people, operated over 60 bus routes with a fleet of 466 busses, operated 4 rapid transit routes with a fleet of over 100 rail cars, and provided 150 para-transit vehicles for passengers with special needs; and

WHEREAS, according to the GCRTA, state governments typically provide approximately 20% of transit funding. The Ohio Department of Transportation provides less than 1% of GCRTA’s budget. Furthermore, in 2013 the State of Ohio cut funding to transit agencies by 17% and the state’s general revenue fund appropriations decreased from \$43 million in 2002 to only \$7.3 million in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the GCRTA faces a \$7 million operating deficit in 2016. GCRTA has publicly considered reducing services and increasing fares for riders to close the operating deficit; and

WHEREAS, the Clevelanders for Public Transit is an organization of GCRTA riders in partnership with community allies to build power for affordable, safe, and accessible public transit; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council believe that the GCRTA is essential for the County's infrastructure and growth which are crucial to residents' wellbeing and to the civic, economic development vitality and sustainability to our region; and

WHEREAS, the Clevelanders for Public Transit have emphasized that the GCRTA provides many in our community basic mobility and primary transit to work, school, healthcare, shopping to support local businesses, access to healthy and nutritional food, to places of worship and voting, to recreational and wellness facilities, and most importantly to foster relationships with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, the GCRTA has held over fifteen public meetings to discuss the potential impacts of reducing services and increasing fares for riders; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County Council believes GCRTA's proposed reduction in services and/or increase in fares for riders would have an adverse impact on the most fragile and needy members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County Council recognizes the efforts of the Clevelanders for Public Transit and supports their mission of having public mass transit available for everyone in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. Cuyahoga County urges the GCRTA to exhaust all available options and identify all potential resources in order to avoid or mitigate reductions in services and increased fares for riders.

SECTION 2. Cuyahoga County commends the Clevelanders for Public Transit and all other citizens advocating for access to affordable public transit.

SECTION 3. Cuyahoga County urges the State of Ohio to, at a minimum, provide funding to public transit at a level of 10% of transit system budgets, consistent with the recommendations outlined in the "Ohio Statewide Transit Needs Study" released by Ohio Department of Transportation in 2015.

SECTION 4. Cuyahoga County urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to increase available funding for public transportation.

SECTION 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Germana, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Miller, Germana, Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Brown, Hairston, Simon, Greenspan and Brady

Nays: None

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Deputy Clerk of Council

Date

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: May 24, 2016

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