Ohio Loves Transit Week 2026
Funding Update

It's **Ohio Loves Transit Week**, when we recognize the critical role public transportation plays in connecting our communities year-round. Ridership levels are increasing, but National Transit Administration data* shows declining state support for Ohio's public transportation system. Ohio lawmakers have an opportunity – and a responsibility – to increase state funding for public transportation in Ohio's transportation budget.

State funding made up 3.5% of statewide transit funding	Ohio's public transit investments totaled $4.41 per person	7.6% of Ohio households do not own a vehicle
34th in the US	29th in the US	12th in the US

Ohio's funding priorities don't reflect Ohioans' transportation needs. Of the 11 states with lower vehicle ownership rates than Ohio's, only Alaska provides less state funding as a share of statewide transit investments, and only two states – Alaska and Louisiana – provide less state funding per person in their transit systems.

OHIO STILL BEHIND

In 2024, total (all sources) transit funding in Ohio reached over $1.5B, up $213M from 2023, adjusting for inflation. Though Ohio improved in national rankings for state transit funding per capita and state funding as a share of total transit funding between 2023 and 2024, Ohio remains among the bottom half of states for state funding – as a share of statewide transit spending and funding per capita – and for reliance on local funding sources.

Insufficient state funding places undue pressure on Ohio's transit agencies to generate funding from local sources, including local taxes, additional support from local governments, and service revenue. Despite recent improvements, **Ohio lawmakers kept state funding flat** in the budget for FYs26-27. When accounting for inflation, that's a **$2.2 million decrease** in GRF allocations – the only source of state-generated transit funding.

2023	2024	Transit investments
2.4%	3.5%	State funding (share)
42nd	▲ 34th	Rank
$2.57	$4.41	State funding per capita
37th	▲ 29th	Rank
55.3%	57.9%	Local funding (share)
7th	▲ 10th	Rank

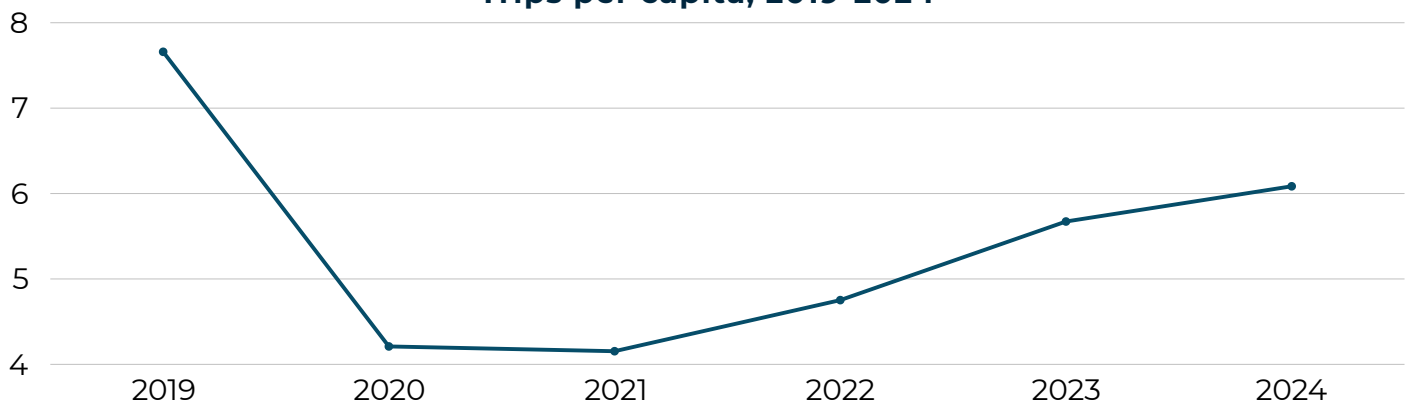
This fact sheet uses 2024 data from the Federal Transit Administration's National Transit Database to provide an update to our 2024 report, **Ohio public transit needs more state funding to connect communities, published prior to the NTD data release. **Read the full report** to learn why public transportation is critical for our communities' health and economic well-being, and why Ohio lawmakers should increase state funding for public transportation to meet all Ohioans' transportation needs.*

Questions? Contact Molly Bryden at mbryden@policymattersohio.org

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OHIOANS SHOW GROWING LOVE FOR TRANSIT

Trips per capita, 2019-2024



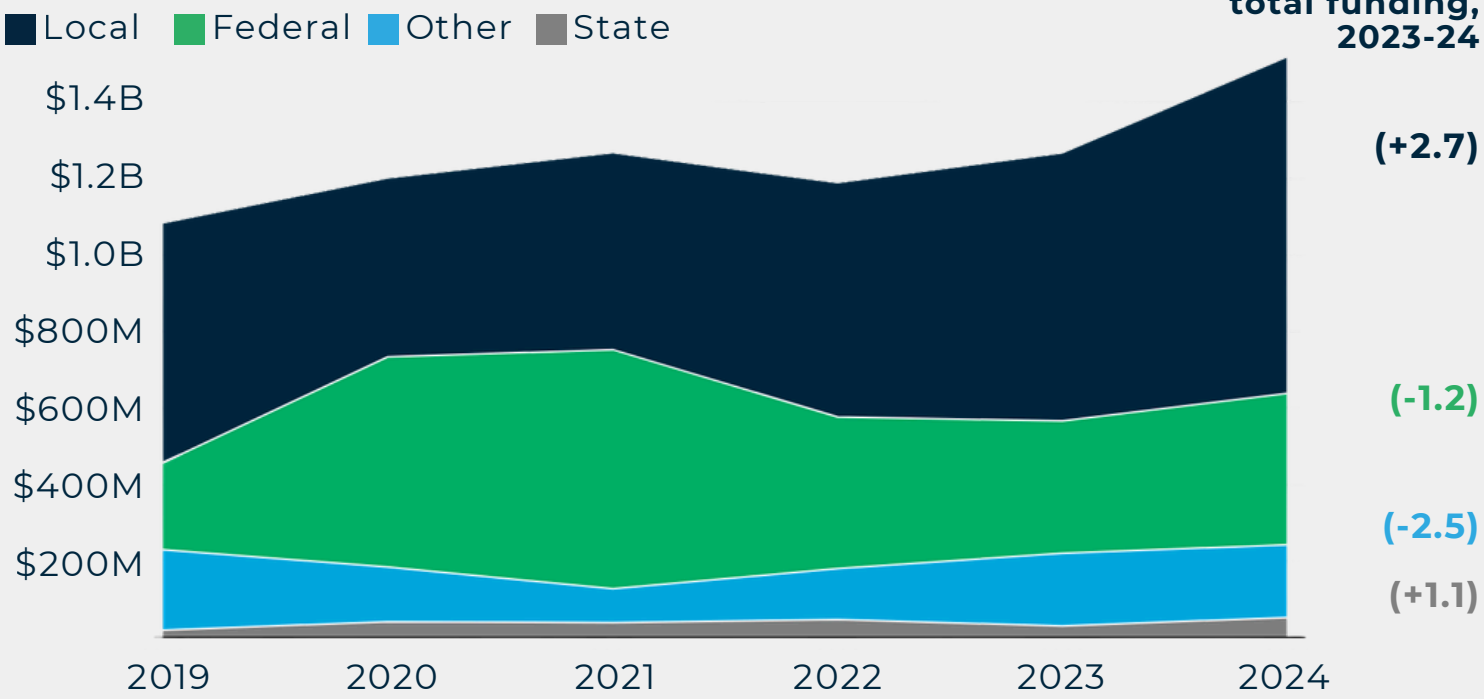
Ohio ranks **13th** for **total transit ridership**.* Transit ridership has been on the rise in Ohio, suggesting increasing demand for reliable transit services.

** Measured by total unlinked passenger trips (UPT)*

STATE TRANSIT FUNDING STILL STAGNANT

Ohio's investments in public transportation have not kept pace with other funding sources over time, leaving transit agencies increasingly reliant on funding generated at the local level.

State transit funding by source, 2019-2024



Local funding includes local government subsidies and local taxes levied by transit agencies, like COTA's sales tax levy, passed in November 2024.

Other funding includes revenue raised directly by transit agencies from fares, auxiliary revenue (advertising, concessions, etc.), park and ride services, or private sector subsidies, among others.