

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-170

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN REGARDING THE CURRENT LEVEL OF  
STATE TRANSIT FUNDING AND URGING POSITIVE ACTION TO ENSURE  
APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR OHIO TRANSIT SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has cut support for public transportation by over 62%, from over \$43 million in 2000 to \$16.5 million in 2004 as part of balancing its overall budget; and

WHEREAS, dramatically increased costs of fuel and other factors has resulted in an increased number of Greater Clevelanders and all Ohioans to use public transportation to work, school, shopping and for leisure activity; and

WHEREAS, public transit in Ohio has expanded to include 60 operators in 59 counties operating 3,553 vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's transit systems now transport over 132 million passengers over 100 million miles each year; and

WHEREAS, increased costs affecting GCRTA are also affecting all of the other public transit systems in Ohio; have resulted in fare increases through the State, including the first increase by GCRTA in 13 years; and

WHEREAS, the State financial crisis is now over and Ohio is now running budget surpluses in the General Revenue Fund; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has increased its State Gas Tax in recent years, resulting in significant increases to this fund, now \$1.74 Billion annually, which cannot be used to support public transit.

WHEREAS, the passage of The Federal Transportation Bill (Safetea-Lu) resulted in additional Federal Gas Tax revenue flowing back to the State of Ohio, now \$1.1 Billion annually, that can be used to support public transit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority:

Section 1. That the Governor and State Legislature in the forthcoming "Lame Duck" session following the November election consider restoring all of the General Revenue Fund cuts.

Section 2. That both major party candidates make restoration of these cuts, increases in general fund revenue, and Federal gas tax support for transit part of their election platforms.

Section 3. That the new Administration, in its forthcoming biennial operating budget, in addition to restoring past budget cuts, increase the general fund budget for public transit.

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Section 4. That the new Administration, in the next gas tax budget, dedicate 10% of the Federal gas tax that flows back to Ohio for use by public transit.

Section 5. That this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Transportation, candidates for Governor, and the State Legislature.

Section 6. That this Resolution is effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: September 19, 2006

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
**STAFF SUMMARY AND COMMENTS**

TITLE/DESCRIPTION: EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN REGARDING THE CURRENT LEVEL OF STATE TRANSIT FUNDING AND URGING POSITIVE ACTION TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR OHIO TRANSIT SYSTEMS	Resolution No.: 2006-170
	Date: September 14, 2006
	Initiator: Taras Szmagala
ACTION REQUEST: <input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Review/Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

1.0 PURPOSE/SCOPE: This action will express the Board’s concern regarding the current level of State transit funding.

2.0 DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: The State of Ohio has cut funding for transit by 62% since fiscal year 2000, from over \$43 million in 2000 to \$16.5 million in 2004. This continued reduction in transit funding has had a negative impact for transit systems across the state, resulting in reduction in infrastructure improvements and service as well as fare increases.

The State of Ohio is now running budget surpluses in the General Fund, including the State Gas Tax fund, which can be used for transportation but cannot be used to support public transit. However, \$1.1 Billion of Federal Gas Tax revenue flows to the State of Ohio annually which can be used to support public transit.

The GCRTA Board should urge positive action to ensure appropriate funding for Ohio transit systems, which could include:

- The Governor and State Legislature in the forthcoming “Lame Duck” sessions following the November election consider restoring all of the General Revenue Fund cuts.
- Both majority party candidates make restoration of State General Revenue Fund cuts, increases in General Fund revenue, and Federal gas tax support for transit part of their election platforms.
- In the forthcoming biannual operating budget, the new Administration should restore past budget cuts, and increase the general fund budget for public transit.
- The new Administration should dedicate 10% of the Federal gas tax that flows back to Ohio for use by public transit.

3.0 PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND: Does not apply.

4.0 DBE/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BACKGROUND: Does not apply.

5.0 POLICY IMPACT: This action supports the Board Policy goal to improve financial health through efficient use of resources and the pursuit of revenue sources.

6.0 ECONOMIC IMPACT: The adoption of this resolution does not have any negative/immediate financial impact upon the Authority, however, a long-term impact may be increased State transit funding for GCRTA and all Ohio transit systems.

**Staff Summary And Comments**  
**State Transit Funding**  
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7.0 ALTERNATIVES: Not adopt the action.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION: Transit funding was discussed at the July 1 Finance Committee meeting. This resolution is recommended for adoption by the Board of Trustees.

9.0 ATTACHMENTS: None.

Recommended and certified as appropriate to the availability of funds, legal form and conformance with the Procurement requirements.

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CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer