



Ohio Senate
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Committees:
Energy and Natural Resources, *Ranking Member*
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Judiciary
Ways and Means
Public Utilities
Finance Subcommittee: General
Government and Agency Review, *Vice Chair*

Sean J. O'Brien
State Senator
32nd District

February 14th, 2019

Dr. Jack Marchbanks, Director
Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Director Marchbanks,

After consultation with constituents and leaders in our communities regarding transportation we have found the most pressing problem is a lack of funding. Accordingly, we have found a permissible funding source which can greatly increase the ability for local governmental entities to raise transit dollars. We have included with this letter language changes to the O.R.C. which will accomplish this goal. The idea is local entities using their monies for transit can apply for federal transit matching funds and, if granted by the federal government, greatly increase their original transit monies.

In order to allow for the local matching funds, there is a need to add language to the O.R.C. to allow this pooling of local money for federal matching funds. Therefore, we ask that you consider the inclusion of this permissive language in the transportation budget. The language is merely permissive. We believe it would have a significant impact on our funding for transportation in our area and throughout the state.

This is a simple, commonsense solution to transportation funding problems that have plagued our districts for years. By easing restrictions on which funds may be used as a match for federal transit money, this language will be enabling communities across the buckeye state the ability to raise significant transportation dollars. This change in the O.R.C. will give thousands of Ohioans the ability to get to work, school, medical appointments, and so much more, at no additional cost to the state.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact our offices with any questions or thoughts at all about this letter.

Sincerely,

Sean J. O'Brien
Minority Whip
32nd Ohio Senate District

Michael A. Rulli
State Senator
33rd Ohio Senate District