Urban Transit Manual

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Since 1973, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has administered state and federal transit programs. Under the current ODOT organization, the Office of Transit has primary responsibility for Ohio transit programs. The responsibility of the department as it relates to transit is found in Chapter 5501.07 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Within the broader responsibilities outlined in the ORC, there are a number of functions directly affecting Ohio public transit systems, such as:

- Issuing grants from any state or federal public transportation grant appropriations;
- Issuing grants from any elderly and disabled transit fare assistance grant appropriation;
- Administering provisions of federal public transportation acts or programs applicable within the state and through agreement with the appropriate federal agency;
- Providing technical and policy guidance and assistance, and
- Applying for and accepting grants from any federal agencies for activities relating to the development or improvement of public transportation facilities.

The responsibility for ownership, maintenance, or operation of public transit systems lies with the local units of government and transit authorities established under Chapter 36 of the ORC. However, as recipients of funding administered by ODOT and users of the transportation network, transit systems interact with ODOT to carry out their public transportation mission.

ODOT provides funding and technical assistance, as well as many other services and program oversight functions, in carrying out the office's purpose of promoting and supporting public transportation throughout the State of Ohio. Major functions of the ODOT Office of Transit include:

- Administering State of Ohio transit assistance funding;
- Applying for and administering federal funds to rural transit systems;
- Applying for and administering federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds for rural and small urban transit areas (population under 200,000); and
- Administering the Specialized Transportation Program that provides vehicles to private non-profit corporations and public entities for elderly and disabled transportation;
- Administering the Rail Fixed Guideway System Safety Oversight Program for its public transit rail passenger services (applies only to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority);
- Developing the transit portion of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP);
- Promoting coordination of transportation between public transit systems and human service agencies;
- Assuring compliance with state and federal requirements;
- Providing technical assistance and training;
- Developing and maintaining a web site http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ptrans; and
- Advocating and promoting the use of public transit in Ohio

The purpose of this manual is to provide technical assistance to Ohio urban transit systems that have been awarded state and/or federal public transportation funds. The manual should be used as a guide to provide orientation for new personnel; to help clarify relationships and required procedures for existing personnel; and to provide easier accessibility to state and federal state regulations and procedures.

PLEASE NOTE:

The manual is a guide only. It is not intended to supersede ODOT program criteria or FTA circulars.