

TARTA



EMPOWERED
BY **TRANSIT**



The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority's federal priorities are guided by its 2026–2031 Strategic Plan, which is centered on driving community success through safe, reliable, and caring transit service. TARTA's vision is to build a community on the move—where public transportation powers economic opportunity, workforce access, and long-term regional vitality.

Federal investment is essential to advancing this vision by enabling system modernization, service expansion, workforce development, and innovation that connects residents to jobs, healthcare, education, and essential services while strengthening Northwest Ohio's economic competitiveness.

TARTA

POLICY PRIORITIES

Full funding for public transportation programs at least at the amounts authorized by the IIJA. Specific programs include:

- Grants for Bus and Bus Facilities Program
- Local and Regional Project Assistance Program Grants under National Infrastructure Investments Federal public transportation programs that support economic development policies like transit-oriented development
- Urbanized Area Formula Grants under 5307

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

TARTA urges Congress to prioritize sustained and predictable public transportation investment during the reauthorization of surface transportation programs. Full funding at or above IIJA-authorized levels is critical to maintaining safe, reliable service and advancing long-term system improvements aligned with regional growth.

As outlined in TARTA's Strategic Plan, operational excellence, safety, and stewardship depend on modern fleets, well-maintained facilities, and a stable workforce. With federal transit grant requests exceeding available funding by hundreds of percent annually and a significant share of the nation's bus fleet beyond its useful life, maintaining IIJA 5339 funding levels as a baseline is essential to ensure service reliability, safety, and fiscal responsibility.

Bus Manufacturing Incentives

- Advocate for a bold initiative to incentivize domestic bus manufacturing, strengthening America's industrial base, creating high-quality jobs, and reducing reliance on foreign suppliers.
- Support workforce funding for bus manufacturing to develop skills required for reshoring jobs.
- Simplify processes for progress payments and bus customization to maximize delivery efficiency.
- Address inflationary pressures and supply chain challenges to ensure timely delivery of vehicles.

FTA Reporting & Spare Ratio Reforms

- Advocate for increased flexibility in spare-ratio requirements to support public transportation vehicle choices.
- Encourage the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to streamline National Transit Database (NTD) reporting processes, enhancing training and technical assistance for smaller agencies.
- Promote reforms to simplify grant applications and streamline NEPA reviews for FTA grantees.

Fleet and Facilities Management

- Advocate for funding to support viable fleet management program.
- Address Buy America/Build America requirements to mitigate project delays and cost increases.
- Develop workforce training programs to address the lack of skilled labor in the transit industry.
- Reform useful life requirements and allow retention of capital from bus sales to reinvest in new vehicles.

Safety and Security

Safety is foundational to TARTA's ability to deliver reliable, high-quality transit service for riders and employees. Consistent with Federal Transit Administration guidance and TARTA's Strategic Plan, federal investments in transit safety and security are essential to protecting frontline workers, enhancing rider confidence, and ensuring agencies can respond effectively to evolving risks.

- Support increased federal funding for transit safety and security improvements, including enhanced surveillance systems, emergency communications infrastructure, and passenger safety technologies.
- Advocate for streamlined federal grant processes to help transit agencies implement security upgrades and modernize safety equipment more quickly.
- Support federal initiatives to prevent operator assaults and strengthen penalties for crimes committed against transit workers.
- Advocate for raising the cap on federal formula funds that may be used for security equipment and infrastructure from 1% to 3%, providing transit agencies greater flexibility to address critical safety needs.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

VEHICLE MONITORING & MAINTENANCE

As part of our commitment to operational efficiency and safety, several capital investments have been identified to address evolving needs within the Maintenance Division. Central to this effort is the reconfiguration and upgrade of maintenance facilities to improve workflow, safety, and equipment management. Planned improvements include replacing up to 10 aging bus repair bays; upgrading safety equipment and technician workstations; creating dedicated, secure storage for tools, batteries, tires, and engines; and improving work adjacency to reduce inefficiencies.

Additional enhancements include repositioning large equipment to improve circulation, installing overhead walkways for roof access, replacing maintenance garage flooring for safety, updating essential maintenance tools, and servicing critical vehicle systems.

These upgrades will reduce vehicle downtime, improve maintenance turnaround, and enhance working conditions while supporting long-term operational needs. The project began with procurement for Architect & Engineer services, with board approval in December 2025. Design

will continue through spring 2026, with phased renovations beginning in mid- to late 2026 and completion expected within 18–24 months, contingent upon funding.

BUS RAPID TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT

TARTA is pursuing federal support through the Capital Investment Grants program to advance Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along key regional corridors, including the Monroe Street corridor. BRT is a cornerstone of TARTA's long-term growth and innovation strategy, designed to deliver faster, more reliable service while supporting economic development and regional connectivity.

The Strategic Plan identifies BRT as a critical tool for modernizing transit, expanding access to opportunity, and strengthening workforce mobility. Federal investment in BRT enables TARTA to reduce travel times, improve service reliability, and catalyze transit-oriented development in high-impact corridors that connect residents to jobs, education, healthcare, and commercial centers.





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce access and economic mobility are central to TARTA's mission and long-term strategy. Through targeted service adjustments and partnerships with employers, healthcare providers, and workforce organizations, TARTA has demonstrated the role transit plays in connecting people to opportunity and supporting regional economic growth.

TARTA's Strategic Plan prioritizes continued collaboration with employers and workforce partners to ensure transit services evolve alongside regional employment patterns. Federal investment in transit operations, fleet modernization, and workforce training supports both rider access and the skilled transit workforce required to deliver safe, reliable service. These investments strengthen local economies while ensuring transit agencies remain resilient and responsive to community needs.

TARTA MOBILITY DISTRICT

The Toledo Mobility District represents a transformative opportunity to integrate local transit, intercity bus, and passenger rail into a modern, multimodal mobility hub that strengthens downtown Toledo and the surrounding region. This initiative aligns with TARTA's Strategic Plan objective to leverage transit infrastructure as a catalyst for economic, workforce, and community development.

Development of a modern mobility hub will enhance system efficiency, improve rider experience, and support transit-oriented development by creating seamless connections between local and regional transportation options. TARTA is currently advancing early-stage planning, community engagement, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to position the project for future federal investment.

TARTA MOVE

PARATRANSIT SERVICES

TARTA's paratransit program, TARTA Move, provides ADA-compliant, door-to-door service for riders with disabilities, while TARTA Flex extends accessible, on-demand microtransit to suburban and low-density areas. Together, these services expand mobility options, strengthen connections to employment, healthcare, and essential services, and help meet the diverse needs of our community.

To enhance service quality and equity for riders with disabilities and seniors, we support federal investments that:

- Support increased federal funding for ADA paratransit operations and capital needs to ensure reliable, equitable service for riders with disabilities and seniors as demand and costs continue to rise.

- Advocate for sustained and flexible funding under Section 5310 and related programs to support specialized transportation, mobility management, and coordination among transit and human-service providers.
- Support federal investment in accessible on-demand and technology-enabled mobility solutions that complement traditional paratransit, improve first- and last-mile connections, and expand service in suburban and low-density areas.





STATION
HURON
10L
12 20
14 31
16 33

15 37
17 32
22 34
04

TARTA

TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY