

City of Oberlin, Ohio

RESOLUTION No. R13- 01 CMS

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORTATION CHOICES IN THE STATE OF OHIO AND CALLING ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ALLOCATE AT LEAST \$75 MILLION OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET IN BOTH FY2014 AND FY2015 TO SUPPORT A COMPLETE NETWORK OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, INCLUDING RAIL, BUSES, AND WALKABLE, BIKEABLE STREETS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A Resolution in support of the Ohioans for Transportation Choice campaign to increase investments by the State of Ohio into alternative transportation options.

WHEREAS, Ohio needs a 21st century transportation system made up not only of roads and highways but also a complete network of alternative transportation options, including rail, streetcars, hybrid buses, electric vehicles, and walkable, bikeable streets; and

WHEREAS, by investing to increase Ohio's transportation choices, we can reduce Ohio's dependence on polluting fossil fuels, while promoting jobs, improving public health, and providing affordable transportation options; and

WHEREAS, passenger vehicles are expensive to own, operate, and maintain, often prohibitively expensive for the working poor; and for the elderly and persons with a disability, driving may not be an option at all. For middle-income families, the costs of driving for essential trips represent up to 20 percent of basic family budgets; and

WHEREAS, successful and livable communities around the world offer a healthy mix of transportation choices; and transportation spending should better reflect the positive role more transportation choices can play in creating a more equitable, vibrant and sustainable Ohio. Transit-oriented development is more environmentally friendly, and can reduce urban sprawl and revitalize our cities, by concentrating economic development; and

WHEREAS, alternative transportation options reduce traffic congestion, creates healthier communities, and reduces air pollution, which disproportionately affects low-income neighborhoods and communities of color; and encourages people to walk more; and

WHEREAS, public transit is heavily used in Ohio. More Ohioans travel on buses and trains within our metro areas each day than fly in and out of Ohio's airports. More than 350,000 Ohioans each day use buses and trains to reach jobs, medical appointments, grocery stores, day care, pharmacies, schools, job training and other services. Plus, for every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$6 is generated in economic returns, according to the American Public Transportation Association. Investments in public transit produce nearly 20% more jobs than equivalent expenditures in new roads or highways. Public transportation can provide more affordable and accessible transportation choices; and

WHEREAS, despite the need for public transportation services and its economic benefits, Ohio transit agencies have been forced to slash transit services and raise fares due to declines in state funding for public transit over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, less than one percent of our state's taxpayer transportation dollars are spent on public transit; and other states do better. Ohio ranks 40th in the nation for relative commitment to public transit, despite the fact we are the seventh most populous state. Even Indiana spends three times more than Ohio, and Pennsylvania spends 33 times as much; and

WHEREAS, following elimination of Lorain County Transit services in 2010, the City of Oberlin established the "Oberlin Connector" para-transit service as a stopgap measure thanks to the support of numerous community private and non-profit partners; and

WHEREAS, the "Oberlin Connector" is critically important in helping residents with limited mobility maintain their independence, but this service cannot fully meet the needs of our residents now and this service may not continue to operate in future years due to inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, a lack of state investments in biking and walking infrastructure has made these choices less safe for residents and children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, five-sevenths (5/7ths) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, declares its support of the campaign of Ohioans for Transportation Choice to urge the State of Ohio's Administration and our state legislators to move on the long term solution to invest to increase our transportation choices.

SECTION 2. That the State of Ohio should set aside at least \$75 million each year in funding for FY 2014 and FY 2015 from Ohio's multi-billion dollar transportation budget in a designated fund used to expand Ohio's transportation choices, with a goal of ramping up "transportation choices" funding to 10% of the state's transportation budget by 2020.

SECTION 3. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

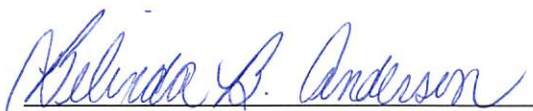
SECTION 4. That the Clerk of the City Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor John Kasich, Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jerry Wray, the Clerk of the Ohio House of Representatives (with a request to forward a copy to each of the duly elected State Representatives) and to the Clerk of the Ohio Senate (with a request to forward a copy to each of the duly elected State Senators).

SECTION 5. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, or to provide for the usual daily operation of a municipal department, to wit:

“to provide input into the State’s legislative and appropriation process as soon as possible in order to ensure the Governor and members of the General Assembly receive this recommendation in a timely manner,” and shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED: 1st Reading – February 4th, 2013 (E)
2nd Reading –
3rd Reading –

ATTEST:



BELINDA B. ANDERSON, CMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL



RONNIE J. RIMBERT
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

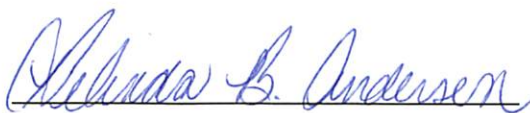
POSTED: 02/05/2013

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/04/2013

I Belinda B. Anderson, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Clerk, for said City of Oberlin of Lorain County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. R13-01 CMS, adopted on February 4, 2013.

Witness my hand and Official Seal at Oberlin, Ohio this 4th day of February 2013.

(Seal)



Clerk of Oberlin City Council