



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Metro Regional Transit Authority
Summit County
416 Kenmore Boulevard
Akron, Ohio 44301

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Metro Regional Transit Authority, Summit County, (the Authority) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Authority's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.


Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

June 30, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE AND ON THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Metro Regional Transit Authority
Summit County
416 Kenmore Boulevard
Akron, Ohio 44301

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited the Metro Regional Transit Authority's, Summit County, (the Authority) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Metro Regional Transit Authority's major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2024. Metro Regional Transit Authority's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Metro Regional Transit Authority complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

The Authority's Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Authority's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Authority's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Authority's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Authority's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the Authority's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.


Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of this testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of the Metro Regional Transit Authority, Summit County, (the Authority) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. We issued our unmodified report thereon dated June 30, 2025. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedule is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records management used to prepare the basic financial statements. We subjected this schedule to the auditing procedures we applied to the basic financial statements. We also applied certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling this schedule directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

June 30, 2025

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**METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Federal Grantor/ Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title	Federal CFDA Number	Pass through Entity Identifying Number	Total Federal Expenditures
<u>U.S. Department of Transportation</u>			
Direct Programs:			
Federal Transit Cluster			
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2020-053	\$ 854,454
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2023-040	474,976
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2023-040	5,068,183
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2023-040	206,602
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2020-050	39,594
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2020-050	963,912
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2020-050	2,010
Urbanized Area Formula Grants	20.507	OH-2020-050	15,079
Bus an Bus Faciities	20.526	OH-2023-040	540,231
Bus an Bus Faciities	20.526	OH-2024-027	3,990,624
Total Federal Transit Cluster			12,155,665
Total US Department of Transportation			12,155,665
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ 12,155,665

See accompanying Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

**METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Metro Regional Transit Authority (the Authority) under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2024. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Authority, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the Authority.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The Authority has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D – MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Certain Federal programs require the Authority to contribute non-Federal funds (matching funds) to support the Federally-funded programs. The Authority has met its matching requirements. The Schedule does not include the expenditure of non-Federal matching funds.

**METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

<i>(d)(1)(i)</i>	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(iii)</i>	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
<i>(d)(1)(v)</i>	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(vi)</i>	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(vii)</i>	Major Programs (list):	Federal Transit Cluster
<i>(d)(1)(viii)</i>	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
<i>(d)(1)(ix)</i>	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	Yes

**2. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

None

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

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METRO RTA

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

METRO Regional Transit Authority
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO



METRO Regional Transit Authority

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024



Mark Derrig
President
Board of Trustees

Dawn Distler
Chief Executive Officer
Secretary-Treasurer

Prepared by:

The Finance Department
Angela Neeley
Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Summit County, Ohio

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METRO Regional Transit Authority

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

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Introductory Section

METRO RTA
Annual Comprehensive Financial Report 2024

Introductory Section – 2024

The Introductory Section includes the Authority's transmittal letter and a Reporting Entity Profile.



June 30, 2025

Mark Derrig, President,
and Members, Board of Trustees
METRO Regional Transit Authority
and Residents of Summit County, Ohio:

It is a pleasure to submit to you the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) of the METRO Regional Transit Authority (“METRO” or “Authority”) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

This report was prepared by the Finance Department of the METRO Regional Transit Authority and represents METRO’s commitment to provide accurate, concise and high-quality financial information to the Board of Trustees, interested parties and residents in METRO’s service area.

This report contains financial statements and statistical data which provide full disclosure of all of METRO’s material financial operations. The financial statements, supplemental schedules, statistical information, and all data contained herein are the representations of METRO’s management. METRO’s management takes responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and fairness of this report. For a summary of financial activities, please review the management’s discussion and analysis located in the financial section should be reviewed.

REPORTING ENTITY

METRO’s reporting entity has been defined in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14. Accordingly, the financial statements contained within this comprehensive annual financial report include only the accounts and transactions of METRO. A discussion of METRO’s reporting entity is included in Note 1 of the financial statements.

METRO was created under Chapter 306 of the Ohio Revised Code by resolution of the City of Akron, Ohio, adopted originally in 1969 and amended on January 28, 1991 to transform the three-city transit system into a countywide transit system. METRO’s service area covers 419.92 square miles in Summit County. Express service to downtown Cleveland, Ohio is also provided.



Operations and Funding

METRO has a ½ of 1 percent continuous sales tax. Voters approved a ¼ of 1 percent sales and use tax in November 1990 that permitted METRO to expand to a countywide system. In March 2008 the voters approved an additional ¼ of 1 percent sales and use tax to maintain and expand service levels.

Facilities

METRO has facilities that are located at:

- * 416 Kenmore Boulevard - METRO's main administration & maintenance facility.
- * 414 Kenmore Boulevard – Bus Barn, North
- * 412 Kenmore Boulevard – Fuel and Wash Service Lanes
- * 410 Kenmore Boulevard – Bus Barn, South
- * 310 Kenmore Boulevard – Public CNG/Charging Station
- * 2340 Romig Road –Rolling Acres Transfer Center (Southwest Akron)
- * 631 South Broadway – Robert K. Pfaff Transit Center located in downtown Akron that provides ticket sales and customer information, passenger amenities, and the facility includes a Greyhound terminal. The facility also provides connection to Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority, Stark Area Regional Transit Authority and to the University of Akron on METRO RTA's DASH (Downtown Akron Shuttle)
- * 1280 Independence Avenue – Independence Turn Around (Northwest Akron)
- * 509 Kenmore Boulevard – North Employee Lot (Akron)
- * 465 Ghent Road – James Fisher Park and Ride lot (West Akron)
- * 2600 Creekside Drive – Park and Ride lot (Akron)
- * 27 Ridge Avenue – Northside Train Platform – CVSRR (Akron)
- * 336 Kenmore Boulevard – Junk Yard Property (Akron)

Services

METRO provides fixed route and demand response (SCAT) service in the County of Summit, Ohio and Express Service into downtown Cleveland, Ohio.

Management, Board of Trustees

METRO is managed by a Board of Trustees, which is vested by Ohio law with the powers necessary to manage METRO. The legislation and agreements establishing METRO provide for a twelve-member board serving three-year terms. The Board members are appointed by five different governmental agencies. The City of Akron has six seats, the County of Summit has three, and the cities of Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls and Stow have one each.

Administration

The administration of METRO, subject to the policies and supervision of its Board of Trustees, is directed by a Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer is under contract to the Board of Trustees. The Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer selects the remaining senior administrative staff. An organizational chart, which depicts the key functional responsibilities, is shown on page 9 of this Introductory Section.

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND OUTLOOK

General

Summit County (METRO's primary service area) is located in northeast Ohio, and the City of Akron is located near the center of the county and is the county seat. The Primary Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) consists of Summit and Portage Counties. The latest estimate of the 2020 PMSA census population was 702,225. The PMSA population as of July 2024 (the latest available estimate) is 702,219. Using the July 2024 estimate, Summit County represents about 77% of the two counties' total population.

Summit County is served by diversified transportation facilities. Interstate I-77 runs north and south through the county while I-76 crosses east and west through the county. The Ohio Turnpike crosses the northern portion of the county. A total of five interstate highways, one U.S. highway and seventeen state highways are located in the county.

The Summit County unemployment rate as of December 2024 was 4.7%, compared to 4.5% in Ohio and a national average of 4.1%.

Once known as the "Rubber Capital of the World", Akron has moved forward into the world of liquid crystal and polymer research, development, and technology. More than 400 companies in the area are at work on one aspect or another of polymers, creating what is now referred to as the "Polymer Valley." The University of Akron supports the industry with both a College of Polymer Engineering and a specialized laboratory and research facility accessible by Akron area business partners.

Population

Population in METRO's principal service area since 1960 has been as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AKRON</u>	<u>SUMMIT COUNTY</u>
1960	290,351	513,569
1970	275,425	553,371
1980	238,177	524,472
1990	223,019	514,990
2000	217,074	542,899
2010	199,110	541,648
2020	190,469	540,428

Employment

The following table shows comparative unemployment statistics for Summit County, the State of Ohio and the United States for the last five years:

Average Unemployment Rates (last five years)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Summit County</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
2020	5.5%	5.6%	6.7%
2021	3.7%	4.5%	3.9%
2022	3.8%	4.1%	3.5%
2023	3.3%	3.6%	3.7%
2024	4.7%	4.5%	4.1%

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Recent Developments

Highlights of the 2024 year of operations include the following:

Major capital asset expenditures of:

- 13 large buses for \$5.6 million;
- 13 small buses for 1.8 million;
- Bus and bus facilities for \$2.7 million; and
- Several electric buses and IT equipment.

Investments were made in software, building security and renovation, maintenance and operations facility, installation of radio equipment, transit-oriented development facility, onboard digital signs, and gate replacement. A total of \$11.3 million of these are still ongoing projects or construction in progress (CIP). A total of \$0.4 million in CIP projects were completed or put in service in 2024. The outstanding CIP as of December 31, 2024 was \$13.8 million.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Internal Control Structure

The management of METRO is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that METRO's assets are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. Its responsibility is also to ensure that accurate accounting data is compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In developing and evaluating METRO's accounting system, emphasis is placed on the adequacy of internal controls. Internal accounting controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance regarding the protection of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and the reliability of financial records used to prepare financial statements. The concept of "reasonable assurance" recognizes that the cost of the control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and that the evaluation of costs and benefits require estimates and judgments by management.

All internal control evaluations occur within the above framework. Management believes that METRO's internal accounting controls adequately safeguard assets and provide reasonable assurance of proper recording of financial transactions. Management also believes that the data, as presented herein, is accurate in all material respects, that it presents fairly the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of METRO, and that all disclosures necessary to enable the reader to obtain an understanding of METRO's financial affairs have been included.

Independent Audit

Provisions of State statute require METRO RTA's financial statements to be subjected to an annual audit by an independent auditor. Those provisions have been satisfied and the opinion of the independent auditor is included herein.

Acknowledgment

This report would not have been possible without the determination and high standards of the entire staff of the Finance Department. METRO wishes to thank all who contributed to this project.

Angela Neeley
Chief Financial Officer/
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

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METRO Regional Transit Authority

Board of Trustees and Administration

Members of the Board of Trustees

Representing the City of Akron

Mark Derrig
Dana LaGarde
Donald Christian
Robert DeJournett
Renee Greene
John Valle

Representing the County of Summit

David Prentice
Robert Konstand
Christine Marshall

Representing the City of Barberton

Charles Rector

Representing the City of Cuyahoga Falls

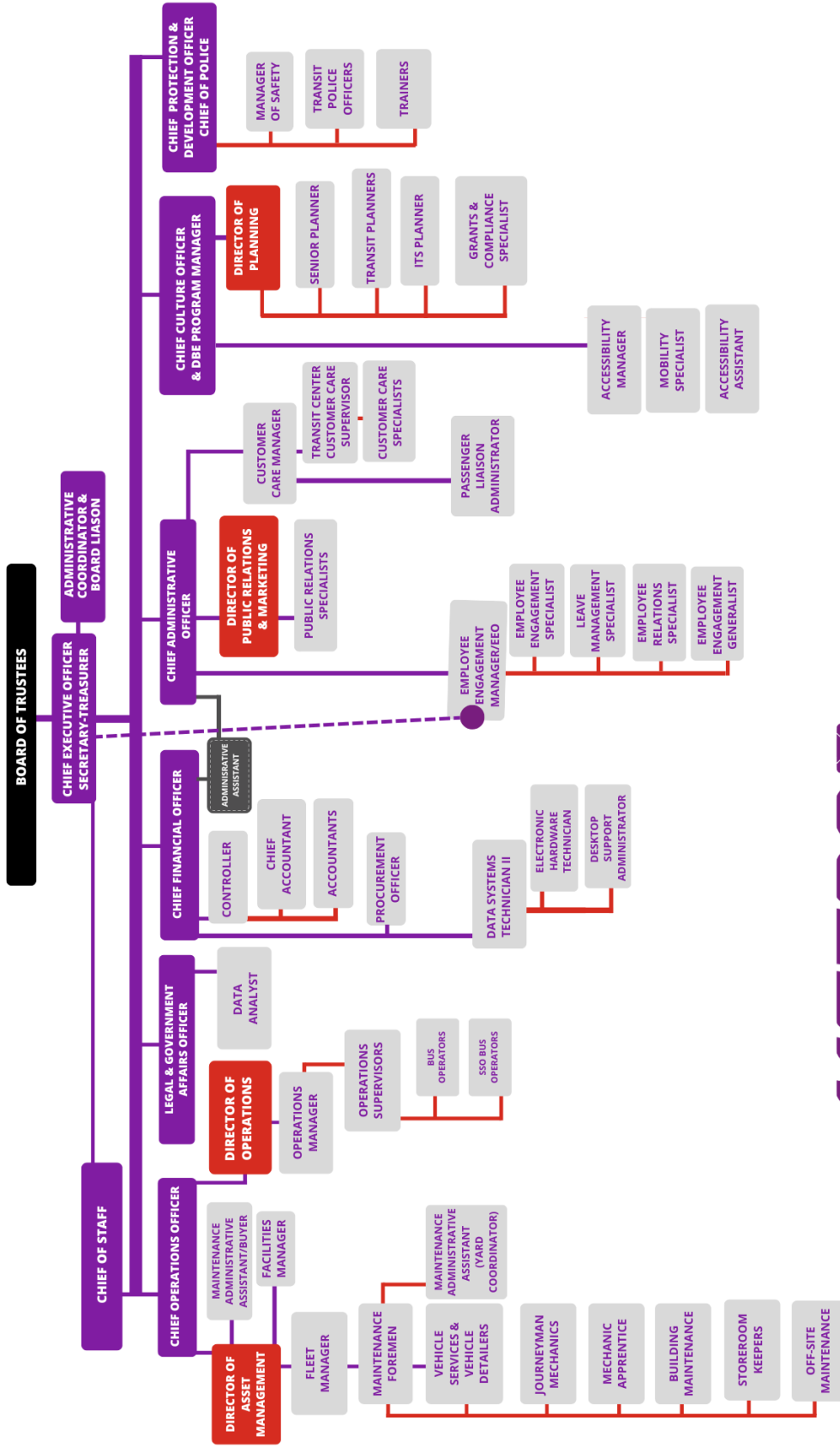
Nicole Squire

Representing the City of Stow

Gary Spring

Administration

Dawn Distler, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer
Jarrod Hampshire, Chief of Staff Officer
Eric Scott, Chief Operations Officer
Jay Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer
Gertrude Wilms, Legal & Government Affairs Officer
Angela M. Neeley, Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Tatia Harris, Chief Culture Officer
Shawn Metcalf, Chief of Protection & Development Officer/Chief of Police
DeHavilland McCall, Director of Operations
Molly Becker, Director of Public Relations & Marketing
Nathan Leppo, Director of Strategic Planning & Development



METRO ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Updated: MARCH 2025

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO



Summit County is located in the northeastern portion of the State of Ohio and was named because it was the highest point along the Erie-Ohio canal.

The County consists of twenty-two municipalities (cities and villages) and nine townships. The seat of the county government is in the City of Akron.

Financial Section – 2024

The Financial Section includes the Independent Auditor's Report, Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), the Basic Financial Statements, Notes to the Financial Statements, other Required Supplementary Information (RSI) and other financial schedules.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Metro Regional Transit Authority
Summit County
416 Kenmore Boulevard
Akron, Ohio 44301

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Metro Regional Transit Authority, Summit County, Ohio (the Authority), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Metro Regional Transit Authority, Summit County, Ohio as of December 31, 2024, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Efficient • Effective • Transparent

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual financial report. The other information comprises the introductory and statistical sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 30, 2025, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

June 30, 2025

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METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Management Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

As the financial management team for the METRO Regional Transit Authority (the “Authority”), we offer readers of these financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Authority for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. This discussion and analysis is designed to assist the reader in focusing on the significant financial issues and activities and to identify any significant changes in financial position. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the financial statements as a whole.

Financial Highlights for 2024

- The Authority has a net position of \$229.2 million in 2024. This was an increase of \$10.8 million from 2023. The net position results from the difference between total assets and deferred outflows of \$279.0 million and total liabilities and deferred inflows of \$49.8 million.
- Current assets of \$170.7 million primarily consist of non-restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents of \$116.0 million; Sales and Use Tax receivable of \$15.3 million, long-term investments of \$30.3 million, federal assistance receivable of \$4.5 million, state assistance receivable of \$1.1 million and other receivables of \$0.4 million, materials and supplies inventory of \$1.4 million and prepaid expenses of \$1.7 million.
- Noncurrent assets are made up of net OPEB asset of \$1.4 million.
- Current liabilities of \$5.6 million primarily consist of accrued payroll and payroll liabilities of \$3.9 million, accounts payable of \$1.1 million, current portion of lease payable of \$0.06 million, and other liabilities of \$0.5 million.
- Noncurrent liabilities of \$43.2 million consist of Net Pension Liability of \$43.2 million, and long-term portion of lease payable of \$0.03 million. Please review the notes to the financial statements for additional information.

METRO’s overall financial picture is in a very good position with net position increasing by \$10.8 million in 2024. Passenger fare, state grants, student fare and other miscellaneous revenues have increased. We continuously strive to implement financial controls so that our costs do not exceed our revenues. These factors will allow METRO to increase service in the future.

Basic Financial Statements and Presentation

METRO accounting records are maintained on the accrual basis. The activities are accounted for in a single enterprise (Proprietary-type) fund.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Management Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Financial Reporting

The financial statements presented by the Authority are the Statement of Net Position, the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position and the Statement of Cash Flows. These statements are presented using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. The Authority is structured as single enterprise fund with revenues recognized when earned and measurable, not when received. Expenses are recognized when they are incurred, not when paid. Capital assets, except land, Construction-in-progress and Right-of-way, are capitalized and depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all the Authority's assets and deferred outflows, and liabilities and deferred inflows, with the difference between them reported as net position. Over time, increases and decreases in the net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating. The net position increases when revenues exceed expenses. Increases in assets and/or deferred outflows without a corresponding increase to liabilities and/or deferred inflows results in increased net position, which indicate improved financial position.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position present information showing how the Authority's net position changed during the year. This statement summarizes operating revenues and expenses along with non-operating revenues and expenses. In addition, this statement lists capital grant revenues received from federal, state and local governments.

The Statement of Cash Flows allows financial statement users to assess the Authority's adequacy or ability to generate sufficient cash flows to meet its obligations in a timely manner. The statement is classified into four categories 1) Cash flows from operating activities, 2) Cash flows from non-capital financing activities, 3) Cash flows from capital and related financing activities, and 4) Cash flows from investing activities.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements. The Notes to the Financial Statements can be found on pages 29-55 of this report.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Management Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Financial Analysis of the Authority

Condensed Summary of Net Position

	2024	2023
Current assets	\$ 170,729,536	\$ 172,855,699
Other noncurrent assets: Net OPEB	1,425,392	-
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	91,614,468	78,024,000
Total assets	263,769,396	250,879,699
Deferred outflows - Pension	14,030,028	19,427,861
Deferred outflows - OPEB	1,222,997	2,889,203
Total deferred outflows	15,253,025	22,317,064
Total assets and deferred outflows	279,022,421	273,196,763
Current liabilities	5,572,689	5,472,555
Non-current liabilities:		
Net pension liability	43,200,556	47,452,831
Net OPEB liability	-	975,174
Lease payable, net of current portion	25,970	82,383
Total liabilities	48,799,215	53,982,943
Deferred inflows - Pension	167,684	519,295
Deferred inflows - OPEB	837,247	326,067
Total deferred inflows	1,004,931	845,362
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	49,804,146	54,828,305
Net Position:		
Net investment in capital assets	91,532,085	77,863,306
Unrestricted net position	137,686,190	140,505,152
Total net position	\$ 229,218,275	\$ 218,368,458

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(Unaudited)

As a result of implementing the accounting standard for pension and OPEB, the Authority is reporting a significant net pension liability and related deferred inflows of resources for the fiscal year which have a negative effect on net position. In addition, the Authority is reporting a net OPEB asset, deferred outflows of resources and a decrease in expenses related to pension and OPEB, which have a positive impact on net position. The change in pension and OPEB expense is the difference between the contractually required contributions and the pension and OPEB expense resulting from the change in the liability that is not reported as deferred inflows or outflows. To further explain the impact of these accounting standards on the Authority's net position, additional information is presented below.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Deferred outflows of resources for:		
Pension	\$ 14,030,028	\$ 19,427,861
OPEB	1,222,997	2,889,203
Deferred inflows of resources for:		
Pension	(167,684)	(519,295)
OPEB	(837,247)	(326,067)
Net OPEB asset	1,425,392	-
Net pension liability	(43,200,556)	(47,452,831)
Net OPEB liability	<u>-</u>	<u>(975,174)</u>
Impact on net position from pension and OPEB reporting	<u>\$ (27,527,070)</u>	<u>\$ (26,956,303)</u>
Net expense impact	\$ 570,767	\$ 430,421

For 2024, the net expense impact of GASB 68 and 75 was \$570,767. This was from reporting the decrease in the Authority's proportionate share of the pension and other post-employment benefit liability of the Ohio Public Employment Retirement board. This adjustment was a positive expense which increased expenses.

Equity related to capital acquisitions is reflected in the line item "Net investment in capital assets". The equity includes funding provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the State of Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The Authority's net investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation was \$91.5 million as of December 31, 2024, an increase of \$13.6 million from \$77.9 million in 2023 due mainly to the depreciation of building, transportation and other equipment. The equity portion of the capital assets related to the FTA cannot be liquidated to provide a source of cash flow, as any premature sale would require repayments to the FTA for its remaining equity in capital assets.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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(Unaudited)

Major capital asset expenses during 2024 included the following:

- 13 large buses for \$5.6 million;
- 13 small buses for 1.8 million;
- Bus and bus facilities for \$2.7 million; and
- Several electric buses and IT equipment.

In addition, it invested in software, building security and renovation, maintenance and operations facility, installation of radio equipment, transit-oriented development facility, onboard digital signs, and gate replacement. A total of \$11.3 million of these are still ongoing projects or construction in progress (CIP). A total of \$0.4 million in CIP projects were completed or put in service in 2024. The outstanding CIP as of December 31, 2024 was \$13.8 million.

A condensed summary of revenues, expenditures and changes in net position are show in the following table.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Management Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Condensed Summary of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Passenger fares	\$ 2,711,509	\$ 2,397,633
Advertising and concessions	228,004	263,398
Total operating revenues	2,939,513	2,661,031
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Labor	27,698,805	25,931,266
Fringe benefits	19,888,066	18,102,710
Materials and supplies	4,429,655	3,591,778
Fuel	1,267,089	1,256,810
Services	3,935,765	3,751,612
Utilities	1,248,543	1,027,705
Casualty and liability	1,040,998	1,043,366
Taxes	91,197	97,369
Purchased transportation service	1,639,435	1,749,748
Miscellaneous	577,876	557,626
Total operating expenses excluding depreciation	61,817,429	57,109,990
OPERATING LOSS BEFORE DEPRECIATION	(58,877,916)	(54,448,959)
Depreciation expense	9,030,080	9,397,455
OPERATING LOSS	(67,907,996)	(63,846,414)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES):		
Sales tax revenue	58,377,434	58,973,972
Federal, state and local assistance	6,449,500	15,948,849
Interest income/(loss)	2,340,651	2,033,664
Gain (Loss) from disposal of assets	171,648	55,863
Rent, rail and other revenue	1,299,621	627,177
Interest and fiscal charges	(4,549)	(7,497)
Total non-operating revenues - net	68,634,305	77,632,028
NET INCOME BEFORE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION	726,309	13,785,614
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	10,123,508	9,267,631
Increase (decrease) in Net Position	10,849,817	23,053,245
Net Position, Beginning of Year	218,368,458	195,315,213
Net Position, Ending of Year	\$ 229,218,275	\$ 218,368,458

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Management Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Financial Operating Results

Revenues

Sales Tax revenues declined slightly by 1% to \$58.4 million in 2024 from \$59.0 million in 2023. This is a sales and use tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% on all goods and services sold in Summit County. There is no limit on its duration.

Passenger fares are comprised of farebox revenues, tickets sales, special transit fares and contracts with the University of Akron and the Akron Board of Education. METRO also has additional contracts with local governmental agencies to provide Paratransit service. The passenger fares revenue increased by \$313,876 or 13% as total ridership went up.

Advertising and concessions on the other hand, went down by 13% to \$228,004.

Federal assistance funds are received from the Federal Transit Administration for certain items that are classified as capital assistance. Capital assistance, as defined by the FTA, includes preventive maintenance, leases, planning, and other operating items that are part of capital projects. The federal operating grants and reimbursements, including capital contributions, received in 2024 declined by \$9.7 million to \$12.0 million from \$21.7 million in 2023.

State assistance operating grants, reimbursements and special fare assistance, including capital contribution, increased to \$2.6 million in 2024 from \$1.9 million in 2023.

Interest Income consists of income from interest paid on investments. Interest income from investments increased by 15% to \$2.3 million in 2024 from \$2.0 million in 2023.

Other Revenue consists of revenue from the rent, sale of obsolete assets, gain on disposal of assets, reimbursements, and all other miscellaneous revenue. In 2024, the gain from disposal of assets as \$171,648; and revenue from rent, rail and others was \$1.3 million. In comparison, in 2023, gain on disposal of assets was \$55,863; and revenue from rent, rail and others was \$627,177. The bulk of the increase came from other non-transportation income which rose to \$769,827 in 2024 from only \$74,682 in 2023.

Operating Expenses

In 2024, total operating expenses, excluding depreciation, increased by 8% to \$61.8 million from \$57.1 million in 2023. The increase in 2024 was due primarily to labor cost (up 7%) and the effect of the adjustment in net pension and OPEB expense in the fringe benefits (up by 10%). Other major increases in expenses came from materials and supplies (up 23%) and utilities (up 21%).

Labor and Fringe Benefits are METRO's major expense items. Wages make up 45% and fringe benefits make up 32% of total operating expenses excluding depreciation. Wages showed an increase of 7% in 2024 to \$27.7 million due to wage increases and bonuses given out during the year. Fringe benefits also increased to \$19.9 million due to pension liability adjustments.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Material and Supplies expenses increased by 23% due to increased costs for supplies.

Fuel expenses were kept steady at \$1.3 million in 2024 due to stable fuel prices.

Services expenses grew by 5% to \$3.9 million in 2024 from \$3.8 million in 2023.

Cost of Utilities increased 21% due to higher electricity and gas rates.

Casualty and Insurance Liability were maintained at \$1.0 million.

Taxes declined by 6% to \$91,197 in 2024 from \$97,369 in 2023.

Purchased Transportation Services relate to a contract with local a transportation company to provide transit services for elderly and disabled passengers. The expenses were reduced by 6% to \$1.6 million in 2024 from \$1.8 million in 2023.

Miscellaneous expenses increased 4% to \$577,876 in 2024 from \$557,626 in 2023 due to expenses incurred for advertising, travel, and meetings.

Overall, the Authority's total operating expenses, excluding depreciation, were \$61.8 million in 2024. This is an increase of 8% over 2023 due to mainly labor and fringe benefits and pension expense adjustments.

Depreciation expense changed by -4% to \$9.0 million in 2024 from \$9.4 million in 2023.

Condensed Summary of Cash Flows

Net cash used for operating activities increased by \$5.4 million to \$58 million in 2024 due to increased payments for labor costs and payments for goods and services.

In 2024, net cash provided by non-capital financing activity decreased by \$0.8 million to \$63 million.

Cash and cash equivalents decreased by \$9.2 million in 2024.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Management Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	2024	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash received from customers	\$ 2,715,220	\$ 2,439,412
Cash received from others for miscellaneous revenue and services	228,004	890,575
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(14,687,581)	(12,361,304)
Cash payments to employees for services	(46,508,859)	(43,860,361)
Net cash used in operating activities	(58,253,216)	(52,891,678)
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Sales taxes received	58,518,584	58,837,769
Operating grants and other assistance received	3,475,662	5,225,124
Other non-operating revenues	1,299,621	-
Net cash provided by non-capital financing activities	63,293,867	64,062,893
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Capital grants received	9,111,439	28,055,574
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(22,620,548)	(14,040,940)
Sale of capital assets	171,648	55,863
Lease payable	(78,311)	(75,363)
Interest paid on lease	(4,549)	(7,497)
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related financing activities	(13,420,321)	13,987,637
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash proceeds from sale of investments	27,170,186	27,590,318
Cash used for purchase of investments	(30,254,501)	(27,170,186)
Interest received from investments	2,273,966	2,026,085
Net cash provided by investing activities	(810,349)	2,446,217
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(9,190,019)	27,605,069
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	125,199,715	97,594,646
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 116,009,696	\$ 125,199,715

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

The Authority's investment in capital assets amounted to \$91.5 million as of December 31, 2024, an increase of \$13.7 million over 2023.

Capital assets include land, construction-in-progress, building & building improvements, infrastructure, right-of-way, transportation, other equipment and intangible right to use assets.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Management Discussion and Analysis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

Additional information on capital asset activity can be found in Note 4 to the financial statements.

Long-term Debt

The Authority has no outstanding debt, except for the Net Pension Liability, compensated absences and financed purchases (leases) for the right to use buildings, copiers and vehicles, as of December 31, 2024. Additional information on long-term liability can be found in Note 3 to the financial statements.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Authority's finances for all those with an interest in its finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Chief Financial Officer, METRO Regional Transit Authority, 416 Kenmore Boulevard, Akron, OH 44301.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2024

ASSETS	2024
CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 116,009,696
Investments	30,254,501
Receivables:	
State assistance	1,119,285
Sales taxes	15,271,854
Federal assistance	4,481,300
Trade and other	283,259
Accrued interest	137,442
Materials and supplies inventory	1,447,314
Prepaid expenses	1,724,885
Total current assets	170,729,536
NONCURRENT ASSETS	
Net OPEB asset	1,425,392
PROPERTY, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT	
Land	4,718,744
Construction in Progress	13,777,901
Buildings and building improvements	62,652,726
Infrastructure	8,983,521
Right-of-ways	10,653,206
Transportation equipment	86,957,997
Other equipment	18,475,420
Intangible right to use	290,713
Total	206,510,228
Less: Accumulated depreciation/amortization	(114,895,760)
Capital assets - net	91,614,468
DEFERRED OUTFLOW	
Deferred outflows - Pension	14,030,028
Deferred outflows - OPEB	1,222,997
Total deferred outflows	15,253,025
TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	\$ 279,022,421

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (Continued)
DECEMBER 31, 2024

LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	<u>2024</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable	1,095,681
Accrued payroll and benefits	3,553,346
Accrued payroll taxes	343,519
Lease payable, current portion	56,413
Capital contract payable	6,600
Other liabilities	517,130
Total current liabilities	<u>5,572,689</u>
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Lease payable, net of current portion	25,970
Net pension liability	43,200,556
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>43,226,526</u>
Total liabilities	48,799,215
DEFERRED INFLOWS	
Deferred inflows - Pension	167,684
Deferred infows - OPEB	837,247
Total deferred inflows	<u>1,004,931</u>
NET POSITION:	
Net investment in capital assets	91,532,085
Unrestricted	137,686,190
Total net position	<u>229,218,275</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS AND NET POSITION	<u><u>\$ 279,022,421</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024
OPERATING REVENUES:	
Passenger fares	\$ 2,711,509
Advertising and concessions	228,004
Total operating revenues	2,939,513
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Labor	27,698,805
Fringe benefits	19,888,066
Materials and supplies	4,429,655
Fuel	1,267,089
Services	3,935,765
Utilities	1,248,543
Casualty and liability	1,040,998
Taxes	91,197
Purchased transportation service	1,639,435
Miscellaneous	577,876
Total operating expenses excluding depreciation	61,817,429
OPERATING LOSS BEFORE DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	(58,877,916)
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE:	
On assets acquired with capital grants	8,954,954
On other assets and leases	75,126
Total depreciation expense	9,030,080
OPERATING LOSS	(67,907,996)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES):	
Sales tax revenue	58,377,434
Federal operating grants and reimbursements	1,997,907
State operating grants, reimbursements, and special fare assistance	2,434,007
Student fare and other assistance	2,017,586
Interest income	2,340,651
Gain from disposal of assets	171,648
Rent, rail and other revenue	1,299,621
Interest and fiscal charges	(4,549)
Total non-operating revenues - net	68,634,305
NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION	726,309
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	10,123,508
Increase (decrease) in Net Position	10,849,817
Net Position, Beginning of Year	218,368,458
Net Position, Ending of Year	\$ 229,218,275

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash received from customers	\$ 2,715,220
Cash received from others for miscellaneous revenue and services	228,004
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(14,687,581)
Cash payments to employees for services	(46,508,859)
Net cash used in operating activities	(58,253,216)
 CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Sales taxes received	58,518,584
Operating grants and other assistance received	3,475,662
Other revenue	1,299,621
Net cash provided by non-capital financing activities	63,293,867
 CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Capital grants received	9,111,439
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(22,620,548)
Gain on sale/disposal of capital assets	171,648
Capital lease payments	(78,311)
Interest paid on lease	(4,549)
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related financing activities	(13,420,321)
 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash proceeds from sale of investments	27,170,186
Cash used for purchase of investments	(30,254,501)
Interest received/lost from investments	2,273,966
Net cash provided by investing activities	(810,349)
 NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(9,190,019)
 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	125,199,715
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 116,009,696
 RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Operating loss	\$ (67,907,996)
Adjustment to reconcile operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:	
Depreciation	9,030,080
Change in assets and liabilities:	
(Increase) decrease accounts receivable-trade	3,711
(Increase) decrease materials and supplies inventory	24,592
(Increase) decrease prepaid expenses	(96,402)
Accounts payable, accrued payroll, accrued payroll taxes and other liabilities	122,032
(Increase) decrease in deferred outflows of resources (Pension and OPEB)	7,064,039
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows of resources (Pension and OPEB)	159,569
Increase (decrease) in net pension liability and net OPEB liability/(asset)	(6,652,841)
NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ (58,253,216)

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization – METRO Regional Transit Authority (“METRO” or the “Authority”) was created pursuant to Sections 306.30 through 306.71 of the Ohio Revised Code for the purpose of providing public transportation in Summit County, Ohio. As a political subdivision it is distinct from, and is not an agency of, the State of Ohio or any other local governmental unit. The Authority is not subject to federal or state income taxes.

Under Ohio law, the Authority is authorized to levy a sales and use tax for transit purposes, including both capital improvement and operating expenses, at the rate of 0.25 percent, 0.5 percent, 1 percent, or 1.5 percent if approved by a majority of the electors residing within the territorial boundaries of the Authority. Such a sales and use tax is in addition to the sales and use taxes levied by the State of Ohio and Summit County. During 1990, the voters of Summit County approved 0.25 percent sales and use tax with no limit on its duration. In 2008 the voters of Summit County approved an additional 0.25 percent sales and use tax with no limit on its duration for a total of 0.50 percent.

The Authority is managed by a 12-member Board of Trustees and provides virtually all mass transportation within Summit County.

Reporting Entity – The accompanying financial statements include only the accounts and transactions of the Authority. Under the criteria specified in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements No. 14, 39, and 61, the Authority has no component units nor is it considered a component unit of any other governmental authority. The conclusions regarding the financial reporting entity are based on the concept of financial accountability. The Authority is not financially accountable for any other organization. This is evidenced by the fact that the Authority is a legally and fiscally separate and distinct organization under the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.

Basis of Accounting – The Authority follows the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues and expenses are recognized in the period earned or incurred. The measurement focus is on determination of net income, financial position and cash flows. All transactions are accounted for in a single enterprise fund.

Nonexchange Transactions - The Authority has also complied with the provisions of Statement No. 33 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) regarding the Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions. This statement requires that capital contributions be recognized as revenue. Accordingly, during the year ended December 31, 2024, \$10,123,508 in capital contributions were recognized as revenue in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for the Authority.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
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1. ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (continued)

The Authority will continue applying all applicable pronouncements issued by the GASB.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Authority considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) with a maturity, at date of purchase, of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents are carried at cost, which approximates fair value.

Investments – The Authority’s investments are stated at fair value.

Materials and Supplies Inventory – Materials and supplies inventory is stated at cost (average cost method). Inventory generally consists of maintenance parts and supplies for rolling stock and other transportation equipment.

Capital Assets – Capital Assets are stated at historical cost. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to operations as incurred. Property over \$5,000 is capitalized. The Authority is reporting intangible right to use assets related to leased equipment, vehicles and a building. The intangible assets are being amortized in a systematic and rational manner of the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets, as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Years</u>
Building and Building Improvements	20-40
Infrastructure	20-30
Transportation equipment	5-12
Other equipment	3-10
Leased assets	3-5

Net Position is displayed in three components as follows:

Investment in Capital Assets – This consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation. There were no outstanding balances of any bonds, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets in 2024, although there were lease liabilities in accordance with GASB Statement No. 87.

Restricted – This consists of net position that is legally restricted by outside parties or by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, generally it is the Authority’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources when they are needed.

Unrestricted – This consists of net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “investment in capital assets.”

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (continued)

Classifications of Revenues

The Authority has classified its revenues as either operating or non-operating. Operating revenue includes activities that have the characteristics of exchange transactions including passenger fares, advertising, and concession revenue. Non-operating revenue includes activities that have the characteristics of non-exchange transactions, such as sales tax proceeds and most federal, state, and local grants and contracts.

Recognition of Revenue and Receivables

The Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (“ODOT”) provide financial assistance and make grants directly to the Authority for operations and acquisition of property and equipment. Operating grants and special fare assistance awards made on the basis of entitlement periods are recorded as grant receivables and revenue over the entitlement period.

Capital grants for the acquisition of property and equipment (reimbursement type grants) are recorded as revenue when the expense has been made and the revenue is available. Capital grant funds received in advance of project costs being incurred are recorded as liabilities.

Compensated Absences

The Authority accrues vacation and sick pay benefits as earned by its eligible employees. In the event of termination, an employee is reimbursed for accumulated vacation leave. In the event an employee retires they are reimbursed for accumulated sick leave, otherwise accumulated sick leave is forfeited.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The Authority’s deferred outflows of resources relate to pension as explained in Note 6.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of net position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Authority’s deferred inflows of resources relate to pension as explained in Note 6.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (continued)

Passenger Fares

Passenger cash fares are recorded as revenue at the time services are performed.

Pensions and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, net OPEB asset, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions/OPEB, and pension/OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

The current accounting standard requires the Authority to report their proportionate share of the net pension/OPEB liability or OPEB asset using the earning approach to pension and OPEB accounting instead of the funding approach as previously used. The funding approach limited pension and post-employment costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's net pension/OPEB liability or OPEB asset. Under the new standards, the net pension/OPEB liability or OPEB asset equals the Authority proportionate share of the pension plan's collective present value of estimated future pension/OPEB benefits attributable to active and inactive employees' past service minus plan assets available to pay these benefits.

Pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the employment exchange. The employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other post-employment benefits. The unfunded portion of this benefit of exchange is a liability of the Authority. However, the Authority is not responsible for key factors affecting the balance of this liability. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Benefit provisions and both employer and employee contribution rates are determined by State statute. The employee and employer enter the employment exchange with the knowledge that the exchange is limited by law. The pension system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability or the net OPEB liability. The Authority has no control over the changes in the benefits, contributions rate, and return on investments affecting the balance of these liabilities. In the event that contributions, investment returns, and other changes are insufficient to keep up with required payments, State statute does not identify the responsible party for the unfunded portion. Due to the unique nature of how the pension liability and the OPEB liability are satisfied, these liabilities are separately identified within the long-term liability section of the statement of net position.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (continued)

Budgetary Accounting and Control

The Authority's annual budget is prepared on the accrual basis of accounting as permitted by law. The Authority maintains budgetary control by not allowing total expense to exceed total appropriations without the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The investment and deposit of Authority monies are governed by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. In accordance with these statutes, only banks located in Ohio and domestic building and loan associations are eligible to hold public deposits. The statutes also permit the Authority to invest in certificates of deposit, savings accounts, money market accounts, the State Treasurer's investment pool ("STAR Ohio"), and obligations of the United States government and certain agencies thereof. The Authority may also enter into repurchase agreements with eligible depository or any eligible security dealer who is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealer for a period not exceeding 30 days.

Deposits

The Authority is prohibited from investing in any financial instrument, contract, or obligation whose value or return is based upon or linked to another asset or index, or both, separate from the financial instruments, contract, or obligation itself (Commonly known as a "derivative"). The Authority is also prohibited from investing in reverse repurchase agreements.

At December 31, 2024, the carrying amount of the Authority's cash deposits was \$115,658,475. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, Deposits and Investment Risk Disclosures", as of December 31, 2024, \$750,000 of the Authority's bank balance of \$115,957,887 was covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); while the rest was covered by the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS). The Authority's financial institution participates in the OPCS and was approved for a reduced collateral floor of 50% resulting in the uninsured and uncollateralized balance of \$57,603,943. As December 31, 2024, the Authority had \$1,700 in petty cash.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

2. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (continued)

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned. All deposits are collateralized with eligible securities in amounts equal to at least 102% of the carrying value of the deposits. Such collateral, as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code, is held in the Ohio Pool Collateralization System (OPCS) pledged to the Treasurer of State. Qualified trustees holding such pools of collateral are approved by the Ohio Treasurer and must hold the eligible securities in an account indicating the Treasurer's security interest. The Ohio Treasurer holds and monitors the pooled collateral on behalf of the Authority to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. For 2024, the Authority's financial institution was approved for a collateral rate of 50 percent through the OPCS.

The Board of Trustees has designated \$17,801,126 in 2024 as contingencies for future use that are included in investments.

Investments at December 31, 2024 are summarized as follows:

Rating S&P	Description	Investment Maturities				Percentage of Investments
		Fair Value	One year or less	More than one and less than three years	Three years or more	
AAAm	Money market mutual fund	\$ 351,221	\$ 351,221	\$ -	\$ -	1%
FDIC	Various negotiable certificates of deposit	1,614,828	739,432	875,396	-	5%
	US Treasury notes	18,829,450	4,253,872	10,943,132	3,632,446	62%
	Government Sponsored Enterprise Bonds:					
AA+	Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB)	3,696,660	1,997,988	1,698,672	-	12%
AA+	Federal National Mortgage Assoc (FNMA)	4,648,998	4,648,998	-	-	15%
AA+	Federal Home Ln Mfg Corp (FHLMC)	1,464,565	-	-	1,464,565	5%
	Total investments	\$ 30,605,722	\$ 11,991,511	\$ 13,517,200	\$ 5,097,011	
	Percentage by Maturity	100%	39%	44%	17%	

The Authority categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs. Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The preceding table identifies the Authority's recurring fair value measurement as of December 31, 2024. All investments of the Authority are valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs).

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

2. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (continued)

Custodial Credit Risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, the Authority will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified for investment transactions with the Authority must meet a set of prescribed standards and be periodically reviewed. The investments in the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), Federal Home Loan Mtg Corporation (FHLMC) and Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent and not in the Authority's name. All of the Authority's negotiable certificates of deposit are registered securities.

Credit Risk is addressed by the Authority's investment policy by the requirements that all investments are authorized by Ohio Revised Code and that the portfolio be diversified both by types of investment and issuer. The Authority's investments in FHLMC, FNMA and FHLB are registered and carry a rating AA+ by S&P.

Concentration of Credit Risk is the possibility of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Authority's investment in a single issuer. 32% of the Authority's investments are in FHLB, FNMC and FHLMC, and negotiable CDs make up 5% of all investments. The portfolio of negotiable CDs consists of CDs each from different financial institutions ranging in values up to \$250,000 (less than 5% individually of the total investments). The table above summarizes the Authority's percentage of investments at year end. The Authority's investment policy requires diversification of the portfolio and indicates that investments shall be diversified to eliminate risk of loss resulting from the over-concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer, or a specific class of security. The policy includes certificates of deposit and money market accounts as investments even when they are not considered an investment for financial reporting purposes. The policy requires: a) the total par amount invested in a combination of commercial paper and banker's acceptances may not exceed 25% of the total invested funds at the time of purchase; and b) no more than 50% of the portfolio shall be invested in securities with maturities that exceed two years.

Interest rate risk: The Authority has no investment policy that addresses interest rate risk. State statute requires that an investment mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Authority, and that an investment must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

All of the Authority's negotiable certificates of deposit are registered securities and covered in full by FDIC insurance. The Authority's policy is to invest money with financial institutions that are able to abide by the laws governing insurance and collateral of public funds.

Reconciliation of Cash and Investments to the Statement of Net Position: The following is a reconciliation of cash and investments as reported in the note above to cash and investments as reported on the statement of net position as of December 31, 2024:

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

2. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (continued)

	December 31, 2024
<u>Cash and investments per footnote</u>	
Carrying amount	\$ 115,658,475
Investments	30,605,722
	\$ 146,264,197

<u>Cash and investments per statement of net position</u>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 116,009,696
Investments	30,254,501
	\$ 146,264,197

3. LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS

During 2024, the following changes occurred in long term obligations:

A. Compensated Absences

	2024
Beginning balance	\$ 1,927,663
Liability earned	2,026,063
Liability paid	(1,855,620)
Ending balance	\$ 2,098,106
Due within one year	\$ 2,098,106

The Authority accrues compensated absences based on the estimated amounts employees are entitled to according to Authority's policies. Vacation time is earned in the current year and eligible to be used by the employee in the following year. Any unused vacation benefits that are eligible to be used in a given year are paid to the employee at the end of the year. An employee that separates from employment with the Authority is paid any vacation time unused during the current period and any vacation time earned during the year. Sick time is earned in the current year and eligible to be used by the employee as soon as it is earned. Any unused sick time is carried over and is useable in the future. An employee that retires from employment with the Authority is paid 25% of available sick time; otherwise, all time is forfeited for any other termination of service. Compensated absences are not reported separately on the financial statements, they are included as part of accrued payroll and benefits.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

3. LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS - (continued)

B. Net Pension Liability/OPEB and Lease Payable

The long-term obligations at December 31, 2024 follow:

	January 1	Increase	Decrease	December 31	Due within one year
Lease payable	\$ 160,694	\$ -	\$ (78,311)	\$ 82,383	\$ 56,413
Net pension liability	47,452,831	-	(4,252,275)	43,200,556	-
Net OPEB liability	975,174	-	(975,174)	-	-
Total long term obligations	\$ 48,588,699	\$ -	\$ (5,305,760)	\$ 43,282,939	\$ 56,413

Leases Payable:

The Authority has entered into lease agreements for the use for the right to use building, copiers and vehicles. The Authority has reported intangible -right to use capital assets and corresponding liability for the future scheduled payments under the leases. Payments are due monthly and the leases mature in 2024.

Year ending December 31	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Total
2025	\$ 56,410	\$ 1,891	\$ 58,301
2026	25,973	401	26,374
Total	<u>\$ 82,383</u>	<u>\$ 2,292</u>	<u>\$ 84,675</u>

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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4. CAPITAL AND RIGHT TO USE ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2024 is as follows:

Description	Balance 1/1/2024	Addition	Disposal	Balance 12/31/2024
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 4,718,744	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,718,744
Right-of-ways	10,653,206	-	-	10,653,206
Construction in progress	2,872,145	11,258,025	(352,269)	13,777,901
Total capital assets not being depreciated	18,244,095	11,258,025	(352,269)	29,149,851
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized:				
Building and building improvements	62,644,226	8,500	-	62,652,726
Infrastructure	8,983,521	-	-	8,983,521
Transportation equipment	84,531,038	11,565,857	(9,138,898)	86,957,997
Other equipment	18,351,802	140,435	(16,817)	18,475,420
Intangible right to use:				
Lease building	57,356	-	-	57,356
Lease copiers	32,849	-	-	32,849
Lease vehicles	200,508	-	-	200,508
Total intangible right to use	290,713	-	-	290,713
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized	174,801,300	11,714,792	(9,155,715)	177,360,377
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization :				
Building and building improvements	\$ (35,254,935)	\$ (2,041,972)	\$ -	\$ (37,296,907)
Infrastructure	(8,016,919)	(157,545)	-	(8,174,464)
Transportation equipment	(55,542,884)	(5,631,282)	9,138,898	(52,035,268)
Other equipment	(16,065,526)	(1,124,155)	16,817	(17,172,864)
Less accumulated amortization :				
Intangible right to use:				
Lease building	(38,238)	(19,118)	-	(57,356)
Lease copiers	(12,775)	(10,950)	-	(23,725)
Lease vehicles*	(90,118)	(45,058)	-	(135,176)
Total accumulated amortization	(141,131)	(75,126)	-	(216,257)
Total accumulated depreciation and amortization	(115,021,395)	(9,030,080)	9,155,715	(114,895,760)
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized, net	59,779,905			62,464,617
Total capital asset, net	\$ 78,024,000			\$ 91,614,468

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

5. PURCHASED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

During 2024, the Authority had a contract with a local transportation company to provide transit services within Summit County for elderly and disabled passengers. Expenses under this contract amounted to \$1,639,435 in 2024. All passenger fares related to these transit services are collected by the Authority and recorded as revenue.

6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions between an employer and its employees of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee on a deferred-payment basis as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the Authority's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting these estimates annually.

The Ohio Revised Code limits the Authority's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The Authority cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the Authority does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

A. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Plan Description - The Authority employees, participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. 1.) The Traditional Pension Plan (TP) - a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. 2.) The Member-Directed Plan (MD) - a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20% per year). Members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of the member and (vested) employer contributions, plus any investment earnings thereon. 3.) The Combined Plan (CP) - a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Employer contributions are invested by the retirement system to provide a formula retirement benefit similar to the Traditional Plan benefit. Member contributions, whose investment is self-directed by the member, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the MD. While members may elect the member-directed plan and the combined plan, all employee members are in OPERS' traditional plan; therefore, the following disclosure focuses on the traditional pension plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional plan. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 800-222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plan as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced above for additional information):

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Summit County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

Group A	Group B	Group C
Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years <u>after January 7, 2013</u>	20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire <u>ten years after January 7, 2013</u>	Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after <u>January 7, 2013</u>
State and Local	State and Local	State and Local
Age and service requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and service requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and service requirements: Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35

Final average Salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount.

Once a benefit recipient retiring under the Traditional Plan has received benefits for 12 months, an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is provided on the member's base benefit. Members retiring under the Combined Plan receive a cost-of-living adjustment on the defined benefit portion of their retirement benefit. For those retiring prior to January 7, 2013, the COLA will continue to be a 3 percent simple annual COLA. For those retiring subsequent to January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the COLA will be based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent. Additionally, a death benefit of \$500-\$2,500, determined by the number of years of service credit of the retiree, is paid to the beneficiary of a deceased retiree or disability benefit recipient under the Traditional and Combined Plan.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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Notes to the Financial Statements
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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

	<u>State and Local</u>
2024 Statutory maximum contribution rates	
Employer	14.00 %
Employee	10.00 %
 2024 Actual contribution rates	
Employer:	
Pension	14.00 %
Post-employment health care benefits	<u>-</u>
Total employer	<u>14.00 %</u>
 Employee	 <u>10.00 %</u>

The Authority's contractually required contribution for the Traditional Pension Plan was \$4,093,306 for 2024. Of this amount, \$334,950 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The net pension liability for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Authority's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Authority's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	<u>OPERS</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability - prior measurement date	0.1606390%	0.1655570%
Proportion of the net pension liability - current measurement date	<u>0.1650110%</u>	<u>0.1606390%</u>
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.0043720%</u>	<u>-0.0049180%</u>
 Proportionate share of the net pension liability	 \$43,200,556	 \$47,452,831
Pension expense	\$4,887,253	\$6,228,812

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

At December 31, 2024, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	OPERS	
	2024	2023
Deferred outflows of resources		
Net differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 706,076	\$ 1,576,184
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	8,719,714	13,525,548
Changes of assumptions	-	501,306
Changes in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	510,932	22,468
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	4,093,306	3,802,355
Total deferred outflows of resources	\$ 14,030,028	\$ 19,427,861
Deferred inflows of resources		
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ -
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	-
Changes in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	167,684	519,295
Total deferred inflows of resources	\$ 167,684	\$ 519,295

\$4,093,306 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending December 31, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ending December 31:	OPERS
	2025
2026	3,079,133
2027	5,564,431
2028	(1,241,656)
Total	\$ 9,769,038

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Actuarial Assumptions - OPERS

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The total pension liability in the December 31, 2023, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Wage inflation	2.75 percent
Future salary increases, including inflation -Traditional plan	2.75 percent to 10.75 percent
Future salary increases, including inflation - Combined plan	2.75 percent to 8.25 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	Pre January 7, 2013 retirees, 3 percent, simple Post January 7, 2013 retirees, 3 percent, simple through 2023, then 2.05 percent, simple
Investment rate of return	6.9 percent
Actuarial cost method	Individual entry age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130% of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170% of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115% of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended December 31, 2020.

The long-term rate of return on defined benefit investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation.

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

During 2023, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Defined Contribution portfolio and the Health Care portfolio. The Defined Benefit portfolio contains the investment assets of the Traditional Pension Plan, the defined benefit component of the Combined Plan and the annuitized accounts of the Member-Directed Plan. Within the Defined Benefit portfolio, contributions into the plans are all recorded at the same time, and benefit payments all occur on the first of the month. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Defined Benefit portfolio was a gain of 11.2% for 2023.

The allocation of investment assets with the Defined Benefit portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. The table below displays the Board-approved asset allocation policy for 2023 and the long-term expected real rates of return:

<u>Asset class</u>	<u>Target allocation</u>	<u>Weighted average long-term expected real rate of return (arithmetic)</u>
Fixed income	24.00%	2.85%
Domestic equities	21.00%	4.27%
Real estate	13.00%	4.46%
Private equity	15.00%	7.52%
International equities	20.00%	5.16%
Risk parity	2.00%	4.38%
Other investments	<u>5.00%</u>	3.46%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.9%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and those of the contributing employers are made at the statutorily required rates. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefits payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Authority’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table presents the Authority’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 6.9%, as well as what the Authority’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (5.9%) or one-percentage-point higher (7.9%) than the current rate:

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

	1% Decrease <u>(5.90%)</u>	Current discount rate <u>(6.90%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(7.90%)</u>
Employer proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 68,009,284	\$43,200,556	\$22,566,904

B. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Plan Description - The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: the traditional pension plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the member-directed plan, a defined contribution plan; and the combined plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust. The 115 Health Care Trust (115 Trust or Health Care Trust) was established in 2014, under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The purpose of the 115 Trust is to fund health care for the Traditional Pension, Combined and Member-Directed plans. Medicare-enrolled retirees in the Traditional Pension and Combined plans may have an allowance deposited into a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) account to be used toward the health care program of their choice selected with the assistance of an OPERS vendor. Non-Medicare retirees have converted to an arrangement similar to the Medicare-enrolled retirees, and are no longer participating in OPERS provided self-insured group plans.

With one exception, OPERS-provided health care coverage is neither guaranteed nor statutorily required. Ohio law currently requires Medicare Part A equivalent coverage or Medicare Part A premium reimbursement for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents.

OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to traditional pension plan and combined plan benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents.

OPERS members enrolled in the Traditional Pension Plan or Combined Plan retiring with an effective date of January 1, 2022, or after must meet the following health care eligibility requirements to receive an HRA allowance:

Medicare Retirees Medicare-eligible with a minimum of 20 years of qualifying service credit.

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

Non-Medicare Retirees Non-Medicare retirees qualify based on the following age-and-service criteria:

- Group A 30 years of qualifying service credit at any age;
- Group B 32 years of qualifying service credit at any age or 31 years of qualifying service credit and minimum age 52;
- Group C 32 years of qualifying service credit and minimum age 55; or,

A retiree from groups A, B or C who qualifies for an unreduced pension, but a portion of their service credit is not health care qualifying service, can still qualify for health care at age 60 if they have at least 20 years of qualifying health care service credit.

Retirees who don't meet the requirement for coverage as a non-Medicare participant can become eligible for coverage at age 65 if they have at least 20 years of qualifying service.

Members with a retirement date prior to January 1, 2022, who were eligible to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022.

Eligible retirees may receive a monthly HRA allowance for reimbursement of health care coverage premiums and other qualified medical expenses. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are provided to eligible retirees, and are deposited into their HRA account.

Retirees will have access to the OPERS Connector, which is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees participating in the health care program. The OPERS Connector may assist retirees in selecting and enrolling in the appropriate health care plan.

When members become Medicare-eligible, recipients enrolled in OPERS health care programs must enroll in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Medicare Part B (medical).

OPERS reimburses retirees who are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A (hospitalization) for their Part A premiums as well as any applicable surcharges (late-enrollment fees). Retirees within this group must enroll in Medicare Part A and select medical coverage, and may select prescription coverage, through the OPERS Connector. OPERS also will reimburse 50 percent of the Medicare Part A premium and any applicable surcharges for eligible spouses. Proof of enrollment in Medicare Part A and confirmation that the retiree is not receiving reimbursement or payment from another source must be submitted. The premium reimbursement is added to the monthly pension benefit.

The health care trust is also used to fund health care for member-directed plan participants, in the form of a Retiree Medical Account (RMA). At retirement or separation, member directed plan participants may be eligible for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses from their vested RMA balance.

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

The Ohio Revised Code permits but does not require OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2024, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.0 percent of earnable salary and public safety and law enforcement employers contributed at 18.1 percent. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the Traditional Pension Plan was 0 percent and Combined Plan was 2 percent during calendar year 2024. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the Member-Directed Plan for 2024 was 4.0 percent.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The Authority's contractually required contribution was \$0 for 2024.

OPEB Liabilities or Asset, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

The net OPEB liability or asset and total OPEB liability or asset for OPERS were determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2023, by incorporating the expected value of health care cost accruals, the actual health care payment, and interest accruals during the year. The Authority's proportion of the net OPEB liability or asset was based on the Authority's share of contributions to the retirement plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

	<u>OPERS</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability - prior measurement date	0.1546620%	0.1593550%
Proportion of the net OPEB liability or asset - current measurement date	<u>0.1579340%</u>	<u>0.1546620%</u>
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.0032720%</u>	<u>-0.0046930%</u>
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	(\$1,425,392)	\$975,174
OPEB expense	(\$223,180)	(\$1,996,036)

At December 31, 2024, the Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>OPERS</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Deferred outflows of resources		
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	\$ 856,029	\$ 1,936,729
Changes of assumptions	366,968	952,474
Changes in proportionate share and difference between Authority contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 1,222,997</u>	<u>\$ 2,889,203</u>
Deferred inflows of resources		
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 202,874	\$ 243,246
Changes of assumptions	612,733	78,373
Changes in proportionate share and difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>21,640</u>	<u>4,448</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 837,247</u>	<u>\$ 326,067</u>

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

	OPERS
Year ending December 31:	
2025	\$ (50,486)
2026	58,944
2027	666,343
2028	(289,051)
Total	\$ 385,750

Actuarial Assumptions - OPERS

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include the types of coverage provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of costs between OPERS and plan members. The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022 rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2023. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 75:

Experience study	5 - year period ended December 31, 2020
Wage inflation	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	2.75 to 10.75 percent (includes wage inflation at 2.75 percent)
Single discount rate:	
Current measurement date	5.7 percent
Prior measurement date	5.22 percent
Investment rate of return	6.00 percent
Municipal bond rate	3.77
Health care cost trend rate	5.50 percent, initial 3.50 percent, ultimate in 2038
Actuarial cost method	Individual entry age normal

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130% of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170% of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115% of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation.

The allocation of investment assets within the Health Care portfolio is approved by the Board as outlined in the annual investment plan. Assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of continuing to offer a sustainable health care program for current and future retirees. The System's primary goal is to achieve and maintain a fully funded status for benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. Health care is a discretionary benefit. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return were provided by the Board's investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Health Care portfolio's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2023, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset class</u>	<u>Target allocation</u>	Weighted average long-term expected real rate of return <u>(arithmetic)</u>
Fixed income	37.00%	2.82%
Domestic equities	25.00%	4.27%
Real estate investment trust	5.00%	4.68%
International equities	25.00%	5.16%
Risk parity	3.00%	4.38%
Other investments	<u>5.00%</u>	2.43%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

During 2023, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Defined Contribution portfolio and the Health Care portfolio. The Health Care portfolio includes the assets for health care expenses for the Traditional Pension Plan, Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan eligible members. Within the Health Care portfolio, contributions into the plans are assumed to be received continuously throughout the year based on the actual payroll payable at the time contributions are made, and health care-related payments are assumed to occur mid-year. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Health Care portfolio was a gain of 14.0% for 2023.

Discount Rate A single discount rate of 5.70% was used to measure the total OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2023; however, the single discount rate used at the beginning of the year was 5.22%. Projected benefit payments are required to be discounted to their actuarial present value using a single discount rate that reflects (1) a long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments (to the extent that the health care fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits), and (2) a tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate are not met). This single discount rate was based on the actuarial assumed rate of return on the health care investment portfolio of 6.00% and a municipal bond rate of 3.77%. The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on these assumptions, the health care fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance health care costs through the year 2070. As a result, the actuarial assumed long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through the year 2070, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all health care costs after that date.

Sensitivity of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table presents the Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset calculated using the single discount rate of 5.70 percent, as well as what the Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (4.70 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (6.70 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease <u>(4.70%)</u>	Current discount rate <u>(5.70%)</u>	1% Increase <u>(6.70%)</u>
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 783,353	\$(1,425,392)	\$(3,255,020)

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6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND OPEB PLANS - (continued)

Sensitivity of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rate Changes in the health care cost trend rate may also have a significant impact on the net OPEB liability (asset). The following table presents the net OPEB liability (asset) calculated using the assumed trend rates, and the expected net OPEB liability (asset) if it were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1.0 percent lower or 1.0 percent higher than the current rate.

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	Current Health Care Cost Trend Rate <u>Assumption</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (1,484,580)	\$ (1,425,392)	\$ (1,358,232)

Retiree health care valuations use a health care cost-trend assumption that changes over several years built into the assumption. The near-term rates reflect increases in the current cost of health care; the trend starting in 2024 is 5.50 percent. If this trend continues for future years, the projection indicates that years from now virtually all expenditures will be for health care. A more reasonable alternative is that in the not-too-distant future, the health plan cost trend will decrease to a level at, or near, wage inflation. On this basis, the actuaries project premium rate increases will continue to exceed wage inflation for approximately the next decade, but by less each year, until leveling off at an ultimate rate, assumed to be 3.50 percent in the most recent valuation.

7. FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS, REIMBURSEMENTS AND SPECIAL FARE ASSISTANCE

Grants, reimbursements and special fare assistance in the statements of revenues and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2024, are listed in the table below.

	<u>2024</u>
FEDERAL:	
FTA Maintenance and Other Assistance	\$ 1,997,907
FTA Capital Contribution	9,980,154
Total	<u>\$ 11,978,061</u>
STATE:	
Fuel Tax Reimbursement	\$ 81,506
Other State Assistance	2,352,501
State Capital Contribution	143,354
Total	<u>\$ 2,577,361</u>

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8. RISK MANAGEMENT

Since December 31, 1994, the Authority has been a member of the Ohio Transit Risk Pool (OTRP), a joint self-insurance pool, created pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. OTRP has been in existence since 1994 and operates pursuant to By-Laws and a Board of Trustees. OTRP provides self-insurance through risk retention and the group purchase of property and liability coverage from A-rated, or greater, commercial carriers.

During the loss year of 2024, OTRP provided to the Authority commercial property coverage with limits of \$250,000,000. The pool retained the first \$100,000 of these losses. For auto-physical damage the pool provided \$50,000,000 in coverage and retained \$250,000. For crime the pool provided \$4,000,000 in coverage. METRO's deductible for property coverage is \$1,000 except for physical damage which was \$25,000. For Auto Liability, General Liability, E&O and EBL the pool provided \$10,000,000 per occurrence. For each of these lines the pool retained \$2,000,000 per occurrence. METRO's deductible for all liability claims was \$5,000 for 2024.

OTRP provides to the Treasurer of the Authority a bond as is required by Ohio law.

As of January 1, 2024, the Authority has met all obligations to OTRP. The Authority pays OTRP through an initial contribution for purchased insurance and quarterly payments for their self-insured loss and administrative costs. The Authority's contribution percentage for 2024 loss year was 13.54%.

The Authority continues to carry commercial insurance for all other risks of loss, including workers' compensation and employee health and accident insurance. There has not been a reduction in coverage from the prior year and claims have not exceeded the coverage in any of the past three years.

The Authority pays the State of Ohio Worker's Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. The Authority's contributions allocated to fund Worker's Compensation benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024 was \$540,505. The full amount has been contributed for 2024.

9. CONTINGENCIES

The Authority received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these grants requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements. These grants are subject to audit by the grantor agencies and disallowed claims resulting from these audits could become a liability of the Authority.

At December 31, 2024, there were no material questioned costs that had not been resolved with appropriate federal and state agencies. Questioned costs could still be identified during audits to be conducted in the future. In the opinion of the Authority's management, no material grant expenses will be disallowed.

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10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Authority has evaluated subsequent events for potential recognition and/or disclosure through the date of the financial statements. Management believes that any ongoing litigation in the normal course of business will not materially affect the Authority's financial results or financial position.

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

Last Ten Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) - Traditional Plan			
Authority's proportion of the net pension liability	0.1650110%	0.1606390%	0.1655570%
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 43,200,556	\$ 47,452,831	\$ 14,404,129
Authority's covered payroll	\$ 27,159,679	\$ 24,900,114	\$ 23,982,321
Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	159.06%	190.57%	60.06%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	79.01%	75.74%	92.62%

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

Last Ten Years

(Continued)

<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
0.1649240%	0.1727850%	0.1684960%	0.1755800%	0.1765750%	0.1633140%	0.1589510%
\$ 24,421,654	\$ 34,152,127	\$ 46,147,638	\$ 27,545,098	\$ 40,097,180	\$ 28,288,044	\$ 19,171,267
\$ 23,228,271	\$ 24,310,343	\$ 23,680,693	\$ 23,178,338	\$ 21,775,667	\$ 20,524,750	\$ 19,455,183
105.14%	140.48%	194.87%	118.84%	184.14%	137.82%	98.54%
86.88%	82.17%	74.70%	84.66%	77.25%	81.08%	86.45%

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Contributions - Pension

Last Ten Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) - Traditional Plan			
Contractually required contribution - Pension	\$ 4,093,306	\$ 3,802,355	\$ 3,486,016
Contributions in relation to contractually required contribution	<u>(4,093,306)</u>	<u>(3,802,355)</u>	<u>(3,486,016)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Authority covered payroll	\$ 29,237,900	\$ 27,159,679	\$ 24,900,114
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Contributions - Pension

Last Ten Years

(Continued)

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$ 3,357,525	\$ 3,251,958	\$ 3,403,448	\$ 3,315,297	\$ 3,013,184	\$ 2,613,080	\$ 2,462,970
<u>(3,357,525)</u>	<u>(3,251,958)</u>	<u>(3,403,448)</u>	<u>(3,315,297)</u>	<u>(3,013,184)</u>	<u>(2,613,080)</u>	<u>(2,462,970)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 23,982,321	\$ 23,228,271	\$ 24,310,343	\$ 23,680,693	\$ 23,178,338	\$ 21,775,667	\$ 20,524,750
14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%	12.00%	12.00%

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability or Asset Last Eight Years (1)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)			
Authority's proportion of the net OPEB liability or asset	0.1579340%	0.1546620%	0.1593550%
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (1,425,392)	\$ 975,174	\$ (4,991,243)
Authority's covered payroll	\$ 27,159,679	\$ 24,900,114	\$ 23,982,321
Authority's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	5.25%	3.92%	-20.81%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total OPEB liability or asset	107.76%	94.79%	128.23%

(1) Information prior to 2017 is not available and the amounts presented are as of the Authority's measurement date which is the prior year end.

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability or Asset

Last Eight Years (1)

(Continued)

<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
0.1595790%	0.1668670%	0.1633880%	0.1706120%	0.1726640%
\$ (2,843,027)	\$ 23,048,668	\$ 21,387,335	\$ 18,527,206	\$ 17,439,650
\$ 23,228,271	\$ 24,310,343	\$ 23,680,693	\$ 23,178,338	\$ 21,775,667
-12.24%	94.81%	90.32%	79.93%	80.09%
115.57%	47.80%	46.33%	54.14%	54.05%

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Contributions - OPEB

Last Ten Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)			
Contractually required contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in relation to contractually required contribution	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Authority covered payroll	\$ 29,237,900	\$ 27,159,679	\$ 24,900,114
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of Metro Regional Transit Authority Contributions - OPEB

Last Ten Years

(Continued)

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 241,441	\$ 458,435	\$ 427,599
-	-	-	-	(241,441)	(458,435)	(427,599)
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 23,982,321	\$ 23,228,271	\$ 24,310,343	\$ 23,680,693	\$ 23,178,338	\$ 21,775,667	\$ 20,524,750
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%	2.00%	2.00%

Metro Regional Transit Authority

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Net Pension Liability

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Changes in benefit terms: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported.

Changes in assumptions: There was no change in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for 2024. See the notes to the basic financial statements for the methods and assumptions in this calculation.

Net OPEB Liability or Asset

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Changes in benefit terms: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported.

Changes in assumptions: There was a change in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for 2024. See the notes to the basic financial statements for the methods and assumptions in this calculation.

Statistical Section

**METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
2024 (Unaudited)**

Statistical Section

This part of the Authority's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report presents detailed information as a context for understanding what the information in the financial statements, note disclosures, and required supplementary information says about the Authority's overall financial health.

Contents	Page
Financial Trends These schedules contain trend information to help the reader understand how the Authority's financial performance and well-being have changed over time.	66-72
Revenue Capacity These schedules contain information to help the reader assess the Authority's most significant local revenue source, the sales tax.	73-75
Debt Capacity These schedules present information to help the reader assess the affordability of the Authority's current levels of outstanding debt and the Authority's ability to issue additional debt in the future.	76
Demographic and Economic Information These schedules offer demographic and economic indicators to help the reader understand the environment within which the Authority's financial activities take place.	77-79
Operating Information These schedules contain service and infrastructure data to help the reader understand how the information on the Authority's financial report relates to the services the Authority provides and the activities it performs.	80-83

METRO Regional Transit Authority

NET POSITION BY COMPONENT FOR THE LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (Unaudited)

TABLE 1

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
NET POSITION					
Net Investment in capital assets	\$ 91,532,085	\$ 77,863,306	\$ 73,144,458	\$ 78,498,073	\$ 79,972,618
Unrestricted	137,686,190	140,505,152	122,170,755	82,610,350	38,574,587
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$ 229,218,275</u>	<u>\$ 218,368,458</u>	<u>\$ 195,315,213</u>	<u>\$ 161,108,423</u>	<u>\$ 118,547,205</u>
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
NET POSITION					
Net Investment in capital assets	\$ 81,356,197	\$ 88,641,026	\$ 93,767,594	\$ 94,402,997	\$ 89,241,815
Unrestricted	13,164,566	13,406,369	9,207,002	32,102,411	34,115,012
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$ 94,520,763</u>	<u>\$ 102,047,395</u>	<u>\$ 102,974,596</u>	<u>\$ 126,505,408</u>	<u>\$ 123,356,827</u>

Source: METRO's audited annual financial statements

METRO Regional Transit Authority

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR THE LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (Unaudited)

TABLE 2

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
OPERATING REVENUES:					
Passenger fares	\$ 2,711,509	\$ 2,397,633	\$ 2,011,757	\$ 1,786,332	\$ 1,728,569
Advertising and concessions	228,004	263,398	215,248	273,505	467,383
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	2,939,513	2,661,031	2,227,005	2,059,837	2,195,952
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Labor	27,698,805	25,931,266	24,929,218	23,258,842	23,094,596
Fringe benefits	19,888,066	18,102,710	4,126,882	(4,562,449)	19,025,865
Materials and supplies and fuel	5,696,744	4,848,588	5,337,300	5,089,084	5,208,505
Services	3,935,765	3,751,612	4,191,651	3,855,356	3,672,224
Utilities	1,248,543	1,027,705	969,382	998,952	904,406
Casualty and liability	1,040,998	1,043,366	876,190	935,275	1,043,110
Taxes	91,197	97,369	118,383	141,932	182,846
Purchased transportation service	1,639,435	1,749,748	1,579,208	1,346,902	1,302,601
Miscellaneous	577,876	557,626	324,598	290,143	351,326
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	61,817,429	57,109,990	42,452,812	31,354,037	54,785,479
BEFORE DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	61,817,429	57,109,990	42,452,812	31,354,037	54,785,479
OPERATING LOSS					
BEFORE DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	(58,877,916)	(54,448,959)	(40,225,807)	(29,294,200)	(52,589,527)
Depreciation expense	9,030,080	9,397,455	9,697,471	9,812,460	9,717,664
OPERATING LOSS	(67,907,996)	(63,846,414)	(49,923,278)	(39,106,660)	(62,307,191)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)					
Sales tax revenue	58,377,434	58,973,972	57,632,413	55,349,037	49,541,450
Federal operating grants and reimbursements	1,997,907	12,386,304	17,441,505	17,167,584	27,965,133
State operating grants and special fare assistance	2,434,007	1,855,645	3,701,859	1,525,089	3,449,689
Student fare and other assistance	2,017,586	1,706,900	1,651,490	1,559,749	1,356,842
Interest income (loss)	2,340,651	2,033,703	(1,451,199)	(286,363)	436,959
Gain (Loss) from disposal of assets	171,648	55,863	98,586	94,427	6,705
Interest and fiscal charges	(4,549)	(7,536)	(7,404)	-	-
Other	1,299,621	627,177	896,194	1,072,918	3,282,873
NON-OPERATING REVENUES/EXPENSES - NET	68,634,305	77,632,028	79,963,444	76,482,441	86,039,651
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS					
Capital Contributions	10,123,508	9,267,631	4,166,624	5,185,441	293,982
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	10,849,817	23,053,245	34,206,790	42,561,222	24,026,442
Net Position, Beginning Balance	218,368,458	195,315,213	161,108,423	118,547,205	94,520,763
Net Position, Ending Balance	\$ 229,218,275	\$ 218,368,458	\$ 195,315,213	\$ 161,108,427	\$ 118,547,205

Source: METRO's audited annual financial statements

METRO Regional Transit Authority

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR THE LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (continued) (Unaudited)

TABLE 2 (continued)

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
OPERATING REVENUES:					
Passenger fares	\$ 3,633,758	\$ 3,702,602	\$ 3,792,434	\$ 4,100,559	\$ 4,428,054
Advertising and concessions	574,484	584,334	473,562	475,218	417,915
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	4,208,242	4,286,936	4,265,996	4,575,777	4,845,969
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Labor	23,593,758	23,318,946	22,725,196	22,055,895	20,586,041
Fringe benefits	23,131,630	20,593,032	18,026,874	14,801,005	11,736,750
Materials and supplies and fuel	5,919,215	5,642,583	5,436,604	4,841,532	5,447,931
Services	3,150,268	3,503,955	2,861,282	2,317,013	2,516,684
Utilities	995,362	918,551	956,330	739,511	913,740
Casualty and liability	1,082,084	830,189	1,691,192	1,450,188	1,262,850
Taxes	175,160	139,059	149,207	172,240	183,769
Purchased transportation service	2,030,270	1,924,830	1,763,857	1,718,313	1,229,441
Miscellaneous	465,098	412,372	467,124	511,478	376,597
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	60,542,845	57,283,517	54,077,666	48,607,175	44,253,803
BEFORE DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	60,542,845	57,283,517	54,077,666	48,607,175	44,253,803
OPERATING LOSS					
BEFORE DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	(56,334,603)	(52,996,581)	(49,811,670)	(44,031,398)	(39,407,834)
Depreciation expense	9,516,241	10,070,589	10,369,813	9,374,581	8,628,338
OPERATING LOSS	(65,850,844)	(63,067,170)	(60,181,483)	(53,405,979)	(48,036,172)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)					
Sales tax revenue	48,552,050	49,142,903	46,668,426	46,784,297	44,896,182
Federal operating grants and reimbursements	5,580,096	3,644,841	2,530,192	4,683,361	4,243,338
State operating grants and special fare assistance	169,318	135,739	686,166	165,441	177,512
Student fare and other assistance	1,531,202	1,850,434	1,709,021	1,160,333	809,188
Medicaid transition sales tax	-	2,500,246	1,157,820	-	-
Lottery ticket sales revenue	-	37,898	127,034	-	-
Interest income	816,510	233,684	113,554	236,441	146,698
Gain (Loss) from disposal of assets	53,614	-	13,380	63,106	8,125
Other	698,748	757,008	712,753	575,135	860,030
NON-OPERATING REVENUES/EXPENSES - NET	57,401,538	58,302,753	53,718,346	53,668,114	51,141,073
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS					
Capital Grant Contributions	922,674	3,837,216	130,534	2,886,446	4,921,502
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	(7,526,632)	(927,201)	(6,332,603)	3,148,581	8,026,403
Net Position, Beginning Balance	102,047,395	120,172,805	126,505,408	123,356,827	131,734,054
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle*	-	(17,198,209)	-	-	(16,403,630)
Net Position, Ending Balance	\$ 94,520,763	\$ 102,047,395	\$ 120,172,805	\$ 126,505,408	\$ 123,356,827

Source: METRO's audited annual financial statements

*GASB 68 implemented during 2015

*GASB 75 implemented during 2018

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Revenue and Operating Assistance - Comparison to Industry Trend Data

Last Ten Years
(Unaudited)

TABLE 3

TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY (1):

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OPERATING AND OTHER REVENUE</u>			<u>OPERATING ASSISTANCE</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL REVENUES</u>
	<u>PASSENGER</u>	<u>OTHER (2)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>		
2015	32.5%	4.9%	37.4%	31.1%	23.2%	8.3%	62.6%	100.0%
2016	31.3%	5.0%	36.3%	31.4%	24.2%	8.0%	63.7%	100.0%
2017	31.4%	5.0%	36.3%	32.2%	23.0%	8.5%	63.7%	100.0%
2018	30.7%	5.4%	36.0%	32.6%	22.7%	8.6%	64.0%	100.0%
2019	29.5%	4.5%	34.0%	35.1%	22.9%	7.9%	66.0%	100.0%
2020	16.6%	4.1%	20.7%	29.7%	23.1%	26.5%	79.3%	100.0%
2021	11.9%	3.6%	15.5%	26.9%	20.6%	37.0%	84.5%	100.0%
2022	15.5%	3.5%	19.0%	26.1%	16.4%	38.5%	81.0%	100.0%
2023*								
2024*								

METRO Regional Transit Authority

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OPERATING AND OTHER REVENUE</u>			<u>OPERATING ASSISTANCE</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL REVENUES</u>
	<u>PASSENGER</u>	<u>OTHER (2)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>FEDERAL</u>		
2015	8.0%	2.5%	10.5%	81.6%	0.3%	7.6%	89.5%	100.0%
2016	7.0%	2.3%	9.3%	82.4%	0.3%	8.0%	90.7%	100.0%
2017	6.5%	2.3%	8.8%	85.6%	1.2%	4.4%	91.2%	100.0%
2018	5.9%	2.5%	8.4%	85.4%	0.2%	6.0%	91.6%	100.0%
2019	5.9%	3.5%	9.4%	81.3%	0.2%	9.1%	90.6%	100.0%
2020	2.0%	4.8%	6.7%	57.7%	3.9%	31.7%	93.3%	100.0%
2021	2.3%	1.5%	3.7%	72.5%	1.9%	21.9%	96.3%	100.0%
2022	2.4%	-0.3%	2.1%	72.1%	4.5%	21.2%	97.9%	100.0%
2023	3.0%	3.7%	6.7%	75.6%	2.3%	15.4%	93.3%	100.0%
2024	3.8%	5.2%	9.0%	84.8%	3.4%	2.8%	91.0%	100.0%

(1) Source: The American Public Transit Association, "APTA 2024 Fact Book Appendix A Table 87"

(2) Includes auxiliary transportation revenues, interest, and other non-transportation revenues

* Information not available

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Operating Expenses - Comparison to Industry Trend Data

Last Ten Years
(Unaudited)

TABLE 4

TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY (1):

<u>Year</u>	<u>Labor & Fringes</u>	<u>Material & Supplies</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Casualty & Liability</u>	<u>Purchased Transportation</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
2015	61.5%	9.8%	7.3%	3.0%	2.4%	14.1%	1.9%	100.0%
2016	62.8%	8.9%	7.6%	2.7%	2.7%	13.7%	1.6%	100.0%
2017	61.9%	8.7%	8.0%	2.8%	2.8%	14.2%	1.6%	100.0%
2018	61.5%	8.7%	8.3%	2.9%	2.6%	14.5%	1.5%	100.0%
2019	60.9%	8.5%	8.8%	2.7%	2.7%	15.0%	1.4%	100.0%
2020	61.9%	7.7%	9.2%	2.6%	2.4%	15.1%	1.1%	100.0%
2021	62.0%	7.5%	9.5%	2.7%	2.8%	14.3%	1.2%	100.0%
2022	59.9%	8.5%	9.7%	2.9%	2.8%	15.1%	1.2%	100.0%
2023*								
2024*								

METRO Regional Transit Authority (2)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Labor & Fringes</u>	<u>Material & Supplies</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Casualty & Liability</u>	<u>Purchased Transportation</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
2015	73.0%	12.3%	5.7%	2.1%	2.9%	2.8%	1.2%	100.0%
2016	75.8%	10.0%	4.8%	1.5%	3.0%	3.5%	1.4%	100.0%
2017	75.4%	10.1%	5.3%	1.8%	3.1%	3.3%	1.1%	100.0%
2018	76.7%	9.9%	6.1%	1.6%	1.4%	3.4%	1.0%	100.0%
2019	77.2%	9.8%	5.2%	1.6%	1.8%	3.4%	1.1%	100.0%
2020	76.9%	9.5%	6.7%	1.7%	1.9%	2.4%	1.0%	100.0%
2021	59.6%	16.2%	12.3%	3.2%	3.0%	4.3%	1.4%	100.0%
2022	68.4%	12.6%	9.9%	2.3%	2.1%	3.7%	1.0%	100.0%
2023	77.1%	8.5%	6.6%	1.8%	1.8%	3.1%	1.1%	100.0%
2024	77.0%	9.2%	6.4%	2.0%	1.7%	2.7%	0.9%	100.0%

(1) Source: The American Public Transit Association, "APTA 2023 Fact Book Appendix A Table 70"

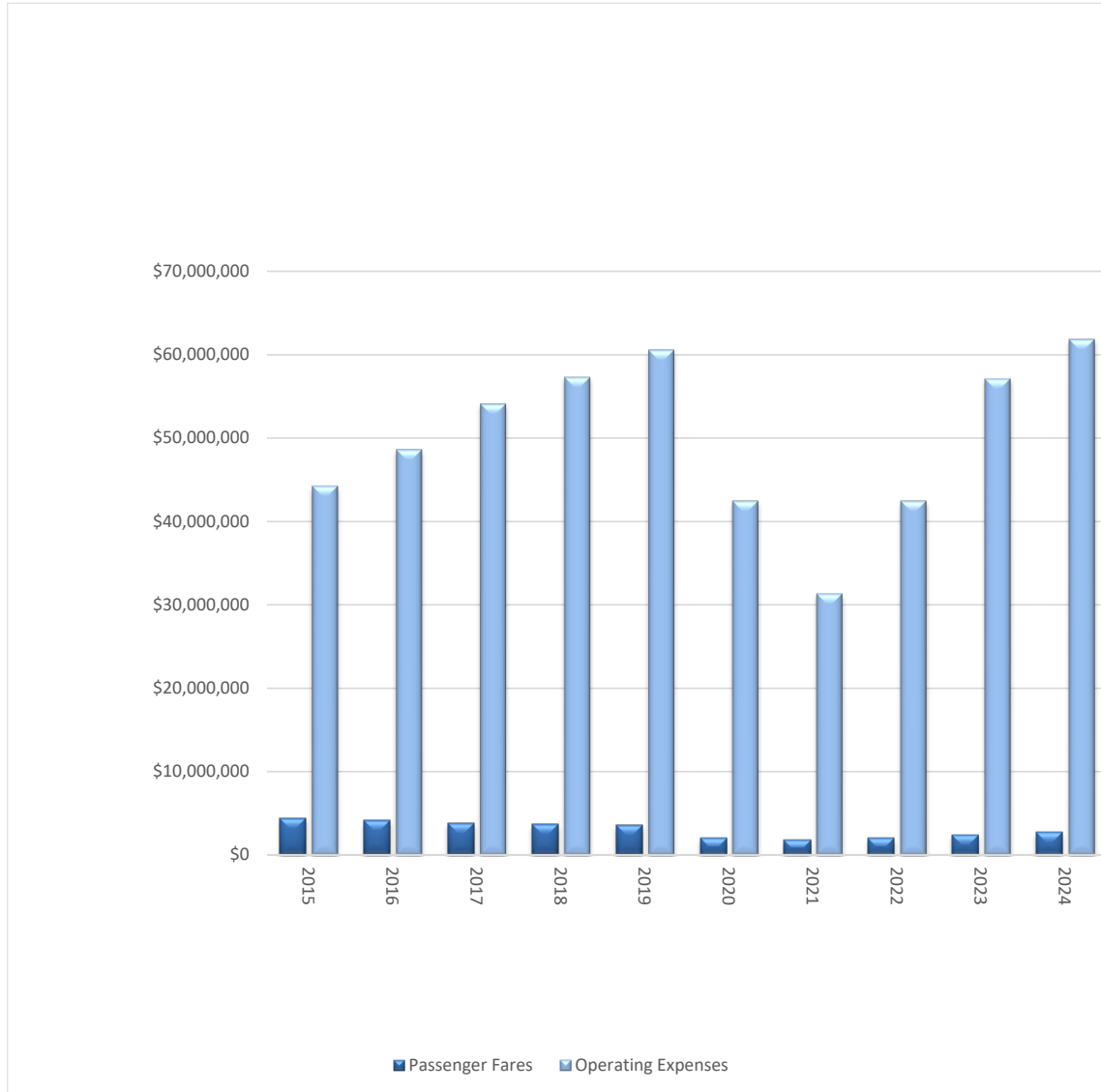
(2) Source: METRO's annual financial audited statements

* Information not available

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Passenger Fares vs. Operating Expenses - Last Ten Years

TABLE 5



METRO Regional Transit Authority

Sales Tax - Comparison to Other Regional Transit Authorities in Ohio

Last Ten Years
(Unaudited)

TABLE 6

System	Rate	Date Imposed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GCRTA	1.00%	Oct 1, 1975	\$ 205,843,322	218,749,850	213,718,147	204,331,707	212,192,079	210,147,468	239,341,749	254,954,365	261,817,712	264,667,706
COTA	0.50%	Jan 1, 2008	\$ 124,725,270	155,121,245	130,475,584	129,263,778	123,622,039	121,924,429	139,774,570	153,606,229	159,407,327	178,047,334
Laketrans	0.25%	Aug 1, 1988	\$ 8,832,168	9,259,352	9,200,779	9,211,771	9,507,546	15,001,057	22,367,759	23,444,793	24,184,726	21,421,927
WRTA	0.25%	Apr 1, 2009	\$ 8,580,592	8,700,361	8,695,139	8,288,017	8,550,054	8,789,839	10,052,650	10,570,697	10,828,546	10,871,812
MVRTA	0.50%	Jul 1, 1980	\$ 39,246,288	41,441,781	40,679,882	38,026,154	39,441,540	40,754,041	45,714,810	48,133,673	48,987,344	49,307,205
PARTA	0.25%	Feb 1, 2002	\$ 5,156,388	5,250,706	5,320,630	5,262,660	5,455,165	5,801,971	6,782,195	7,078,284	7,394,492	7,441,996
SARTA	0.25%	Jul 1, 1997	\$ 14,412,060	14,595,763	14,867,817	14,585,440	14,880,943	15,042,836	17,115,132	18,340,003	18,837,417	18,888,951
METRO	0.50%	Jul 1, 2008	\$ 44,190,357	46,205,876	46,271,616	44,638,154	46,298,041	49,053,203	53,499,068	56,395,967	58,249,392	57,933,397
ACRTA	0.10%	Oct 1, 2019	a	a	a	a	8,990	1,737,496	1,909,731	1,978,712	2,023,387	2,077,585
DCT	0.18%	Jan 1, 2019	a	a	a	a	9,368,940	9,052,322	10,746,415	12,159,030	12,686,134	na
LFPT	0.15%	Jan 1, 2019	a	a	a	a	1,540,637	1,450,136	1,664,945	1,724,204	1,710,487	na
LCT	0.20%	Jan 1, 2019	a	a	a	a	420,073	388,385	498,162	530,128	802,024	na
UCATS	0.18%	Jan 1, 2019	a	a	a	a	167,255	172,051	190,947	226,482	239,870	na

Source: Figures shown are from records of the Revenue Accounting Division of the Ohio Department of Taxation (file "Prior Year Sales Tax Distribution by CY of RTAs")

Notes: These figures are net of the 1% administration fee.

These amounts are based on month sales tax collected, the distribution occurs two months following the collection month.

Numbers are on a cash basis.

* ACRTA established their sales tax percent at .10% on October 1, 2019

* DCT established their sales tax percent at .175% on January 1, 2019

* LFPT established their sales tax percent at .15% on January 1, 2019

* LCT established their sales tax percent at .20% on January 1, 2019

* UCATS established their sales tax percent at .175% on January 1, 2019

a - No sales tax collected during that year

na - Not available

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Revenues by Source - Last Ten Years (Unaudited)

TABLE 7

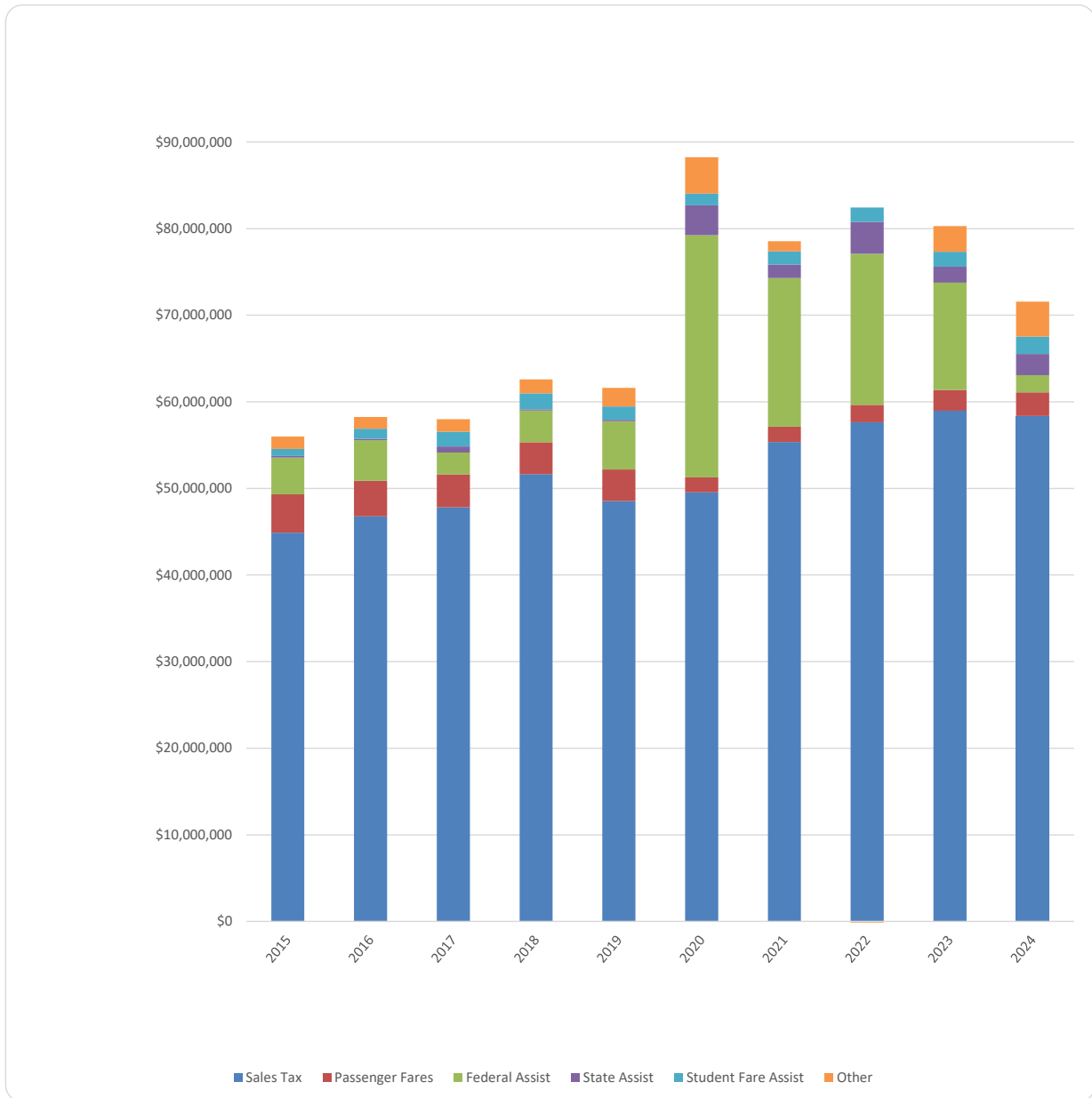
Operating Revenues	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Passengers Fares	\$4,428,054	\$4,100,559	\$3,792,434	\$3,702,602	\$3,633,758	\$1,728,569	\$1,786,332	\$2,011,757	\$2,397,633	\$2,711,509
Advertising	417,915	475,218	473,562	584,334	574,484	467,383	273,505	215,248	263,398	228,004
Total operating revenues	4,845,969	4,575,777	4,265,996	4,286,936	4,208,242	2,195,952	2,059,837	2,227,005	2,661,031	2,939,513
Non-operating Revenues										
Sales Tax revenue	44,896,182	46,784,297	46,668,426	49,142,903	48,552,050	49,541,450	55,349,037	57,632,413	58,973,972	58,377,434
Federal grants	4,243,338	4,683,361	2,530,192	3,644,841	5,580,096	27,965,133	17,167,584	17,441,505	12,386,304	1,997,907
State grants	177,512	165,441	686,166	135,739	169,318	3,449,689	1,525,089	3,701,859	1,855,645	2,434,007
Medicaid transition sales tax	0	0	1,157,820	2,500,246	0	0	0	0	0	0
Student fares assistance	809,188	1,160,333	1,709,021	1,850,434	1,531,202	1,356,842	1,559,745	1,651,490	1,706,900	2,017,586
Lottery ticket sales	0	0	127,034	37,898	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest income	146,698	236,441	113,554	233,684	816,510	436,959	(286,363)	(1,451,199)	2,033,703	2,340,651
Gain (loss) from disposal of assets	8,125	63,106	13,380	0	53,614	6,705	94,427	98,586	55,863	171,648
Other non-transportation revenue	860,030	575,135	712,753	757,008	698,748	3,282,873	1,072,918	888,790	619,641	1,295,072
Total non-operating revenues	51,141,073	53,668,114	53,718,346	58,302,753	57,401,538	86,039,651	76,482,437	79,963,444	77,632,028	68,634,305
Total Revenues	\$55,987,042	\$58,243,891	\$57,984,342	\$62,589,689	\$61,609,780	\$88,235,603	\$78,542,274	\$82,190,449	\$80,293,059	\$71,573,818

Source: METRO's independently audited annual financial statements

METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Revenue by Source - Last Ten Years

TABLE 8



METRO Regional Transit Authority

Expenses by Object Class - Last Ten years

(Unaudited)

TABLE 9

Operating Expenses	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Labor	\$20,586,041	\$22,055,895	\$22,725,196	\$23,318,946	\$23,593,758	\$23,094,596	\$23,258,842	\$24,929,218	\$25,931,266	\$27,698,805
Fringe Benefits	11,736,750	14,801,005	18,026,874	20,593,032	23,131,630	19,025,865	-4,562,449	4,126,882	18,102,710	19,888,066
Materials, Supplies and Fuel	5,447,931	4,841,532	5,436,604	5,642,583	5,919,215	5,208,505	5,089,084	5,337,300	4,848,588	5,696,744
Services	2,516,684	2,317,013	2,861,282	3,503,955	3,150,268	3,672,224	3,855,356	4,191,651	3,751,612	3,935,765
Utilities	913,740	739,511	956,330	918,551	995,362	904,406	998,952	969,382	1,027,705	1,248,543
Casualty and Liability	1,262,850	1,450,188	1,691,192	830,189	1,082,084	1,043,110	935,275	876,190	1,043,366	1,040,998
Taxes	183,769	172,240	149,207	139,059	175,160	182,846	141,932	118,383	97,369	91,197
Purchased Transportation	1,229,441	1,718,313	1,763,857	1,924,830	2,030,270	1,302,601	1,346,902	1,579,208	1,749,748	1,639,435
Miscellaneous	376,597	511,478	467,124	412,372	465,098	351,326	290,143	324,598	557,626	577,876
Total	44,253,803	48,607,175	54,077,666	57,283,517	60,542,845	54,785,479	31,354,037	42,452,812	57,109,990	61,817,429
Depreciation	8,628,338	9,374,581	10,369,813	10,070,589	9,516,241	9,717,664	9,812,460	9,697,471	9,397,455	9,030,080
Total Expenses	\$52,882,141	\$57,981,756	\$64,447,479	\$67,354,106	\$70,059,086	\$64,503,143	\$41,166,497	\$52,150,283	\$66,507,445	\$70,847,509

Source: METRO's audited annual financial statements

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Debt Service

(Unaudited)

TABLE 10

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (1)</u>	<u>SUMMIT COUNTY POPULATION (2)</u>	<u>TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME (2)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF PERSONAL INCOME</u>	<u>BOND DEBT PER CAPITA</u>
2015	0	541,968	24,258,142	0.000%	\$0.00
2016	0	540,300	24,969,081	0.000%	\$0.00
2017	0	541,228	25,060,119	0.000%	\$0.00
2018	0	541,318	26,611,223	0.000%	\$0.00
2019	0	541,013	27,657,447	0.000%	\$0.00
2020	0	540,428	28,976,895	0.000%	\$0.00
2021	0	537,633	32,987,010	0.000%	\$0.00
2022	0	535,882	32,672,387	0.000%	\$0.00
2023	0	535,733	34,607,280	0.000%	\$0.00
2024	0	538,370	a		

Sources:

(1) Total principal due on all outstanding debt.

(2) Summit County ACFR (Data are updated to reflect latest available.)

(a) Information is not available as of report date

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Demographic Statistics

Last Ten Years
(Unaudited)

TABLE 11

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u> (2)	<u>Per Capita</u> <u>Income</u> (3)	<u>Personal</u> <u>Income</u> (3)	<u>K - 12 School</u> <u>Enrollment</u> (4)	<u>Unemployment</u> <u>Rate</u> (1)
2015	541,968	44,761	24,258,142	70,682	4.9%
2016	540,300	46,071	24,969,081	70,442	5.0%
2017	541,228	46,382	25,060,119	70,529	5.1%
2018	541,318	49,168	26,611,223	70,574	4.7%
2019	541,013	51,036	27,657,447	70,265	4.0%
2020	540,428	53,580	28,976,895	70,142	5.2%
2021	537,633	61,356	32,987,010	67,807	3.7%
2022	535,882	61,272	32,834,562	67,739	3.8%
2023	535,733	64,598	34,607,280	65,922	3.7%
2024	538,370	a	a	64,885	4.7%

Notes: All information is presented for Summit County, Ohio

Personal Income in (\$000)

(a) Information is not available as of report date

Sources: (1) U.S. Bureau of Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics

(2) Summit County ACFR 2023 (Data are updated to reflect latest available.)

(3) BEA Personal Income by County (file lapi1124 latest info available)

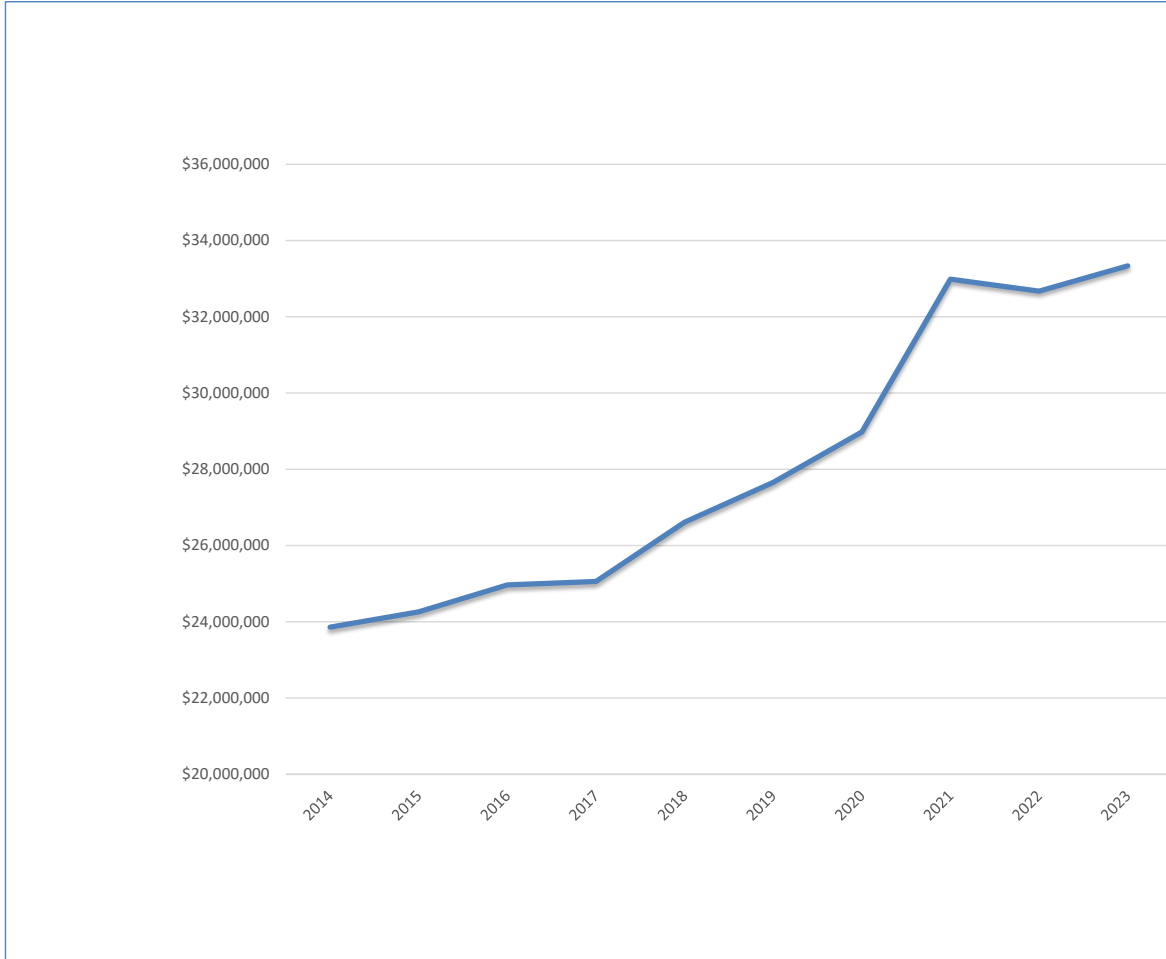
(4) Ohio Department of Education - enrollment data

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Personal Income of Summit County, Ohio

Last Ten Years

TABLE 12



Source: Bureau of Economic Statistics

Notes: Personal Income (\$000); 2023 is the last year data is available

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Summit County, Ohio - Largest Employers

(Unaudited)

TABLE 13

Company/Organization	2023			2014		
	Employees	Rank	Percent of Total County Employment	Employees	Rank	Percent of Total County Employment
Summa Health	7,940	1	3.06%	11,000	1	4.19%
Akron Children's Hospital	6,500	2	2.51%	3,380	3	1.29%
Amazon	4,500	3	1.74%			
Cleveland Clinic Akron General	4,200	4	1.62%			
Akron Public Schools	3,758	5	1.45%	2,645	7	1.01%
Summit County	3,086	6	1.19%	2,622	8	1.00%
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	2,905	7	1.12%	3,000	6	1.14%
University of Akron	2,500	8	0.96%	2,900	6	1.11%
Signet Jewelers	1,980	9	0.76%	2,969	5	1.13%
City of Akron	1,828	10	0.71%	1,828	9	0.70%
First Merit Corp				1,385	10	0.53%
Akron General Health System				3,742	2	1.43%
Total	39,197		15.12%	35,471		13.53%
Total Labor Force - Summit County	259,200			262,227		

Sources: Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce

Total County Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Ohio Job & Family Services, Office of Workforce Development-Labor Market Information

Summit County Audited ACFR

Note: 2023 is the latest available information

METRO Regional Transit Authority

Operating Statistics - Last Ten Years

(Unaudited)

TABLE 14

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
System Ridership (1)										
Motor Bus	5,052,855	4,908,399	4,885,178	4,907,761	4,683,698	3,128,383	2,882,108	3,470,765	4,130,646	5,140,524
Demand Response	268,843	267,964	265,833	270,815	276,329	171,341	174,873	187,405	194,028	201,110
Average Weekday System Ridership (1)										
Motor Bus	17,207	16,821	16,849	16,869	16,012	10,596	9,579	11,361	13,388	16,643
Demand Response	1,023	746	1,017	1,035	1,057	650	657	697	715	736
Total Vehicle Miles (1)										
Motor Bus	4,586,078	4,804,980	4,725,698	4,695,705	4,819,560	3,799,662	3,897,030	3,810,281	4,336,583	4,825,264
Demand Response	1,963,497	1,948,575	2,167,055	2,348,770	2,408,983	1,681,048	1,673,004	1,731,792	1,816,455	1,863,598
Total Revenue Miles (1)										
Motor Bus	4,172,713	4,051,831	4,082,524	4,078,092	4,092,623	3,363,548	3,425,508	3,252,489	3,801,252	4,265,818
Demand Response	1,593,690	1,630,912	1,751,353	1,938,752	1,988,763	1,341,639	1,401,597	1,484,375	1,553,501	1,630,400
Passenger Miles (1)										
Motor Bus	22,575,883	19,432,291	16,768,798	21,355,560	27,323,801	13,977,760	12,356,484	13,914,578	17,054,610	21,591,029
Demand Response	1,846,489	1,868,499	1,715,310	1,723,653	1,726,718	983,730	1,009,114	1,076,447	1,122,313	1,175,848

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

SUMMIT COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 7/15/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

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