

ADVOCACY WITH



ALL ABOARD
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Mitch
Radakovich Board Chair, All Aboard Ohio





Agenda

- The State of Rail in Ohio
- A Vision for Rail In Ohio
- All Aboard Ohio's Foundation
- Our Advocacy Strategy
- Lessons For the Future

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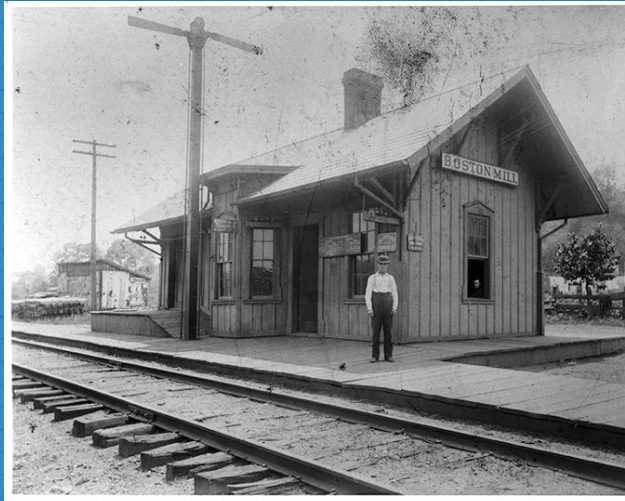


Cleveland RTA New Trainsets

Founded in 1973, All Aboard Ohio has been advocating for passenger rail for over 50 years.

We exist to advocate for the establishment, improvement, and maintenance of a robust transportation system focusing on passenger rail.

In the Beginning



**Station in Current-Day Cuyahoga
Valley Nat'l Park**



Lima, OH Depot (1904)

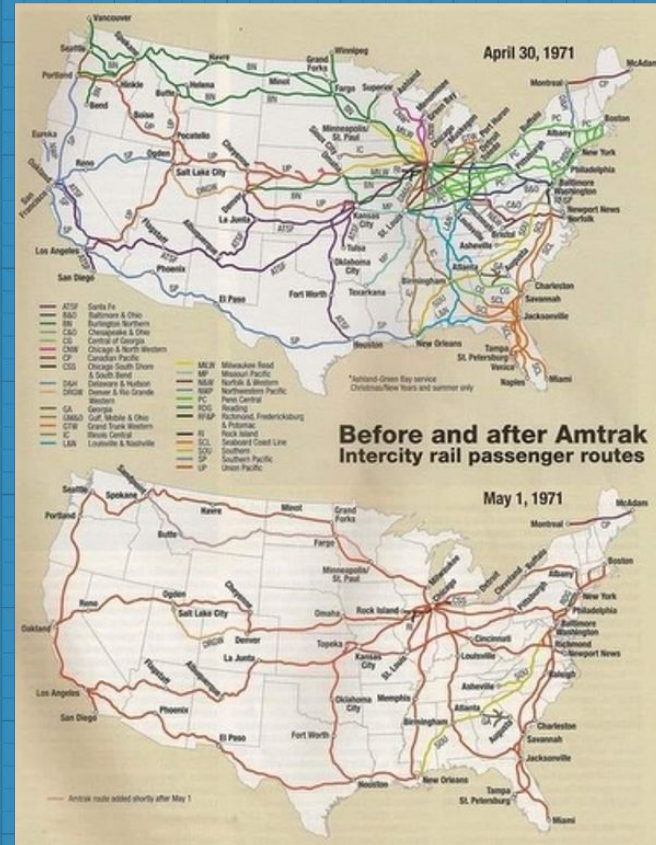


Johnstown, OH Depot (late 1800s)

The Glory Days



The Decline



Dark Ages



Ohio's Passenger Rail Dark Age

Trains in the dark of night

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Station Hours

Open Daily from
12am – 4am

Closed on Tuesday

Current Ohio Routes



Cardinal

3 Days per Week
Cincinnati: 1a/3a



Lake Shore Ltd.

Cleveland: 1a/3a
Toledo:

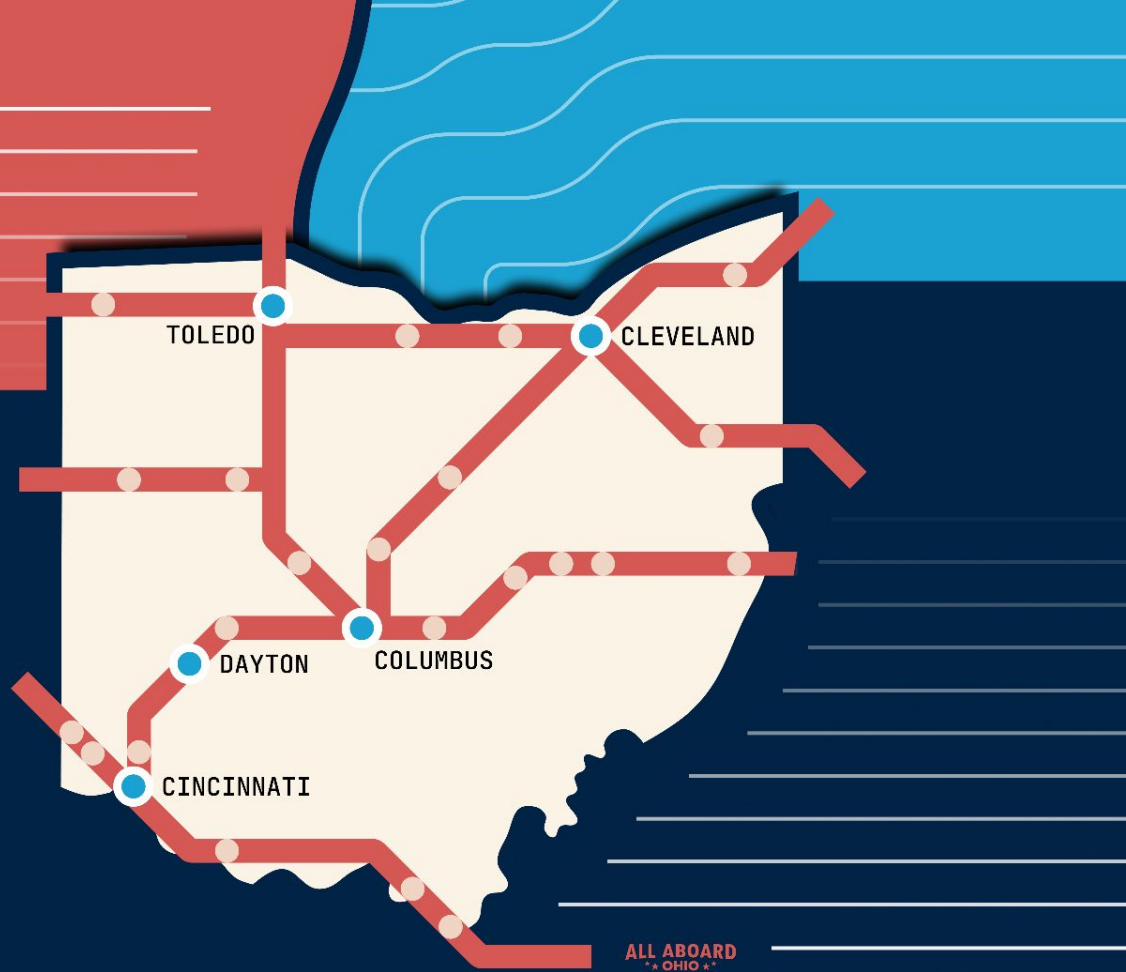


Floridian

Cleveland: 1a/3a
Toledo:

Renaissance

- Corridor ID
- Long Distance Routes
- Existing Amtrak
- Local Connectivity



Once In A Lifetime

- Corridor ID program
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Supporting development of state-supported routes
- Multi-step approach

Corridor ID is a federal program launched under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to identify, plan, and develop new or expanded intercity passenger rail routes across the U.S.. It creates a structured pipeline for rail projects by funding service development plans and guiding them through a multi-step process toward implementation.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Ohio's Proposed Routes

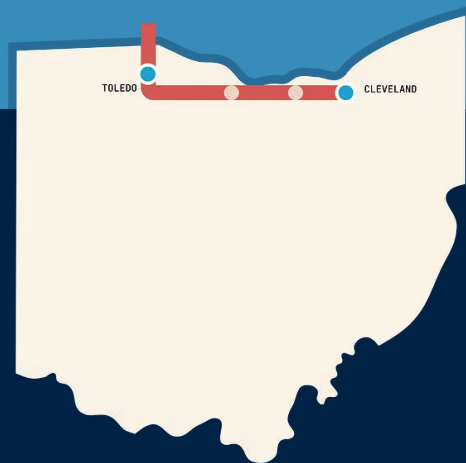
New routes being studied via the federal government's Corridor ID program.

Find out more at allaboarndohio.org/routes

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3C+D



Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit



Midwest Connect
(Chicago - Pittsburgh)



History

Founded in 1973 in Xenia, Ohio -
Picking up the pieces of passenger
rail's golden age.

The organization focused on advocacy
and Camaraderie



MINUTES of the May 10, 1980 OARP Meeting
Ichabod's/Dayton, Ohio

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS
Post Office Box 653 • Xenia, Ohio 45385



allaboardohio.org/vintage



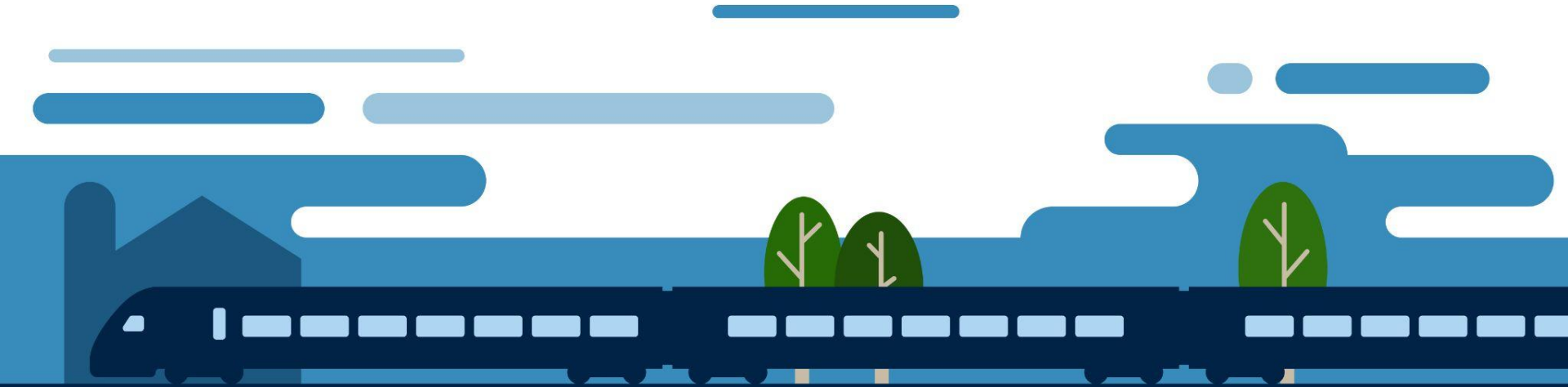
Accomplishments

- Lakeshore Limited (1975-1980)
- Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC)
- Resumption of Cardinal service (1982)
- Multimodality at Toledo, Sandusky stations

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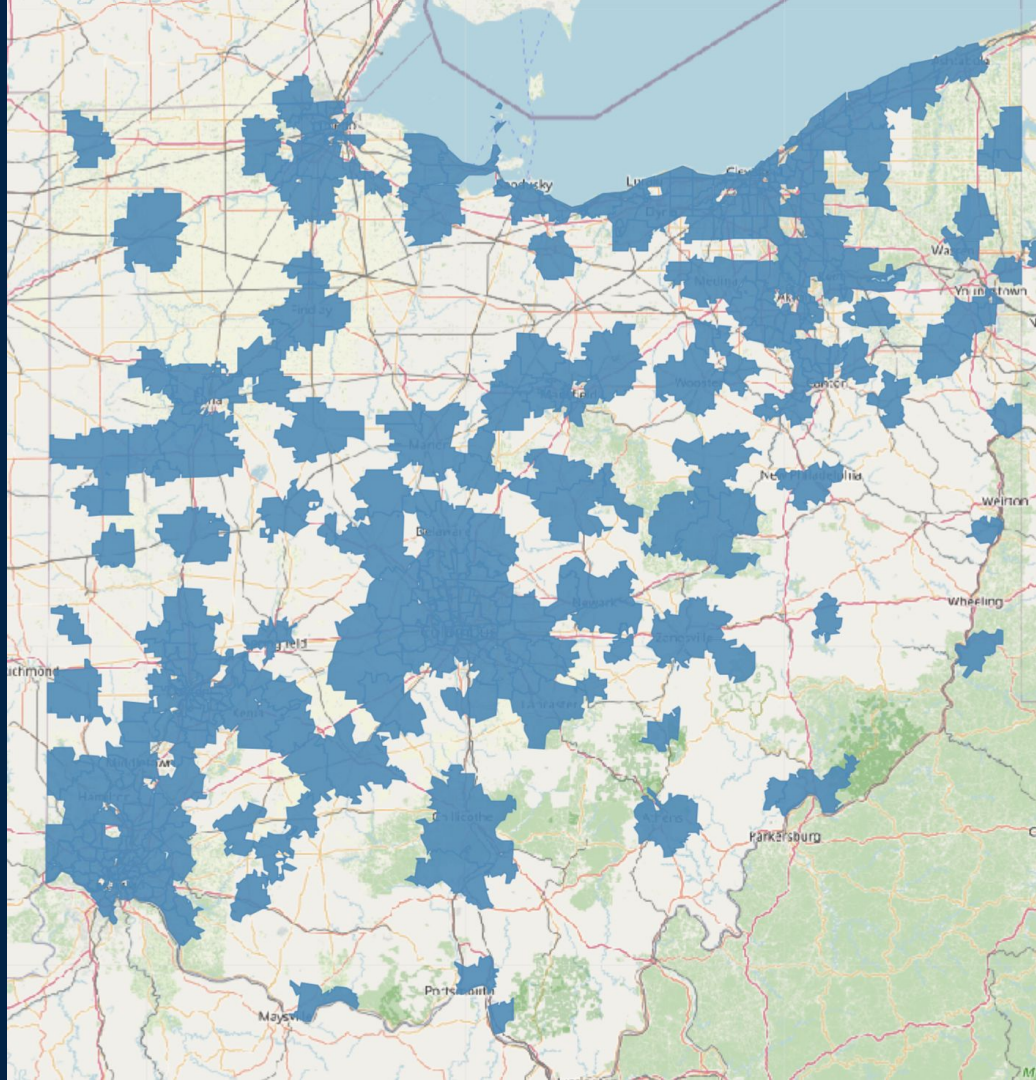


FOR A  CONNECTED MIDWEST

Ohio To Our Core

- Board members across the state
- General members in all 33 senate districts
- Chapters in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, Athens, Cleveland and growing
- Urban, Suburban, Rural

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Mission Statement

All Aboard Ohio advocates for the establishment, improvement, and maintenance of a robust transportation system, including expanded choices, enhanced mobility, and increased access.

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Organizational Values

- Improved Transportation Choices for All
- Statewide Collaboration
- Community Empowerment
- Catalysts for Change

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February 2025

RECAP: ALL THESE GROUPS TOLD OHIO LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT PASSENGER RAIL

February has been incredibly big
for passenger rail in Ohio



@allaboardohio on Instagram

Chief Strategy

AAO will bring together stakeholders and influential coalitions to take advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that presents itself via the Corridor ID program funding.

AAO will act as a liaison in assisting the coalition achieve the vision by uniting leadership to navigate the Corridor ID program.

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How We Do It

Strategy to outcomes
for a modern advocacy
environment

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER PASSENGER RAIL IN OHIO

For A Connected Midwest



AAO NEWS →



News Story
Latest Posts

Public Transit an Official Option as Cincinnati Seeks Proposals for Historic Subway Tunnels

READ MORE →



News Story
Latest Posts

Ohio Sends Phase 1 Corridor ID Rail Reports to FRA as It Nears Completion of Initial Phase

READ MORE →

UPCOMING EVENTS

High Speed Rail Alliance We...
9/26/25, 12:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

AAO Dayton Chapter Meeting
10/6/25, 6:00 PM
Beavercreek

AAO Toledo Chapter Meeting
10/9/25, 6:00 PM
Toledo Main Library

AAO Statewide Meeting
10/11/25, 10:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

Ride the CVSR - Group Outing
10/11/25, 12:30 PM
CVSR Rockside Rd,
Independence

VIEW EVENTS →

ABOUT US

Since 1973, All Aboard Ohio is the primary representative for passenger-rail and Amtrak supporters in Ohio.

LEARN MORE →

TELL US YOU SUPPORT PASSENGER RAIL

Submitting helps us speak on behalf of Ohioans in support of passenger rail

Email *

Zip Code *

First name

Last name

SUBMIT

☒ Subscribe me to your newsletter.

Organizational Structure

- ~4000 Members
- 15 Board Members
- 2 Paid Staff
- ~15 “Super Volunteers”
- 6 Chapters

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Our Staff

John Esterly

Executive Director



Beth Russell

Communications Director



All Aboard Ohio's Board

Board member's represent the majority of Ohioans.

allaboardohio.org/about



All Aboard Ohio's Volunteers

The secret powerhouse of All Aboard Ohio. Dozens of volunteers across the state.



Strategic Planning

- Partnered with OneSource Center
- Defined organizational values, mission, goals
- SMART goals
- Evaluate performance monthly
- Revisit plan annually



Two Spheres

Internal Strategy

- **Statehouse Advocacy**
- **Stakeholder Coalition**
- **Funding**
- **Defined by “the law”**

External Strategy

- **Public Opinion**
- **Pressuring Politicians**
- **Media (social + traditional)**
- **Chapters and Grassroots**
- **Stakeholders too!**

Internal Strategy

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Internal Strategy: Overview

Emphasis on engaging and educating decision makers

Identifying the power brokers - who dispenses the money? Who has the influence?

Building AAO to be THE source for transportation information in Ohio

The “State” of Ohio

- 1 Governor. 33 Senators. 99 Reps.
- Biennial Budgets
- ODOT
- ORDC
- Lukewarm bipartisan support

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Legislative Testimony

Many state and local votes have opportunity for public comment

We share the voices of our members

Encouraging everyone to give comment

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AAO Blog Post

Testimony to the Ohio House Transportation Committee

We urge your support for an amendment to House Bill 54 which would reinstate and fund Ohio's membership in the Midwest Interstate Passenger



Mitch Radakovich

On 2/22/2025 Mitch Radakovich, Board Chair of All Aboard Ohio, spoke on behalf of All Aboard Ohio to voice support for Ohio rejoining the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission in the 2025 Ohio transportation budget. Rejoining MIPRC lays groundwork to interconnect with neighboring state's rail projects. MIPRC's current members are Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

A recording of the testimony can be found here: [Ohio House Transportation Committee - 2-12-2025](#)

Chair Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the Ohio House Transportation Committee - my name is Mitch Radakovich, and I am here today on behalf of All Aboard Ohio - the largest transportation advocacy organization in Ohio with over fifty years of history. We urge your support for an amendment to House Bill 54 which would reinstate and fund Ohio's membership in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC).

MIPRC is the subdivision of the Midwest Council of State Governments that represents the interests of passenger rail. It serves as a vital forum where Midwestern states work together on funding, development, and operation of rail routes—connecting our region and ensuring we have a voice in national rail discussions.

I had the privilege of attending MIPRC's annual meeting last November in St. Paul, Minnesota, where I engaged with legislators, transportation advocates, and industry experts from Illinois, Indiana,

Support Us

We're the largest passenger rail and transit advocate in Ohio. Help us make a difference in the Midwest.

[DONATE →](#)

Government Education

Building relationships with state
and national legislators

Critical to be front of mind -
hundreds of topics hit daily.
We want to be #1

Catering to individual interests

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All Aboard Ohio's Advocacy Book

Fundamental legislator,
government, stakeholder, and
donor touchpoint.

Check it out for yourself:
allaboardohio.org/RunsOnRail

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Local Insiders

- Building relationships with local leaders
- Cities, Counties, MPOs, Businesses
- Foundational for AAO coalition
- Targeting local issues

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All Aboard Ohio's Advocacy Partners



The Ability Center



City of Hamilton
BUTLER COUNTY OHIO



External Strategy

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External Strategy: Overview

No matter what they want you to think, elected officials report to the people.

AAO strives to empower Ohioans to speak up for what they want - nearly 80% support expanding Ohio's rail network!*

We are driving a countercultural social movement, redefining what transportation in Ohio means



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Chapters

Chapters across Ohio:

- Athens
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Dayton
- Ohio State University
- Toledo

Core to grassroots activism

Front line for engaging public

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Local Issues

Blue Line Reroute to CLE Clinic

- Proposal: Reroute the Blue Line from Shaker Square to University Circle and on to Cleveland Clinic
- Green Line continues to serve downtown



Link us
Moving our region. Together.



Redefining Membership

We want every Ohioan to feel ownership for bringing passenger rail to our state.

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Public Engagement Strategy

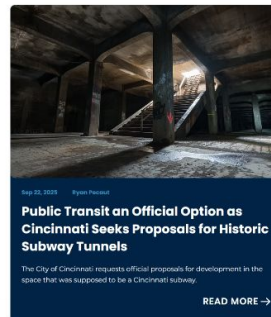
We are the leading source for insights on the state of Ohio passenger rail.

You can find us everywhere: social media, websites, local events, influencers, and more.

We host events, publish stories, and drive conversation



News by All Aboard Ohio



Top Stories

Ohio Sends Phase 1 Corridor ID Rail Reports to FRA as it Nears Completion of Initial Phase



A Glimpse into Columbus' Rail Future: New Station Proposed for Convention Center Site



Why a National Train Report Matters for the Buckeye State



Cleveland's Need to Reboot the Rapid: More Trains, Better Connections, and a Unified Fleet



Survey Results Show Broad Support Among Ohioans for Passenger Rail and Public Transit Investments



Story Stream



Sep 18, 2025 All Aboard Ohio

Ohio Sends Phase 1 Corridor ID Rail Reports to FRA as it Nears Completion of Initial Phase

READ MORE →



Sep 17, 2025 Ryan Patrick

A Glimpse into Columbus' Rail Future: New Station Proposed for Convention Center Site

READ MORE →



Sep 15, 2025 All Aboard Ohio

National Report Highlights Economic Power of State-Supported Passenger Rail

READ MORE →

Topics

Passenger Rail Advocacy News Policy Analysis

AAO in the Media

Ohio Passenger Rail Edges Closer To Reality

Will Amtrak expand to Columbus? Advocates weigh in on Ohio rail plans

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation talks passenger rail in Columbus

Ohio's rail plan moves forward after Rail Development Commission approves new draft rail plan

How do commuter trains fare in Ohio's four-year State Rail Plan?

Columbus eyes train comeback after 46-year rail hiatus, but hurdles remain

Support Us

We're the largest passenger rail and transit advocate in Ohio. Help us make a difference in the

Communications

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An incredible comms team elevates All Aboard Ohio.
(Thank these folks that you aren't looking at slides designed by me right now)



Ryan Pecaut

Lead Communications
Strategist



Ben Paulus

Social Media Specialist



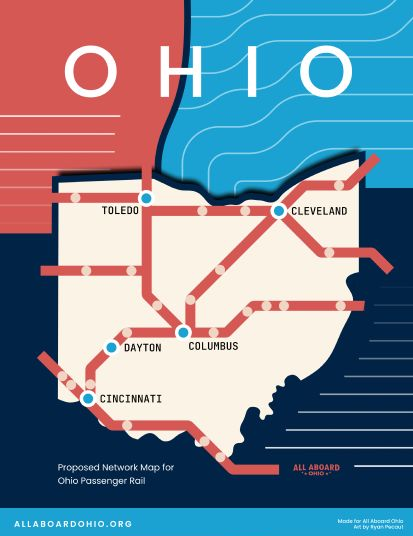
Nathan Halm

Chapter Engagement
Strategist



Sally Fish

Social Media Specialist



Rebranding for Digital

We knew our advocacy had to be digital ready in a matter of months. Gathering membership at the rate we planned needed graphics, logos, and a look that surprised and delighted the public.

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allaboardohio.org/shop

Social Media

We will be everywhere Ohioans are... and that's everywhere! Find us on Reddit, YouTube, Instagram, X, Bluesky, TikTok and more.

Our main tone is informative and educational. Why? Because we're getting Ohioans invested.

We reach 200,000+ people/month through natural social media engagement

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@AllAboardOhio





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Passenger Library

Ohio Sends Phase 1 Corridor ID Rail Reports to FRA as it Nears Completion of Initial Phase



September 18, 2025
All Aboard Ohio

Ohio has provided an update on passenger rail plans. The Ohio Rail Development Commission shared that it sent Phase 1 Corridor ID draft reports to the Federal Railroad Administration

Website

A constantly updating and evolving resource.

- Delightful design for every device
- Our website is the go-to source of truth
- Invites taking the next step: joining our mailing list, attending a meeting, or donating.

Give users an action. Give them a reason to come back.

TELL US YOU SUPPORT PASSENGER RAIL

Submitting helps us speak on behalf of Ohioans in support of passenger rail

Email *

Zip Code *

First name

Last name

SUBMIT

☒ Subscribe me to your newsletter.



SUPPORT AAO

AAO is doing great things and we're counting on you to keep us going

LEARN MORE ↓

DONATE →

allaboardohio.org/donate

WOUB Public Media -

How do commuter trains fare in Ohio's four-year State Rail Plan?

Members of a state commission gave the green light for the latest version of the Ohio Rail Plan, which is mandated by the federal...

3 days ago



10tv.com

Columbus eyes train comeback after 46-year rail hiatus, but hurdles remain

COLUMBUS, Ohio — It's been 46 years since the last passenger train rolled out of Columbus. Amtrak departed the city in 1979, leaving Ohio's...

1 week ago



WOSU Public Media

Ohio continues to plan new Amtrak routes to Columbus despite obstacles

Both Cincinnati and Cleveland have Amtrak stations, but Columbus doesn't. Plans continue to bring passenger rail to Columbus, including the...

Jul 17, 2025



The Columbus Dispatch

Will Ohio expand passenger rail? Where the effort to connect the state stands

Advocates for passenger rail in Ohio say we're not talking enough about it. With the right support, Ohioans could hop on a train from...

2 weeks ago



Spectrum News 1

Former U.S. transportation secretary pushing for passenger rail in central Ohio

The Ohio Rail Development Commission is voting this week on a long-term plan that emphasizes freight but keeps passenger rail on the table.

1 week ago



Columbus Navigator

Ohio Passenger Rail Edges Closer To Reality

Ohio is moving closer to expanding its passenger rail network. The Ohio Rail Development Commission recently sent Phase 1 Corridor ID draft...

6 days ago



Traditional Media

We are available as a resource for media to understand the passenger rail landscape.

Press kits always ready.

PRESS RELEASES

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday, June 10, 2025

All Aboard Ohio Announces 2025 Annual Meeting: A Crucial Moment for Ohio's Rail Future

READ RELEASE →

PRESS RELEASE
Tuesday, June 3, 2025

OHIO SENATE BUDGET ATTACKS PASSENGER RAIL AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

READ RELEASE →

PRESS RELEASE
Friday, April 11, 2025

Ohio House Moves to Propel Passenger Rail Forward with Strategic Funding Boost

READ RELEASE →

PRESS KIT

Photos for use in coverage of All Aboard Ohio or public transit efforts in Ohio along with contact information below.



Proposed Rail Slide



Amtrak Airo New Train and Cleveland RTA New Train With Cleveland Skyline
Airtube Nanodot



Transparent - Multi-color proposed rail routes, Light Background
Red - Proposed Detroit-Toledo-Cleveland
Dark Blue - Proposed Cleveland-Columbus
Light Blue - Proposed Columbus-Cincinnati



A Movement

We're driving conversations, signing up new members daily, regularly in the news, reaching hundreds of thousands on social media, and making a real difference.



allaboardohio.org/shop

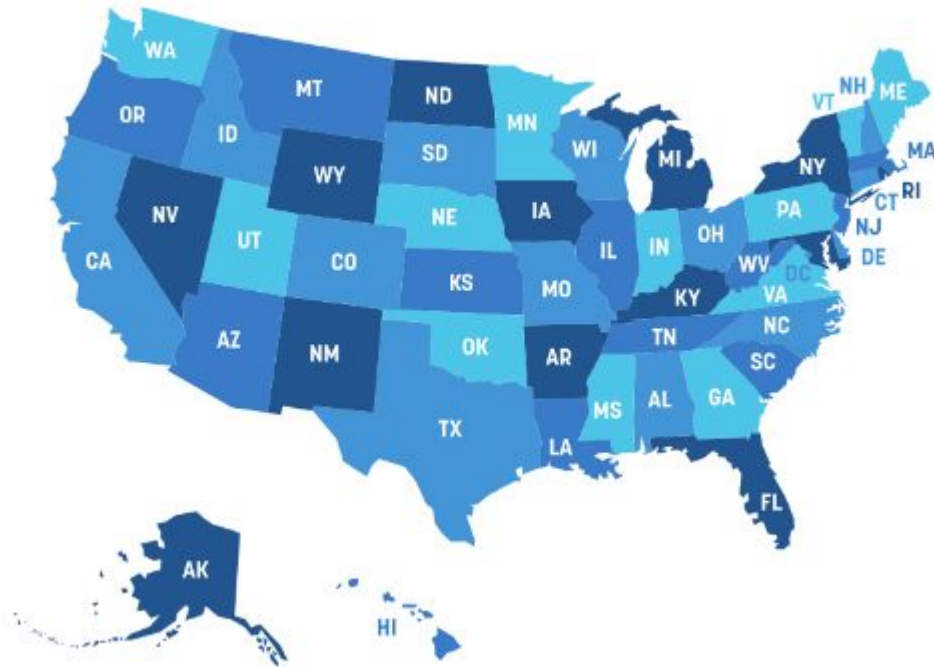
Advocacy Across America

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All Aboard Ohio's Advocacy Partners





Advocacy in Your State

We believe every state can have the same successes as Ohio

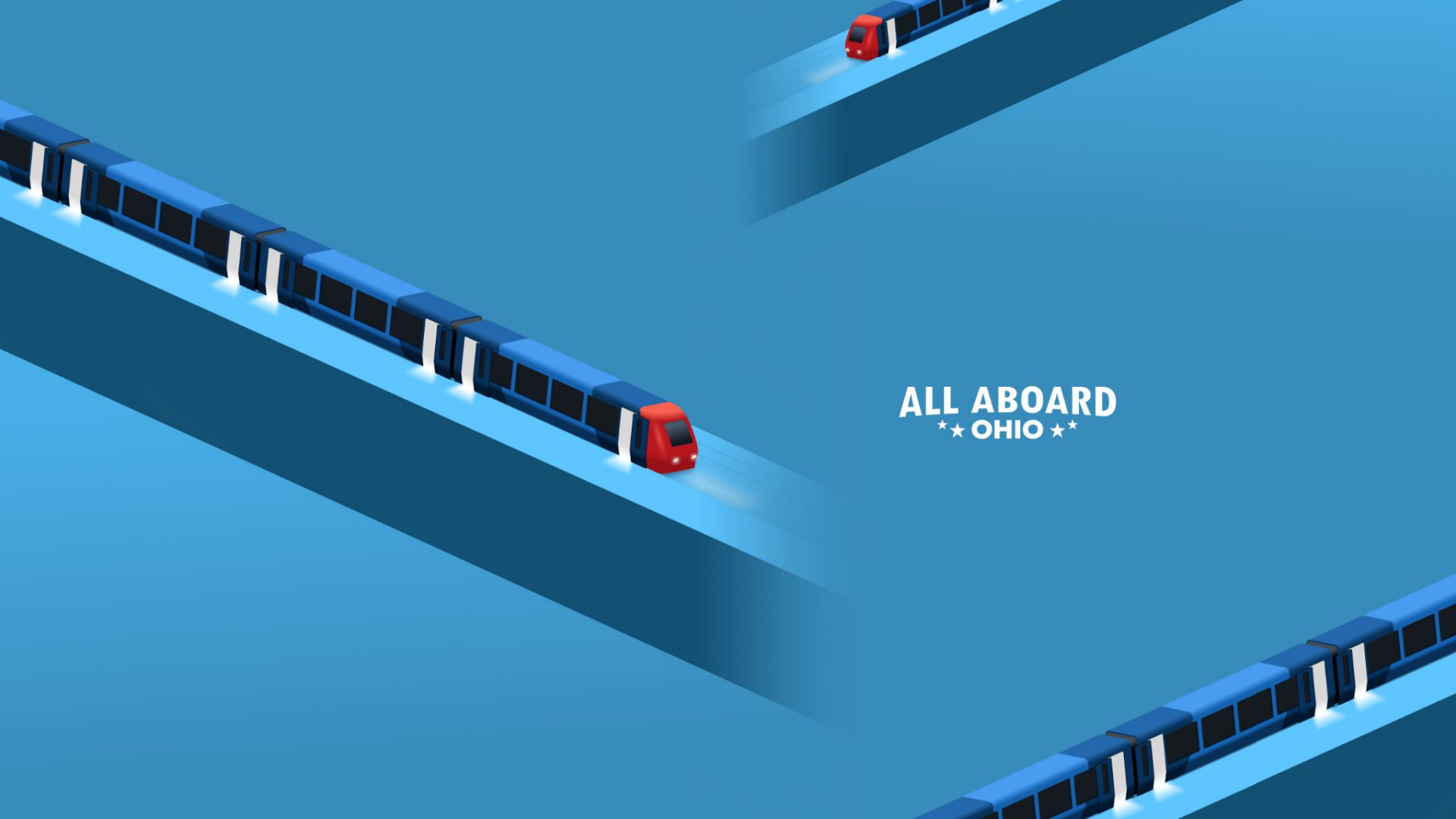
- Passionate people offering time
- Strategy at the core
- Work smarter not harder
- Every type of person

How You Can Help

- Visit allaboardohio.org
- Donate at allaboardohio.org/donate
- Sign our supporters list
- Join our slack
- Follow our social media
- Get involved with our partner in YOUR state!



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