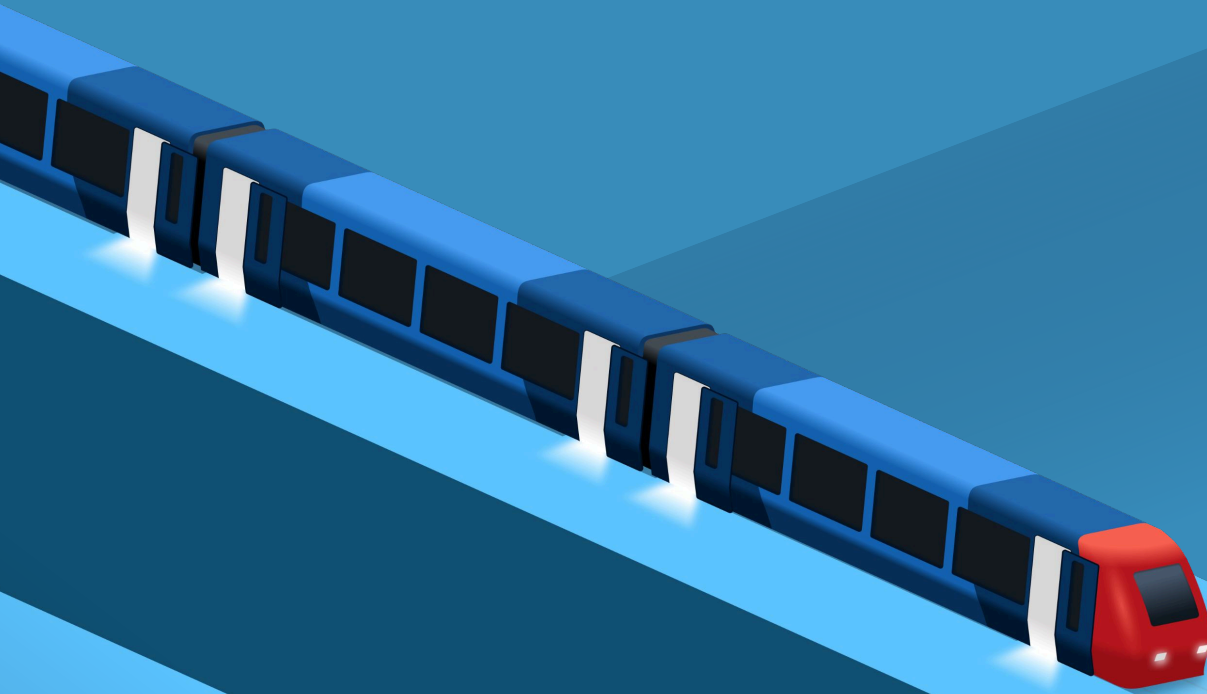


OHIO RUNS ON RAIL

Intercity Passenger Rail to Connect
Our State: Executive Summary



2025

Who We Are

All Aboard Ohio is a non-profit, member-based organization dedicated to promoting improved public transportation and passenger rail service throughout the state.

Founded in 1973 and incorporated as a registered **501c-3** in 1987, All Aboard Ohio has spent more than 50 years advocating, educating, and working towards our goal of a connected Midwest.

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ALL ABOARD
★★ OHIO ★★

IMPROVED PASSENGER RAIL CHOICES FOR ALL

At All Aboard Ohio, we believe that passenger rail is the key to unlocking a more connected and prosperous future for our state. By leveraging the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program, we are dedicated to revitalizing and expanding Ohio's rail network, including vital routes like the 3C&D Line connecting Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Cleveland, as well as the Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit corridor and the Midwest Connect route linking Chicago, Columbus, and Pittsburgh. These initiatives will not only provide high quality travel options for major cities but also small communities across Ohio.

By championing these projects, we aim to enhance mobility, reduce congestion, and foster \$230M in yearly economic return. When federal grants become available to Ohio through the Corridor ID program in mid-2025, they will unlock millions of dollars in federal funding to develop and study passenger rail. We hope Ohio takes part in these grants to ensure that our state remains a leader in innovative and efficient travel, benefiting communities across Ohio and beyond.

Vision:

Multiple Daily Passenger Trains Across 3 New Ohio Routes

Existing Ohio Amtrak routes pass along the borders of our state and connect us to DC, New York, and Chicago. New daily passenger trains will connect us within our state and bring our cities closer together. Ohio citizens will benefit from the connectivity, convenience, and economic boost that daytime passenger rail will bring. Every route is planned to have up to three daily round trips, making work commutes, sports-game connections, business trips, and leisure travel convenient.

Passenger rail will spread economic vitality throughout our state and bring communities together. Investments in passenger rail will also benefit our freight rail network, enhancing the services vital to our manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

The Plan For Passenger Rail Has Started With Federal Funding

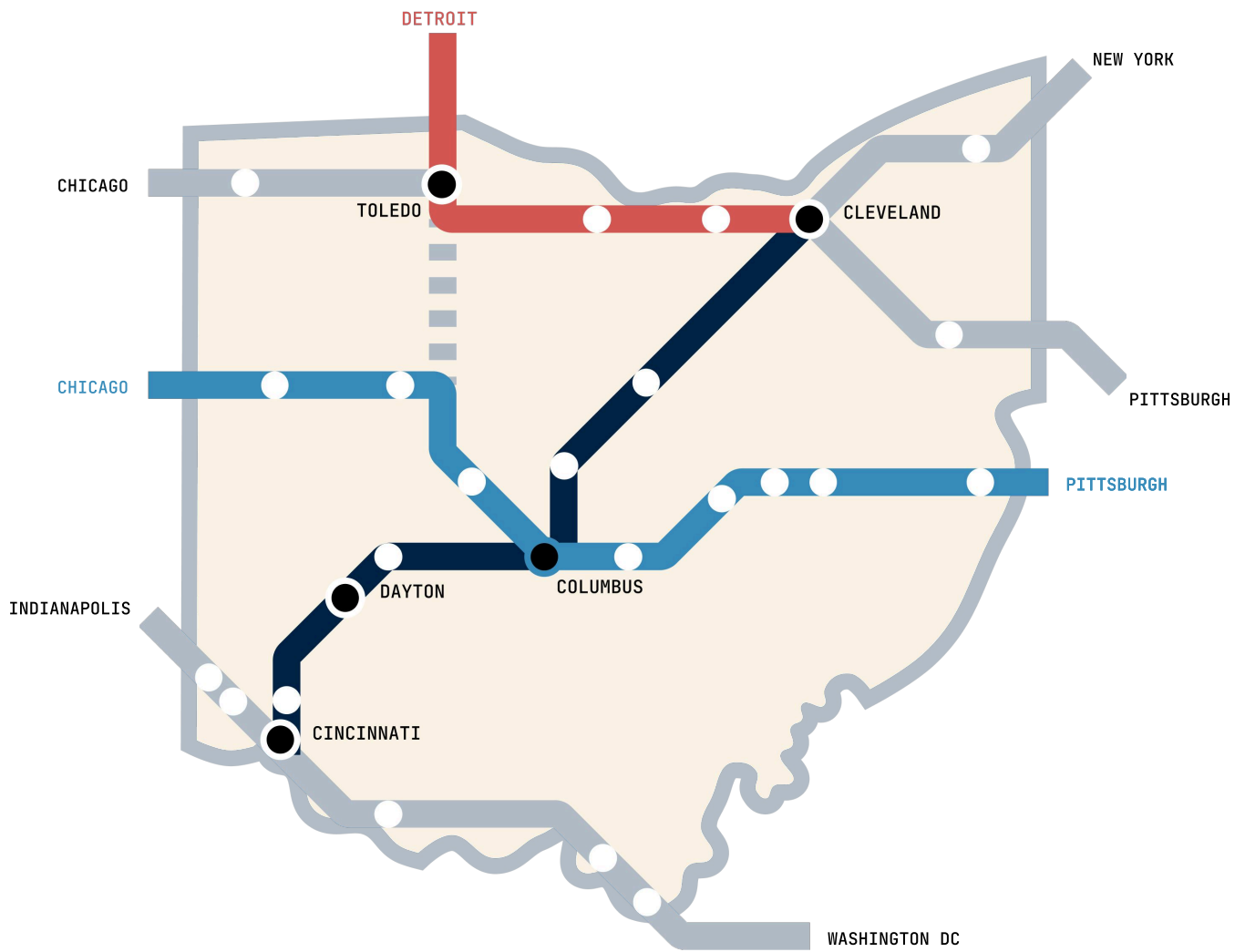
Three Ohio corridors have been accepted into the IJIA Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program, which has already provided initial planning funding of \$500,000 for each project.

By participating in the Corridor ID Program, these projects will unlock millions of dollars in federal funding, with the first "Step 2" federal grants arriving in mid 2025 and requiring a 10% matches from the state. This investment will drive economic development, reduce congestion, and promote sustainable travel options across the region.

Rail Basics:

Corridor Identification and Development Program

Corridor ID is a comprehensive intercity passenger rail planning and development program established as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that will help guide intercity passenger rail development throughout the country and create a pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects ready for implementation.



- ● ● Corridor ID Route
- Existing Amtrak
- ▬▬ Future Expansion

Corridor ID Selected Route

3C&D Corridor

Connects Ohio's major cities and the communities in between: Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Cleveland. 3C&D brings Bengals and Browns fans closer together following along highways 75, 70, and 71 - but no driving needed.

Sponsor: Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC)

Industry Partner: HDR, INC

*Some stops have not yet been defined



Corridor ID Selected Route

Midwest Connect Corridor

A seamless journey through the heart of the Midwest, connecting vibrant cities and charming communities: Chicago, Fort Wayne, Lima, Columbus, and Pittsburgh. The Midwest Connect Corridor brings together the best of the region. Whether you're a business traveler, a student, or an adventurer, this corridor promises a smooth ride between the Midwest's bustling urban centers.

Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)

Industry Partner: HNTB Corporation

*Some stops have not yet been defined



Corridor ID Selected Route

Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit Corridor

Bridging the industrial powerhouses of Ohio and Michigan: Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit. The Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit Corridor is designed to enhance connectivity and provide a sustainable transportation solution for both major cities and the smaller communities along the route.

Sponsor: Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC)

Industry Partner: HDR, INC

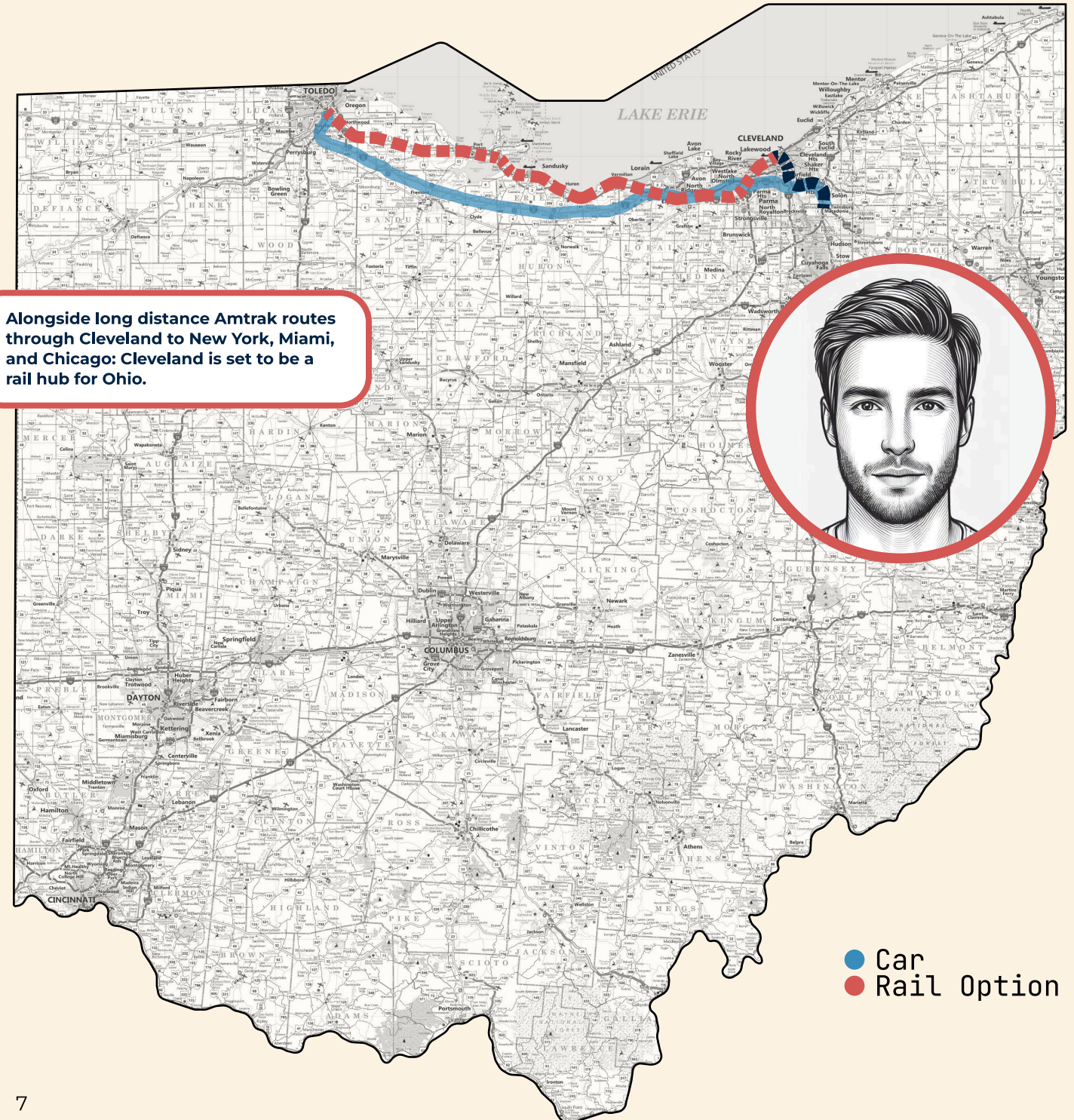
*Some stops have not yet been defined



Real Ohio Resident Quotes:

A Father In Macedonia

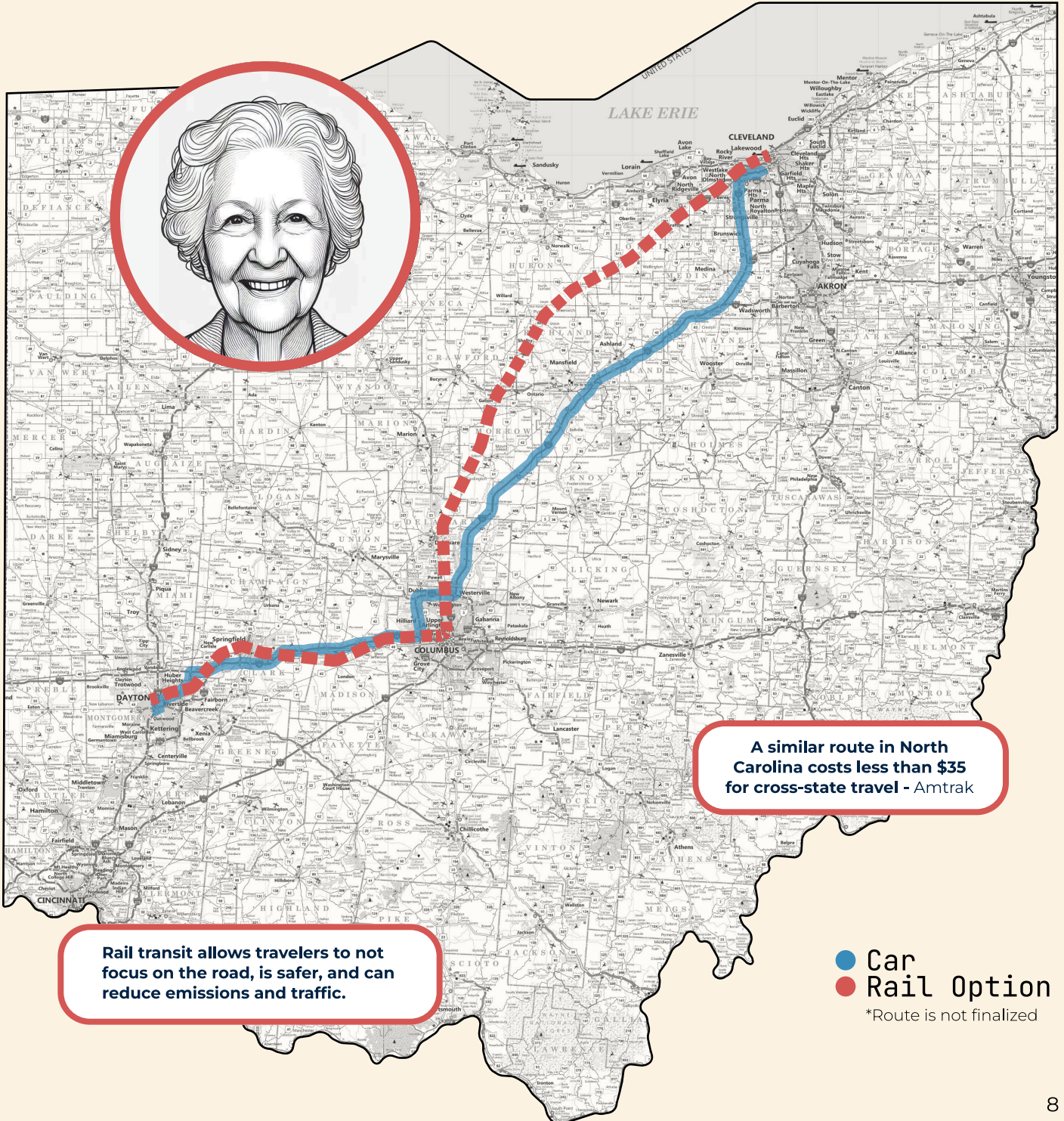
“I’m a new Ohio resident and I would love a safe, fast, and inexpensive option to get between cities without a car. I think better rail connectivity in the midwest will lead to better economic outcomes in the region as well.”



Real Ohio Resident Quotes:

A Grandmother In Dayton

“My grandchildren live in Cleveland, so rail service there would be extremely helpful to me, especially as I age and don't want to drive the 3+ hours. Thank you for the work you are doing to make that possible.”



Real Ohio Resident Quotes:

A Business Owner In Cincinnati

“I don’t plan to take the train but making it easier for people to travel into Cincinnati for sports games and events will benefit my business”

Passenger rail has been shown to spread economic activity that is centered in a single area to broader communities that can access businesses via transit

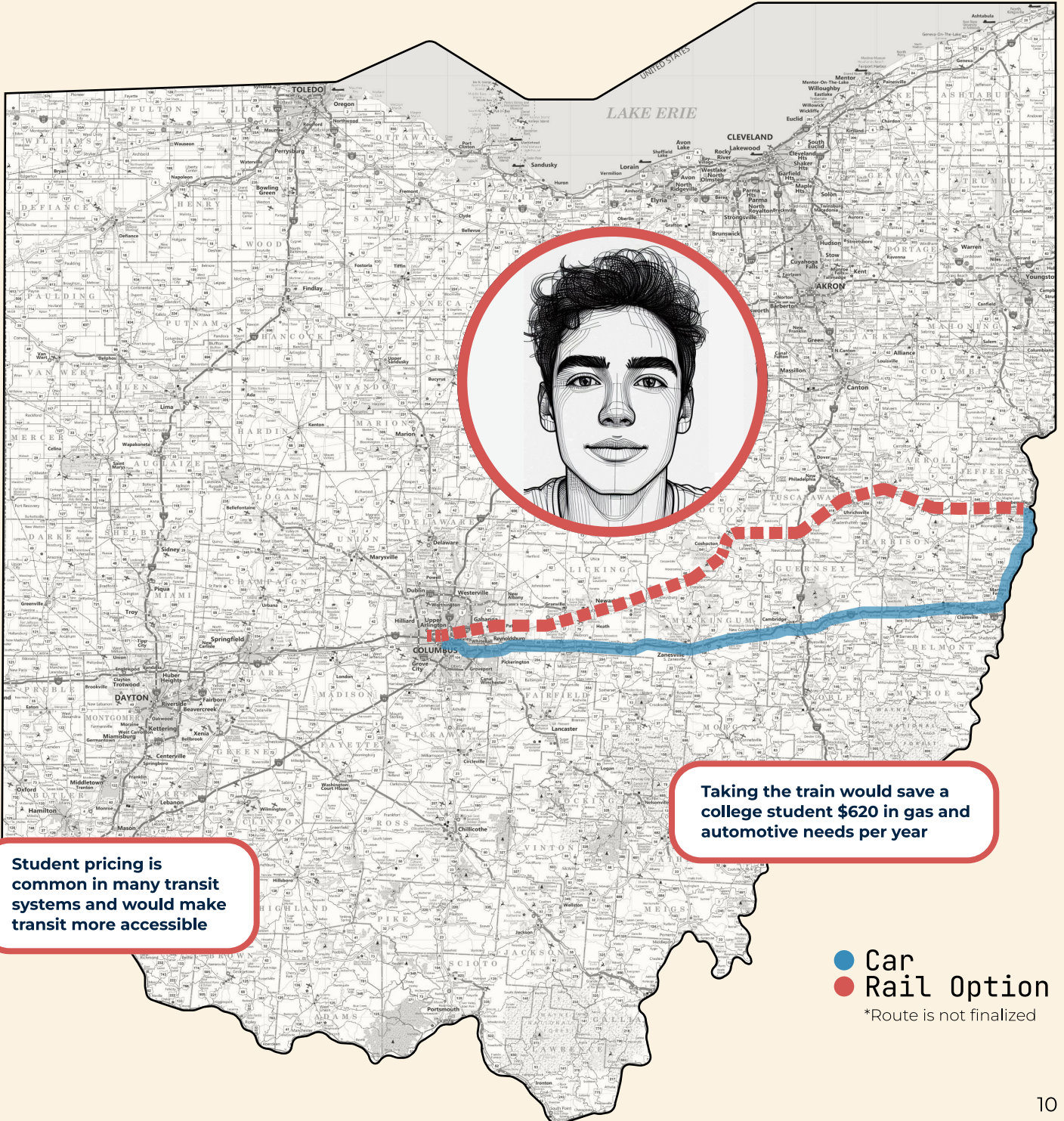


● Rail Option
*Route is not finalized

Real Ohio Resident Quotes:

A College Student In Steubenville

“I want to travel to Columbus on weekends for events and to see friends while I’m in community college, with a train I won’t need to worry about a car or making sure I have a safe ride home.”



Student pricing is common in many transit systems and would make transit more accessible

Taking the train would save a college student \$620 in gas and automotive needs per year

● Car
● Rail Option
*Route is not finalized

Economic Impact:

Ohio Estimates Show Major Economic Impact

Amtrak's Connects US corridor vision estimated an annual economic impact of the 3C&D corridor at \$130M with \$2.6B in economic activity from capital investments and 170-320 ongoing jobs. For the Cleveland Detroit route, this was estimated at nearly \$100M and \$4.5B, respectively. Job creation and retention is a key focus as well. A 2013 Business Case Study for the Chicago to Columbus rail corridor estimated that construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of the rail service were estimated to spur the creation of 12,000 construction jobs and 26,000 permanent jobs over 30 years.

\$230M+

Estimated ongoing annual impact to Ohio's economy from 3C&D and Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit Corridors - Amtrak Connects US

Passenger Rail Has Benefited Economies In Other States

Passenger rail has significantly benefited the economies of states like Missouri and North Carolina who's routes resemble those planned for Ohio: Midwest Connect and 3C&D respectively.

In Missouri, the Missouri River Runner Amtrak service has been a vital contributor to the state's economy. It generates approximately \$208 million in annual economic activity, supports 1,250 jobs, and brings in \$22 million in annual tax revenue. The service also boosts tourism, particularly in small communities like Hermann, where local wineries and businesses benefit from increased visitor spending.

North Carolina's passenger rail system, including the NC By Train service, contributes over \$128 million to the state's economy and supports 430 jobs. The rail network enhances mobility, reduces road congestion, and provides expanded travel options for both urban and rural communities. The state's rail system also supports rail tourism, attracting approximately 410,000 visitors annually.

86%

86% believe in the importance of a strong American passenger rail system - Amtrak

81%

81% of residents welcome passenger rail service locally - Amtrak

1:5

For every dollar into public transit, \$5 returns to the economy - APTA

2.8%

Only 2.8% of ODOTs current budget goes toward public transit

5.1B

Total possible funding for Corridor ID passenger rail programs from the IIJA that states are eligible for

Photo Courtesy of Amtrak



**OUR CHANCE FOR
PASSENGER RAIL
IS NOW**

Next Steps:

How Ohio Can Make Passenger Rail a Reality

1. Rejoin the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC)

MIPRC brings together state leaders from across the region on a bipartisan basis to promote and support existing and new passenger rail development in the Midwest. 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.

2. Complete the Corridor ID Process

The Corridor ID program will make sure Ohio has a clear picture of what expanding passenger rail means for the economy of our state. The **federal government has allocated millions of dollars to help states like Ohio develop and study passenger rail routes** in 2025 and 2026 with minimal commitments from state budgets. By completing Corridor ID we'll get a clear picture at what will be required to introduce passenger rail service, how it will drive economic development, reduce congestion, and promote travel and tourism across the state.

3. Support Funding of the Ohio Rail Development Commission

As Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) mission to represent the interests of passenger rail service in the state of Ohio grows more important, ORDC will provide robust administrative support for the Corridor ID Program. ORDC should be empowered to embrace it's mission of **ensuring effective management of passenger rail projects and driving economic development** that benefits residents and businesses alike.

Ohio should continue essential funding for ORDC and encourage the governor to fill the vacant seat representing the interests of passenger rail on the commission.

An Amtrak Midwest locomotive, number 4606, is pulling several passenger cars through a construction site. The locomotive is blue and white with a red stripe. The passenger cars are silver with blue and red stripes. The construction site is filled with various materials, including concrete blocks, rebar, and construction equipment. In the background, there are several tall buildings and a bridge. The sky is clear and blue.

Photo Courtesy of OHFalcon72

All Aboard Ohio Can Help

All Aboard Ohio is a 501c-3 nonprofit and acts as a resource for communities, legislators, and citizens.

We provide access to expert guidance, fiscal analysis, community engagement programs, and consultation.

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ALLABOARDOHIO.ORG



All Aboard Ohio is a 501c-3 nonprofit with over 50 years of advocacy work, advocating for improved public transportation and passenger rail service in the Midwest.