



Butler County Regional Transit Authority



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



CRTA

DAVIDSON
10180

Table of Contents

30 YEARS OF MOVING OUR COMMUNITY	2
OUR BOARD	2
LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP	3
BY THE NUMBERS	4
OUR IMPACT	6

Butler County Regional Transit Authority

30 YEARS OF MOVING OUR COMMUNITY

BCRTA was proud to celebrate 30 years of service in 2024.

Founded in 1994, BCRTA's mission is to support Butler County's quality of life and economic development through public transportation solutions. BCRTA was created by the Butler County Commissioners as a public agency in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 306 to be governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Butler County Commissioners with the intention of resulting in a coordinated transportation program that better meets the needs of the residents of the county to:

- Provide access to health and human and service programs.
- Foster the economic development and vitality of the county by providing better access to jobs, education, shopping and government services.
- Conserve energy and reduce pollution.
- Become the designated grantee (designated by the Ohio Governor) for federal and state transportation funds within the Cincinnati Urbanized Area of Butler County.
- Serve as a broker of transportation services for various county boards and agencies that wish to contract with the BCRTA to manage their transportation needs.

OUR BOARD



Chris Lawson
President



Perry Gordon
Vice President



Nick Bauer



Yasmen Brown-Jones



David Fehr



Jim Foster



Dannel Shepard



Corey Watt



Kathy Wyenandt

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

As BCRTA celebrated 30 years of service in Butler County, we reflected with tremendous pride on three decades of connecting our community through accessible, reliable public transportation. Since 1994, we have been dedicated to our founding mission: supporting Butler County's quality of life and economic development through innovative transit solutions.

This milestone year was marked by exceptional growth and achievement. We provided more than 820,500 rides in 2024, including 760,824 fixed-route trips and 67,792 demand response rides, connecting residents to jobs, healthcare, education and the services that matter most. We accomplished this growth through expanded service, technology upgrades and award-winning initiatives. These included launching CincyLink, which replaced Metro's 42X with enhanced commuter service across Butler County and Downtown Cincinnati, extending the R3 route to connect with Cincinnati Metro at Forest Park and introducing account-based ticketing through the EZfare app with monthly fare capping.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary with the Summer of Celebration shuttle and transported over 5,000 riders to the BLINK festival, marking our first major Downtown Cincinnati event. Looking ahead, we broke ground on the Chestnut Street Multimodal Station in Oxford, a state-of-the-art transit hub set to open in late 2025.

The achievements of 2024 have strengthened our ability to provide reliable, accessible and sustainable transportation. As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum, expanding our services, engaging our workforce and leveraging partnerships to deliver an exceptional transit experience for all Butler County residents.

To our staff, riders and community: thank you. Together, we have accomplished so much and will continue to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of Butler County.



Chris Lawson
Board President



Matthew Dutkevicz
Executive Director

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

138

EMPLOYEES

RIDERSHIP

67,792 DEMAND RESPONSE (BGO)

760,824 FIXED ROUTES



FLEET MAKE-UP

27 HEAVY DUTY PASSENGER COACHES

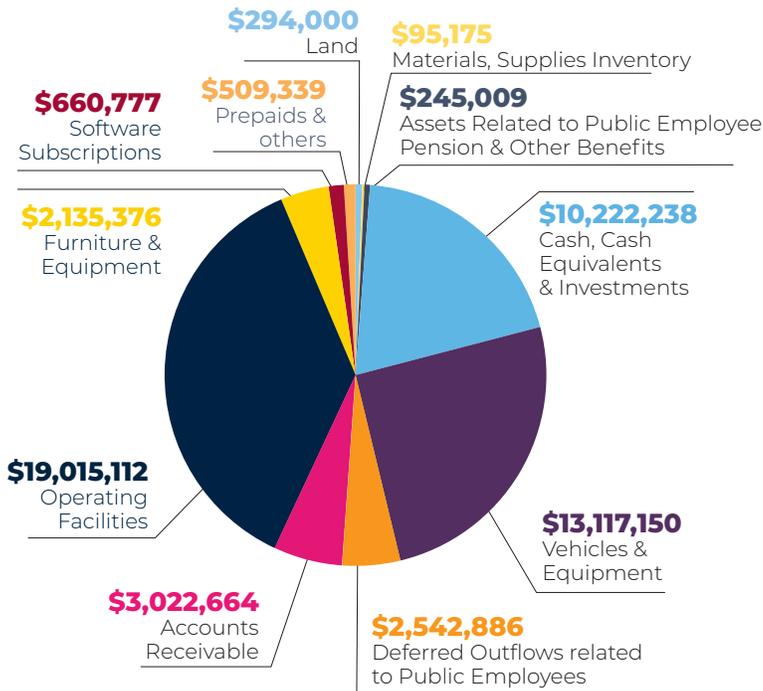
32 LIGHT DUTY PASSENGER COACHES

8 COMMUTER COACHES

7 MOBILITY AID ACCESSIBLE MINIVANS

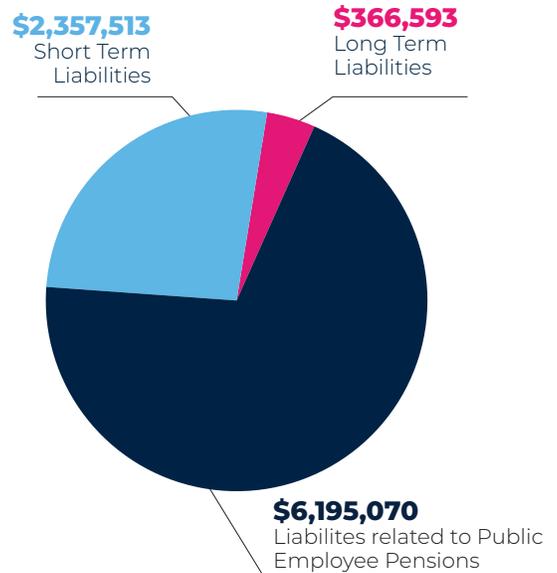
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

ASSETS



\$51,859,726 TOTAL

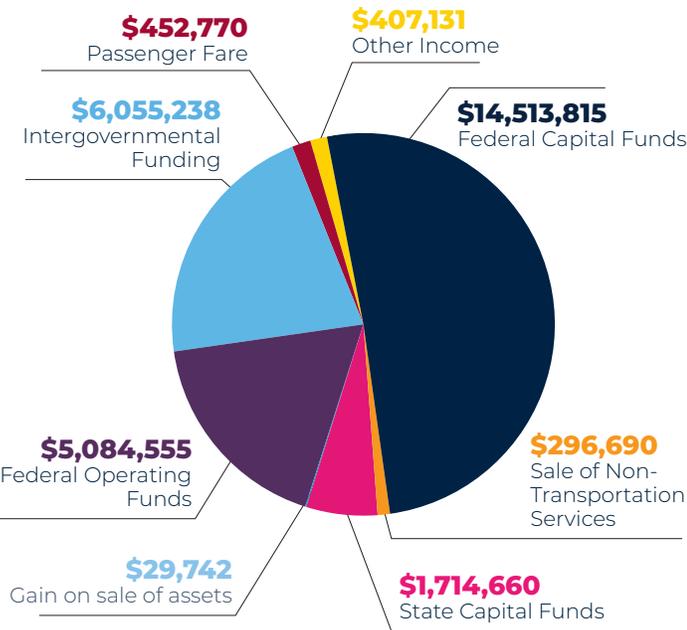
LIABILITIES



\$8,919,176 TOTAL

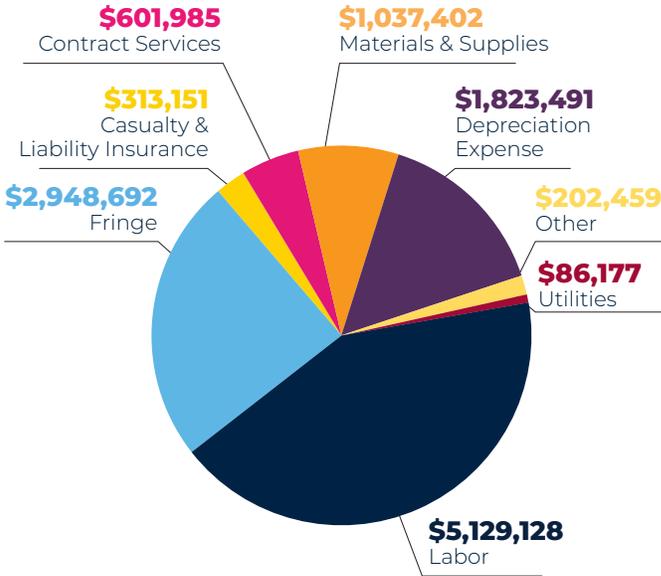
STATEMENT OF REVENUE

REVENUE SOURCES



\$28,554,601 TOTAL

OPERATING EXPENSES



\$12,142,485 TOTAL



\$16,412,116 OPERATING GAIN (LOSS)

\$13,615,408 NET POSITION, END OF 2023

\$30,027,524 NET POSITION, END OF 2024

Our Impact

For 30 years, BCRTA has provided access, opportunity and belonging through public transit. Every ride helps someone get closer to what matters most: education, employment, healthcare, independence and community. In 2024, we provided more than 820,500 rides that moved lives forward.

But our impact extends far beyond individual trips.

CONTRIBUTING TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Public transportation is a powerful economic engine—every dollar invested generates five dollars in economic returns. BCRTA supports approximately 1,375 direct and indirect jobs across Butler County and connects riders to more than 21,000 employment opportunities. More than 43% of all BCRTA on-demand trips (BCo) are taken for work or job training, underscoring the essential role transit plays in helping residents access and maintain employment. When we invest in transit, we invest in our community's prosperity and economic growth.





CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



CHESTNUT STREET STATION GROUNDBREAKING

In partnership with Miami University, BCRTA broke ground Jan. 19 on the Chestnut Street Multimodal Station in Oxford, a transit hub more than 10 years in the making. Located at the former Talawanda High School site, the facility will feature passenger waiting areas, publicly accessible restrooms, bike storage, real-time transit information, customer service kiosks and intermodal transfer bays. The station is designed to seamlessly integrate with a future Amtrak platform and is expected to be operational in late 2025.



30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, BCRTA launched the Summer of Celebration shuttle in partnership with the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, providing free weekend bus service around Hamilton's urban core from June through August 2024. The shuttle ran Fridays from 5 p.m. to midnight and Saturdays from noon to midnight, connecting riders to local businesses along the High and Main streets corridor and around the Black Street bridge. Riders received punch cards for prize drawings to support future public transportation advocacy. The program culminated Aug. 24 during Hamilpalooza, extending the festival beyond Marcum Park to brick-and-mortar stores throughout downtown Hamilton.



STREETSPARK BUS HONORS FIREFIGHTERS

BCRTA honored firefighters with a newly wrapped bus featuring artwork by Jennifer Eickelberger, adapted from the StreetSpark mural Charge the Line. The bus was unveiled on May 22 during the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters biennial conference and later displayed for the public. This third collaboration between BCRTA and StreetSpark celebrated first responders while showcasing Hamilton's public art program.



EXPANDING OUR SERVICE



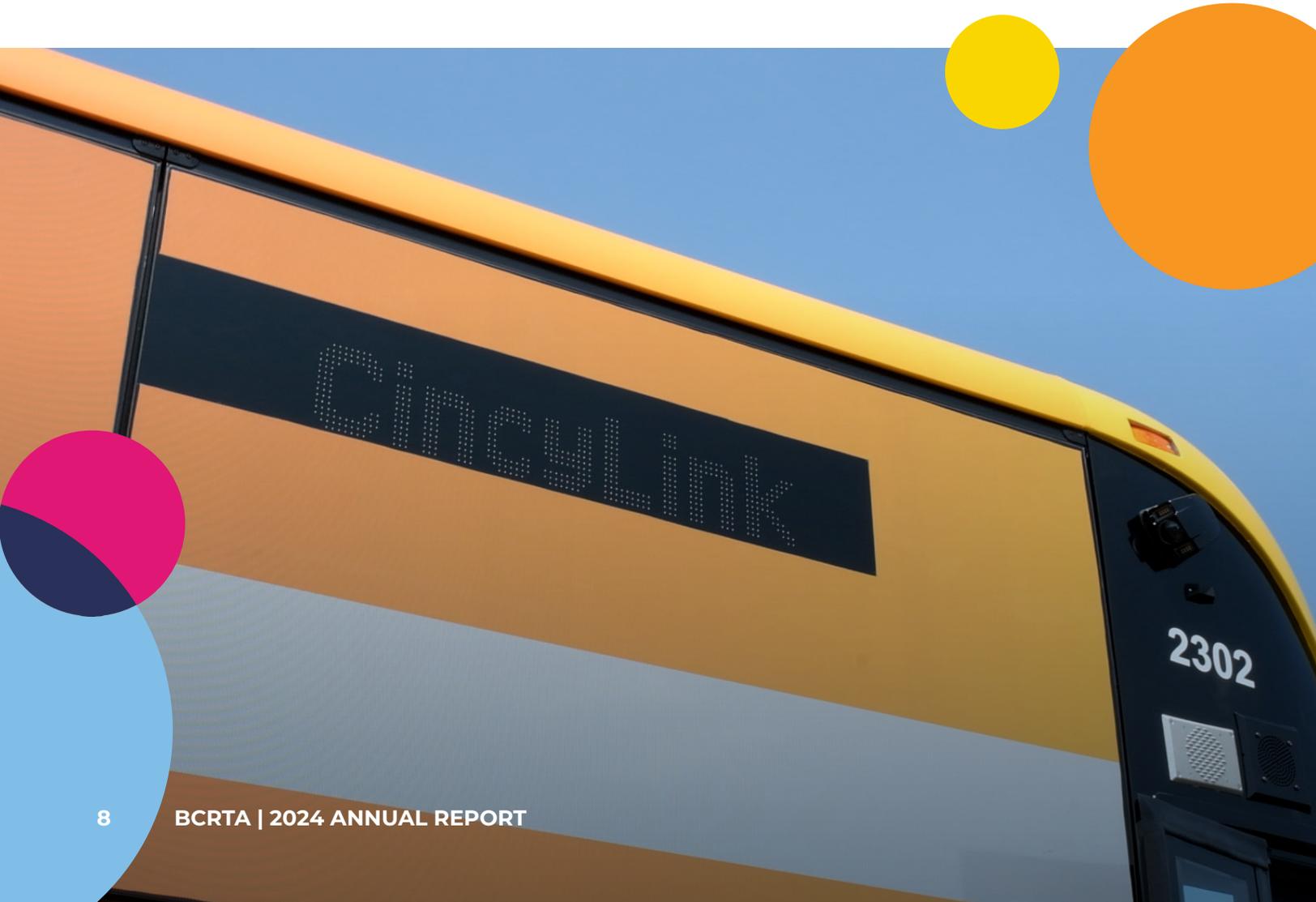
CINCYLINK LAUNCH

BCRTA launched CincyLink on Jan. 2, 2024, a new commuter service replacing Cincinnati Metro's 42X route and connecting Butler County to Cincinnati with expanded stops including Meijer in Middletown, Uptown Cincinnati and the Riverfront Transit Center. The service features four peak morning and four peak afternoon roundtrips on commuter coaches equipped with free Wi-Fi, charging stations at every seat and cashless payment options through the EZfare app.



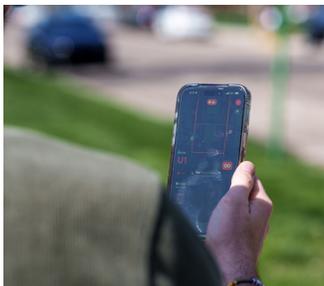
R3 ROUTE EXTENSION

Effective Oct. 28, 2024, BCRTA extended the R3 route from the Hamilton-Oxford Connector to the Oxford-Forest Park Connector, adding new stops along Dixie Highway and a connection to Cincinnati Metro at the Forest Park Park & Ride. The route extension resulted from a year-long planning study that gathered extensive rider feedback, with respondents requesting more convenient connections along Dixie Highway and additional Cincinnati Metro transit options. R3 riders experienced slight schedule adjustments and increased service frequency to meet community needs.





LEADING OUR INDUSTRY



ACCOUNT-BASED TICKETING SYSTEM LAUNCH

BCRTA launched its Account-Based Ticketing system via the EZfare app on April 2, 2024, becoming the third Ohio transit agency to adopt the platform and bringing enhanced convenience to CincyLink riders. The system allows passengers to scan the EZfare app or tap an EZfare Smart Card when boarding, eliminating the need to purchase tickets in advance. A key feature includes monthly fare capping, which automatically transitions riders to a monthly pass once they reach the equivalent cost through pay-as-you-go fares, ensuring fare equity and streamlining the commuter experience.



CINCYLINK TO BLINK RIDERSHIP: 5,000+ RIDERS

BCRTA partnered with Metro, TANK and BLINK to provide free CincyLink shuttle service from Butler County to downtown Cincinnati during the BLINK festival, Oct. 17-20, 2024. CincyLink offered hourly direct service from 5:30-11 p.m. each night from park and ride locations at Meijer in Middletown and Meijer in West Chester to the Riverfront Transit Center. This marked BCRTA's first participation in a major downtown Cincinnati event, serving as a key indicator of the agency's ability to offer special transportation services for future regional events.



CINCYLINK WINS ADDY AWARD

A Bronze ADDY was awarded to BCRTA at the American Advertisement Awards on March 26, 2024, for its CincyLink branding developed in collaboration with Affirm Agency. The award-winning project featured a vibrant bus design with bold orange and yellow colors, designed to captivate public interest and enhance visibility for the new commuter service between Butler County and Cincinnati. The recognition underscores BCRTA's commitment to delivering innovative transportation solutions and elevating the commuter experience for Butler County residents.





Butler County Regional Transit Authority

Get Moving

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to learn more**

  **@ButlerCountyRTA**