



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

Economic Impact Analysis

Cleveland State University's *Center for Economic Development* (The Center) was contracted by RTA to quantify the economic benefit RTA generates annually for Cuyahoga County. In addition to the direct economic impact resulting from RTA employees residing in the County, The Center also measured the economic effect of RTA's annual in-county expenditures as well as the economic benefit of purchases made by RTA and supplier employees.

Transit Impact on Cuyahoga County Property Values: **\$2.2 Billion**

- Property values increased by **3.5%** within a decade for previously unserved 429 Census Tracts which received some transit service
- The derived property value increase attributed to transit access is **\$2.2** billion in 2019 dollars
- 2010 median-based estimate of property value for those 429 Census Tracts is **\$65.7** billion in 2019 dollars

RTA's Economic Impact to Cuyahoga County: **\$322 Million Annually**

2017 Economic Impact of GCRTA on Cuyahoga County

	 Output	 Employment	 Earnings
Operations	\$292 Million	2,837	\$200 Million
Capital Investments	\$30 Million	140	\$8 Million
Total	\$322 Million	2,977	\$208 Million

RTA's direct spending in Cuyahoga County accounts for \$182 million of the total economic return to the County. An additional \$35 million is a result of local businesses selling goods and services to RTA, while the final \$104.6 million is a function of goods and services purchased by RTA and supplier employees residing in the County.

In 2017, RTA created and sustained nearly 3,000 jobs in Cuyahoga County.

- 1,800 – RTA employees resided in the County
- 1,177 – Jobs created from RTA-purchased goods and services in the County and jobs created from goods and services purchased by RTA and supplier employees.

Transit Impact on Employment: \$485.8 Million



- An estimated \$485.8 million of annual earnings is brought home by those who depend on GCRTA transit services to get to work.
- Improved transit access in urban neighborhoods results in:
 - A drop in poverty by nearly 12.3%
 - Employment growth of more than 3%
- “Choice” transit riders also share in transit generated benefits.
 - Collectively “choice riders” saved more than \$51 million in 2017 by riding transit rather than driving.
- And all residents share in these collective benefits:
 - Less congestion on roads results in enhanced public safety and less stress on an aging infrastructure.
 - Cleaner air. Fewer cars on roads results in fewer pollutants released in the atmosphere.
 - Fewer cars. Reduces the need for more parking, allowing for better land use in urban areas.
 - Millennials have an affinity to taking transit. A robust transit system benefits employers in attracting a young, talented workforce.

Community Loss Without Transit: \$448.7 Million

Wage Loss	Loss to Healthcare Industry	Increased School District Costs
\$320 Million	\$103 Million	\$28.7 Million

- Daily, more than 3,000 Greater Clevelanders are dependent on RTA to access healthcare services. Without RTA, appointments would be cancelled or missed, resulting in a \$103 million loss to the healthcare industry in efficiency and missed appointments.
- Twenty-five percent of RTA riders are students. And three out of four students depend on RTA service to get to school. The Cleveland Municipal School District alone saves \$28.7 million annually by using RTA services instead of CMSD school buses.
- Nearly 25,000 riders a day, are dependent on RTA to get to work
 - Dependent work-trip commuters earn \$485 million annually.
 - Elimination of RTA service puts at risk 66% of these job holders.
 - Not only would approximately \$320 million in wages be lost, but unemployment cost would grow by nearly \$6 million and result in a further strain on the region’s social services network.