

**Link Us**  
Moving our region. Together.

# Central Ohio's Comprehensive Growth and Mobility Plan

Bexley City Council – April 23, 2024

# INTRODUCTIONS

## LINKUS TEAM

- **Kelsey Ellingsen – Local Government Affairs Director, COTA**
- **Kimberly Sharp – Senior Director of Development, COTA**
- **Elliott Lewis – Senior Planner, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**



# LINKUS OVERVIEW



# WHAT IS AND WHY LINKUS?

LinkUS is Central Ohio's comprehensive transportation initiative to help address growth, affordability and opportunity gaps in our community.

## GROWTH



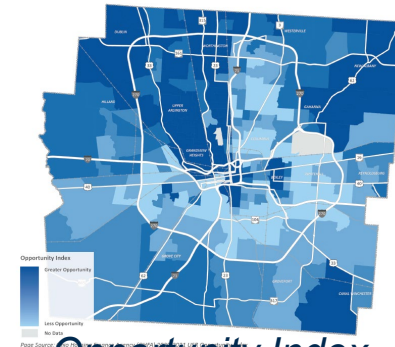
Nearly one million new neighbors expected by 2050

## AFFORDABILITY



\$12,700/year spent on transportation in the average Central Ohio household. Median home sale price up 45% since 2020.

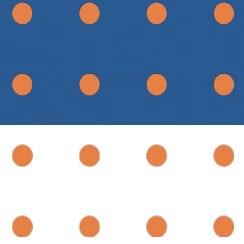
## OPPORTUNITY GAPS



*Opportunity Index*  
(lighter = less opportunity)

40,000 Franklin County households lack access to a personal vehicle. A third of residents live in areas of low opportunity.

# HOW?



**FASTER, MORE  
RELIABLE PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION**

**SAFER AND EXPANDED BIKE  
AND PEDESTRIAN PATHS**

**WALKABLE  
COMMUNITIES, MORE  
AFFORDABLE ACCESS  
TO WORK, HOME, AND  
ENTERTAINMENT**

# WHO WILL BENEFIT?

## The entire COTA service area, including:

### Franklin County and Portions of:

Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, and Union Counties

### 17 Cities

Bexley, Canal Winchester, Columbus, Dublin, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Grove City, Groveport, Hilliard, New Albany, Obetz, Pickerington, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville, Whitehall, and Worthington

### 9 Villages

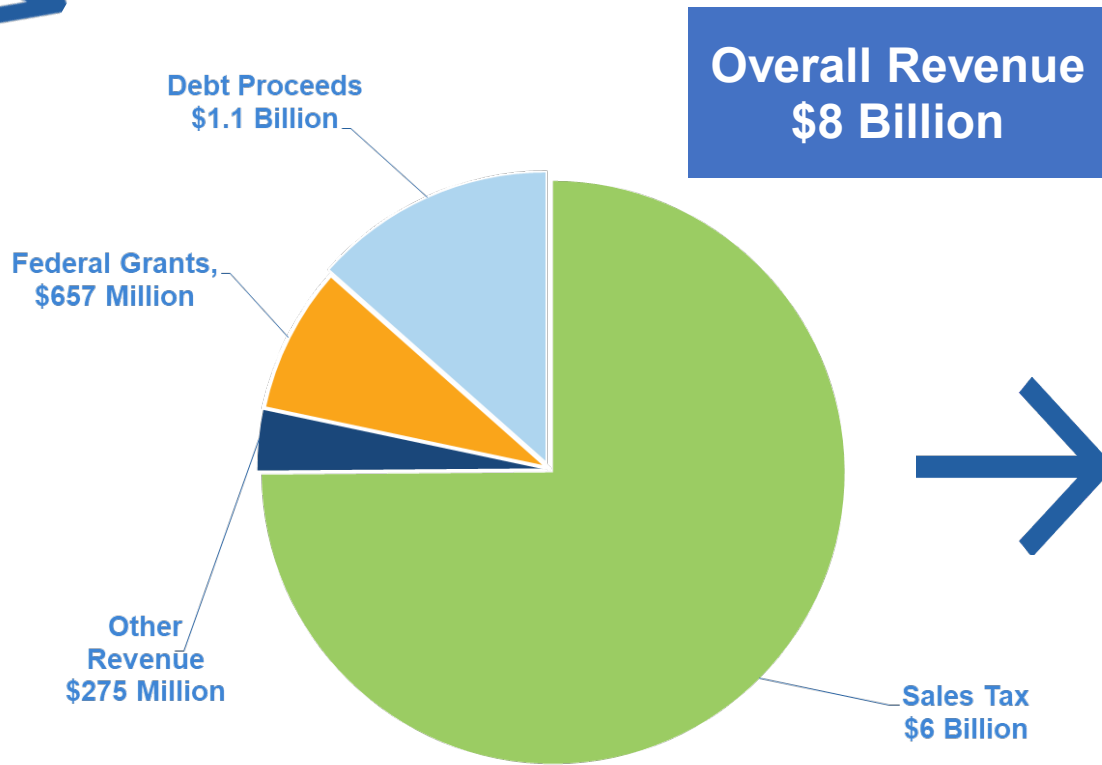
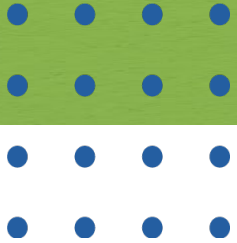
Brice, Harrisburg, Lockbourne, Marble Cliff, Minerva Park, Riverlea, Urbancrest, and Valleyview

### 17 Townships

Blendon, Brown, Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Marion, Mifflin, Norwich, Perry, Plain, Pleasant, Prairie, Sharon, Truro, and Washington



# HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS



Assumes adding a new 0.5% COTA sales tax to the existing 0.5% COTA sales tax (likely fall of 2024)

= 1% permanent COTA sales tax

Consistent with investment levels in other regions

Leveraged to secure at least \$650 million in federal funding

~\$8 billion by 2050 and ~\$2 billion in new revenue by 2030





# BUS RAPID TRANSIT

IS HIGH CAPACITY WITH  
PREMIUM FEATURES  
AND AMENITIES



Level Boarding and  
Multi-Door Boarding



Off-Board  
Fare Collection



Dedicated  
Right-of-Way



Signal Priority and  
Intersection Control



Modern and Branded  
Vehicle Designs



Frequency  
and Capacity



Enhanced Stations

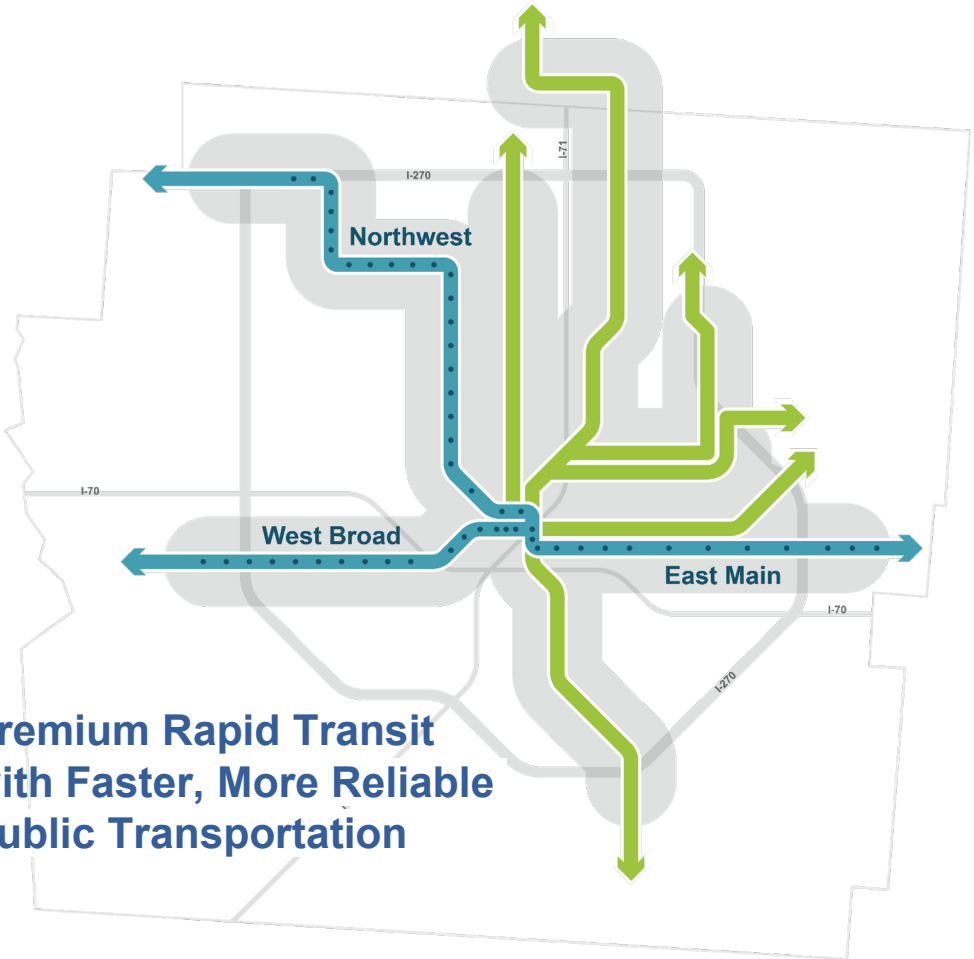


Clean Energy

To learn more about the key elements of premium transit, go to [www.linkuscolumbus.com](http://www.linkuscolumbus.com) and check out the LinkUS Framework strategy.



# HOW LINKUS TRANSFORMS US



**5**  
New Rapid  
Transit Corridors

**&**

**45%**  
More Service Hours





# INCREASING ON-DEMAND TRANSIT OPTIONS IN CENTRAL OHIO

## LinkUS' recommended improvements include:

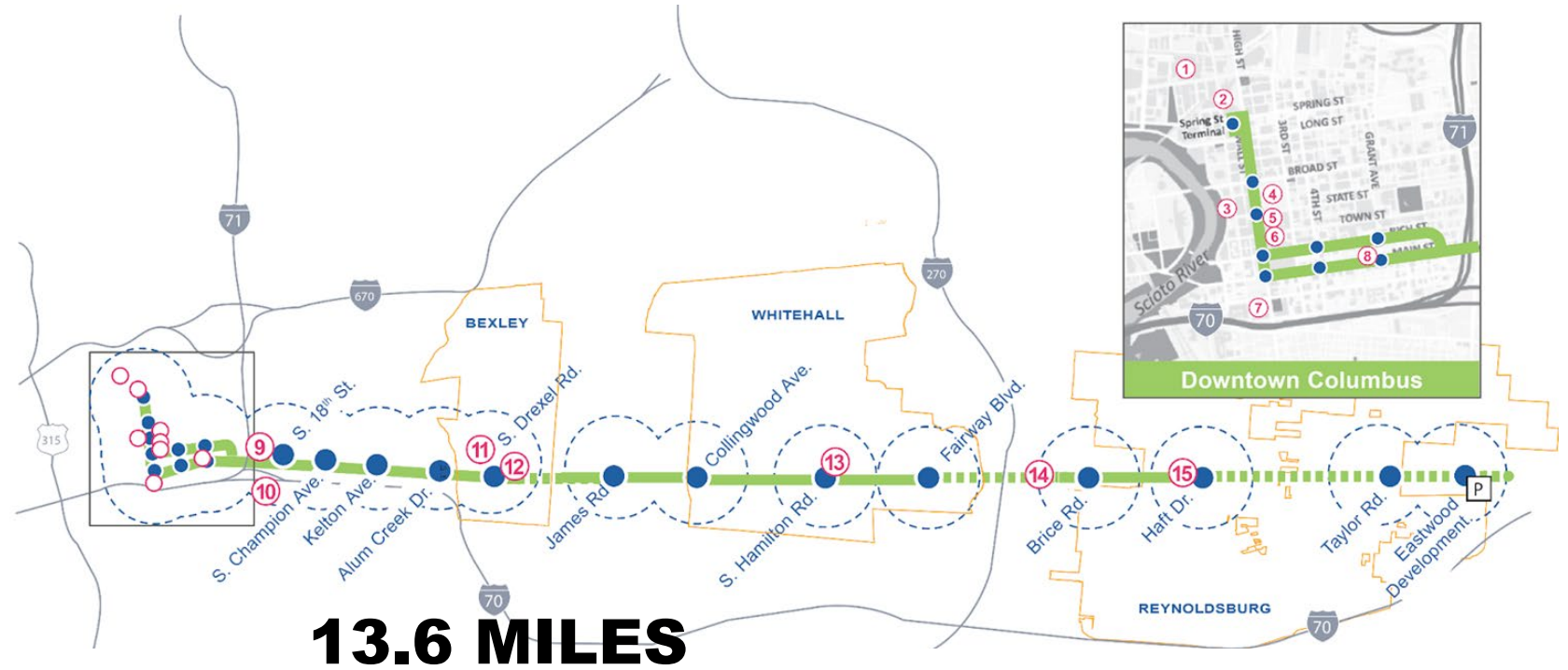
- Up to 8 new COTA//Plus zones by 2050
- Expansion of the Mainstream and Mainstream On-Demand services
- Additional vehicles to help with increased service
- COTA//Plus garages
- Other micro-mobility and Mainstream enhancements



# EAST MAIN CORRIDOR

## ACTIVITY CENTERS / TRIP GENERATORS

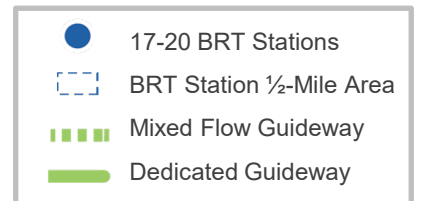
1. Nationwide Arena
2. Three Nationwide Plaza
3. Scioto Mile
4. Ohio Statehouse
5. Ohio Theatre
6. Columbus Commons
7. Franklin County Courthouse
8. Franklin University
9. Columbus Public Health
10. Nationwide Children's Hospital
11. Downtown Bexley
12. Capital University
13. Great Eastern Shopping Center
14. Main 270 Shopping Center
15. Reynoldsburg Shopping Center



**13.6 MILES**

**\$329 MILLION**

**64% OF CORRIDOR IS LOCATED IN AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY**



# STATION IN CONTEXT



# MICRO-MOBILITY HUB

PLAZA TYPE



-  Bike Rack
-  E-Bike Charging Station
-  Bike Share Station
-  Scooter Corral / Charging
-  Bike Repair Station



# **TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE**





# TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE



Safer and  
Expanded Bike and  
Pedestrian Paths



**500+**  
Miles

**~\$250**  
Million

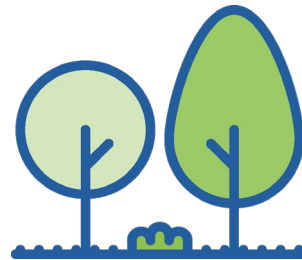
Complete Street Roadway  
Investments



Sidewalks



Bikeways



Trails



# TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

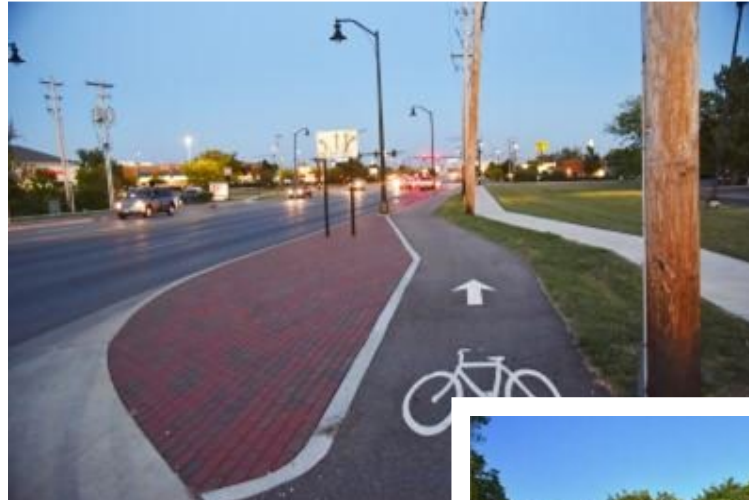
**27.5%**

Dedicated of the New 0.5% Sales  
Tax Collection



**~\$60M**

Estimated Annual Collections  
Dedicated to Transit Supportive  
Infrastructure

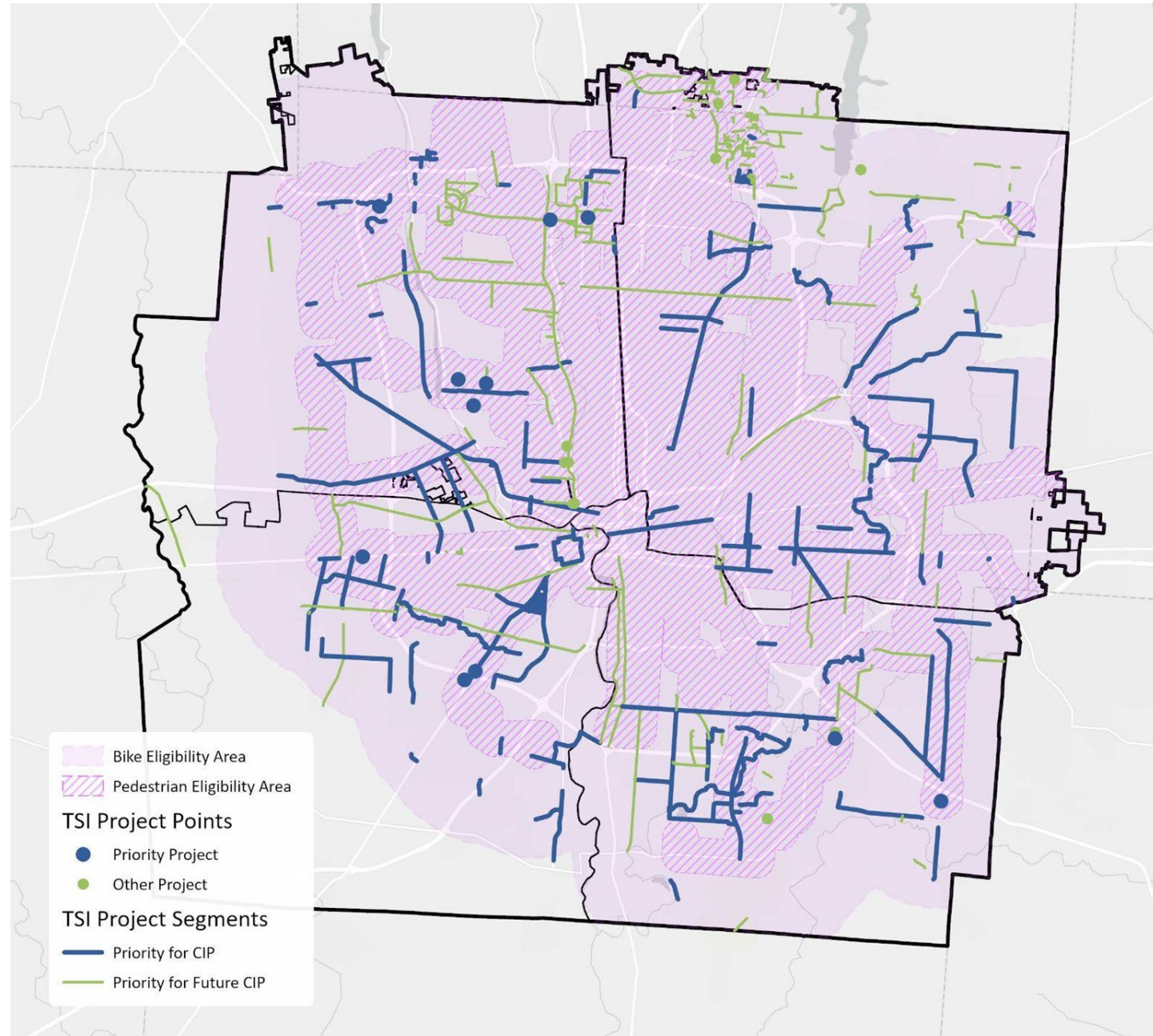






# TSI REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- 330+ projects under consideration
- 130+ identified as local priorities
- 360+ miles of trails, sidewalks, bike paths
- \$500-700 M in total estimated project costs
- Collaborating to complete feasibility studies and cost estimates for conceptual projects





**EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED  
DEVELOPMENT (ETOD)**

# EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (ETOD) STRATEGY

- **Preserves** existing housing, jobs, businesses and community resources.
- **Creates** new housing, business investments, jobs and amenities.
- **Ensures** affordable housing and access to opportunities, services and amenities for all residents.

**Example:**

Chicago, Illinois | **CTA Green Line**



**Chicago's ETOD  
Policy Plan**





# TOD CASE STUDY

## CLEVELAND HEALTHLINE



**4.5**

Number of miles on  
dedicated transit guideway

**\$200M**

Total Cost

**\$25M**

Amount of ODOT  
Funding

**\$9.5B+**

Amount of economic  
development—\$190 gained for  
every dollar spent on creating  
and launching the service

**8,800+**

Number of residential  
units built along  
Healthline

**13,000**

Number of jobs created  
along the Healthline





# TOD IN ACTION: The Cleveland Healthline



2016



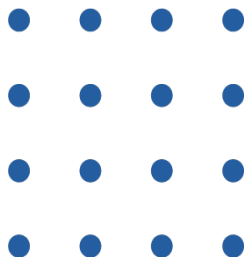
2022



# ACHIEVING DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Creating great places
- Increasing equitable access to opportunity
- Accommodating future growth in productive ways
- Improving economic vibrancy
- Shaping the future and reimagining the region for shared prosperity

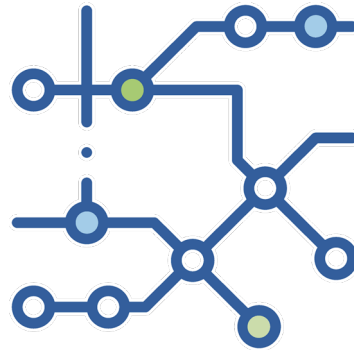




# WHAT LINKUS WILL DO



**HISTORIC  
TRANSPORTATION  
INVESTMENTS**



**FOCUSED GROWTH -  
AFFORDABLE, WALKABLE,  
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**



**INCREASED  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR ALL**

# CENTRAL OHIO ON **LINKUS**



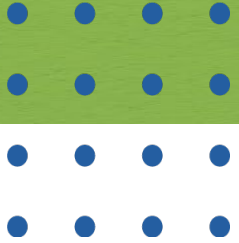



# NEXT STEPS



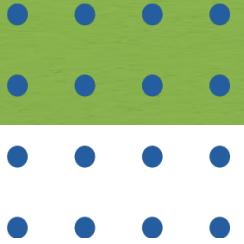
- Continue stakeholder engagement
- Continue corridor design and federal grants process
- Determine future corridors and near-term non-corridor transit improvements (Spring)
- Create initial Transit-Supportive Infrastructure Capital Improvement Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (Summer)
- Create Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Action Plan (Summer)
- Place potential COTA levy on the ballot (Nov.)

# OUR REQUESTS



- 
- Continue participating in the TSI Committee process to develop the capital improvement program
  - Help your residents understand what's in it for them (a fact sheet is being customized for your community now)
  - Encourage your residents to sign up for the LinkUS e-newsletter and follow us
  - Invite us to provide presentations, table at your community events and brief your organizations

# STAY CONNECTED



- All LinkUS Videos
- Downloadable Resources
- Media Coverage
- Ways to stay connected with LinkUS updates or get in contact with LinkUS team

