

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2016

Expressing the Support of Worthington City Council for the Central Ohio Transit Authority's 2016 Tax Levy.

WHEREAS, ten years ago, voters approved Central Ohio Transit Authority's (COTA) request for a one-quarter percent sales tax to fund its plans to meet the transit needs of taxpayers and residents, continuing and expanding services to the people of Central Ohio that it has been providing since 1974; and,

WHEREAS, since that vote of approval, COTA has used these funds to meet key community needs; and,

WHEREAS, since the last levy was approved, COTA has expanded service by 80% so that Central Ohioans have greater access to education, jobs and medical services; and,

WHEREAS, since the last levy was approved, COTA has increased ridership to more than 19 million passengers in both 2014 and 2015 while providing 68 local, express and crosstown lines; and,

WHEREAS, since the last levy was approved, COTA has modernized its bus fleet by switching one-third of its buses to cleaner natural gas vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, since the last levy was approved, COTA has applied new technology such as real-time tracking to increase service convenience and reliability so bus users know when their bus will arrive; and,

WHEREAS, COTA operates 234 buses and covers more than 500 square miles of routes for persons who depend on public transportation or who choose to use public transportation as an alternative to driving; and,

WHEREAS, COTA's services include more than 3,000 rides per week to persons with disabilities, and every bus is equipped with two bike racks for persons who connect from point to point using a bicycle that they can load on a COTA bus; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is in the best interest of the City of Worthington to renew the one-quarter percent sales tax to fund the operational needs of COTA and continue the services that are essential to the quality of life and economic prosperity of our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2016

SECTION 1. That the Council of the City of Worthington, Ohio does hereby support the renewal of the COTA levy and encourage Worthington residents to support this issue on the November 2016 General Election ballot.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk be instructed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Central Ohio Transit Authority and to record the same in full in the appropriate record book.

Adopted October 10, 2016

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
President of Council

Attest:

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council