

Ending the Transit Death Spiral

A Positive Vision for Public Transit in Cleveland



Clevelanders for Public Transit has published a new report on solving the problems with public transit in Greater Cleveland. Read the full report at clefortransit.org/deathspiral

Key takeaways from Ending the Transit Death Spiral:

- 1. Higher fares + service cuts = fewer riders – in a vicious circle**
Between 2006 and 2019, GCRTA fares doubled, service was cut 25%, and ridership dropped in half. This feedback loop is the *transit death spiral*.
- 2. Cleveland needs great public transit to succeed in the 21st century.**
We need a transportation system that is safe, sustainable, affordable, and accessible to everyone. Public transit is the future.
- 3. More public transit = more jobs and a better economy.**
Cleveland depends on workers who use public transit. But 60% of jobs in Cuyahoga County are currently not accessible by transit.
- 4. Public transit urgently needs more funding.**
State and Federal governments must fund public transit more and highways less. But we must immediately increase local funding for transit.
- 5. Fare enforcement by armed police is unconstitutional.**
Using armed police for onboard fare enforcement was ruled unconstitutional in 2017, yet GCRTA still has a fare enforcement unit with 30 police officers.
- 6. We need civilian transit ambassadors for riders' safety.**
Friendly civilian *transit ambassadors* keep riders safe, can check fares, cost less than transit officers, and will make trips faster and more reliable.
- 7. Decriminalize fare evasion now!**
Under current laws, failure to pay a \$2.50 transit fare can land you in jail for 30 days. CPT demands that fare evasion be treated like a parking ticket.



**Clevelanders for
Public Transit**

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