



Ron Brubaker, TASCforce

March 26, 2021

Re: Comments to Metro RTA's Planning/Marketing/Rail Committee

Mr. Brubaker

Thank you for your comments during Metro Board of Trustees' Planning/Marketing/Rail Committee last week. The committee and I welcome all comments from the members of our community regarding METRO RTA (METRO). We appreciated your update on the work of the TASCforce in relation to the Akron Secondary Line and its desire to see a trail on this property. On behalf of Committee Chair, Donald Christian and the METRO Board of Trustees below is our response to your comments and concerns regarding the Akron Secondary rail line.

METRO purchased these assets with funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the purpose of someday establishing commuter rail usage on the tracks. Although this has not come to fruition, METRO continues to study the best use of the tracks and this property for the community. The possibilities for these assets are numerous and METRO continues to have an open mind and an open dialogue with all stakeholders in the community as to the best use for these assets. It is important everyone work together to bring a balance between recreation, development, and services allowing the community to be vibrant as a whole.

In your letter you stated you had heard METRO was committed to the trail and not committed to the rail reactivation. On the contrary, METRO continues to seek concurrence with the FTA on the incidental use that might be allowed in this area should it be determined commuter rail is not the best use for these assets. METRO is a proponent of trail programs as has been realized in the past partnering with Summit Metro Parks on the Freedom Trail. METRO will continue to seek concurrence with the FTA on this issue and take all proposals for future use of these assets into consideration. As we move forward, we will keep all parties involved as to our intentions.

Yours in equitable transportation,

Dawn Distler
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Members of the METRO Board of Trustees
Valerie Shea, Director of Planning and Schedule Development
Lisa King, Executive Director Metro Parks

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