OPTA

# OPTA/CUTA/CUTRIC Government Relations Update for Transit Managers

# GR Update - Agenda

1. CUTA (10-12 minutes)
   - November 4, 2025 Federal Budget Announcement re Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF)
   - CPTF within in the Building Communities Strong Fund (BDSF)
2. CUTRIC (10-12 minutes)
   - CUTRIC's primary advocacy platforms
   - Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade Task Force (FACT)
   - Recommendations on Canadian Content resulting from FACT
3. OPTA Pre Budget Submission (10-12 minutes)
4. Q&A

# OPTA – Pre Budget Submission Process

1. Each summer survey members to understand priorities
   - This feels like the 90's (raising fares and cutting service)

2. Queen's Park Lobby Day – December 2, 2025
   - OPTA's ask focused on right-sizing Dedicated Public Transit Fund (gas tax)

3. Board input to OPTA strategy
   - Role of OPTA is to advise on what transit agencies need to be successful (permanent, predictable, flexible, sustainable)
   OR
   - Ask for funding that is more likely to be well-received

# Learnings from QP Lobby Day

1. Negative View of Gas Tax - Interpret our asks for more of the fund as an ask to increase gas tax on consumers
   - Gas Tax will be stabilized but will not grow
2. There is no emergency for transit funding
   - ask for “safety and security” funding would align but ask for net new unlikely to succeed
3. Prefer funding “innovative and transformative” capital projects
4. One Fare – great for transit customers; is there a province-wide equivalent? No.
5. Government likes application-based funding eg OTIF
6. Government liked ICIP: (i) the split; (2) ability to choose

# OPTA Pre Budget Submission

- Provincial matching of CPTF Baseline
- Match federal government contribution of 40%
- Same approach as ICIP in terms of approving projects for funding
- Allows municipalities to dedicate more of their gas tax funding to operations (indirect operating relief)

# Next Steps/In the Future

- More local intel – what will you have to do
- More local events to thank government for existing gas tax funding
- All members do reinforcing pre budget submissions in 2027
  - to the Minister of Finance
  - to the Standing Committee