

## Chet Ridenour

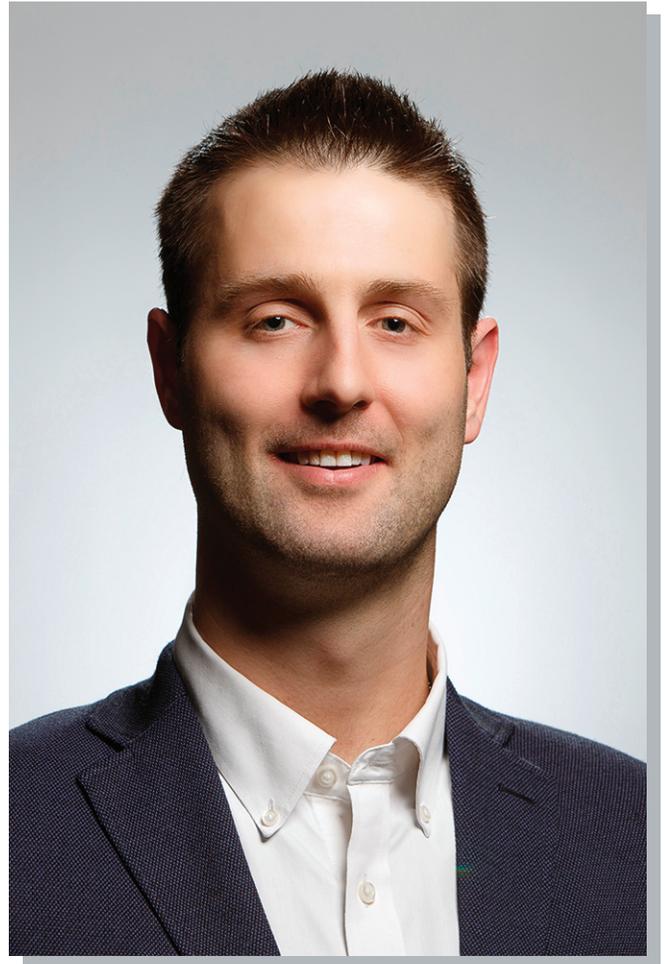
For over a decade, Chet has been actively engaged in community building in his neighborhood, advocating for marginalized communities and promoting improved transportation and mobility options across Central Ohio.

Since 2012, he has followed his goal to “engage, participate in, and better his community.” Originally hired as the Administrator for the Short North Civic Association, he was quickly invited to join the board, volunteering first to serve as the Secretary, then as Vice President. Chet has organized and coordinated countless community events, including the tour of homes, ComFest bike corral, and their summer music and movie series at Goodale Park. Not long after being invited to join the Short North Foundation board, he first served as the Secretary before becoming President where he has led this community roundtable for over 7 years now.

He continues to serve as the area Block Watch Coordinator and has organized multiple National Night Out events. As an active participant on the Short North Violence & Injury Prevention Working Group, he has positively contributed practical solutions to combat area crime. His efforts have led to increased lighting and signage to promote safety across the community. Chet has joined multiple police ride-alongs to better understand the day-to-day realities for officers on the street. Continuing his education, he completed the Citizen Police Academy course in May 2024. During his class’s graduation celebration, he engaged with Assistant Chief Potts to brainstorm creative alternatives to improve neighborhood safety, which led to her recommending he consider joining the Chief’s Advisory Panel.

Chet has long been an ally to advocate for marginalized communities, having marched in numerous Pride parades and volunteering for Equality Ohio to advocate for marriage equality, along with housing and employment protections for our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters. He was invited to join the Columbus Gay Men’s Chorus for years as the lone heterosexual singer, thus helping to open the door for future members of diverse genders, identities, and orientations. After George Floyd was killed, he rallied downtown on 9 of the first 10 nights to march for racial justice while using his bike to redirect vehicular traffic to protect peaceful protestors. While observing scooters blocking ADA ramps daily, he became an outspoken advocate to lobby for accountability from micromobility vendors to protect the ability of our less-than-abled neighbors to freely navigate City sidewalks without obstructions. Chet habla español también.

To address growing neighborhood parking challenges, he proactively lobbied to bring car2go’s free-floating car sharing service to Central Ohio. Initially hired as their Community Marketing Manager, their CEO challenged him to make car2go part of the cultural fabric of the community.



Chief’s Advisory Panel

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He was promoted to General Manager as he continued to expand mobility solutions to add service at Easton and CMH airport. In 2018 he joined Lyft to improve the CoGo bike-sharing service, adding single trips, Lyft app access, and the first equity program, CoGo For All. Chet led the rollout of their electric bike fleet and partnered with over 100 community organizations to distribute over 7,000 annual memberships. Having led CoGo to back-to-back record years in 2022 and 2023, he was promoted to Senior Operations Manager while working across multiple jurisdictions. He chooses to forgo a personal vehicle, preferring to bike for the health, environmental, and community benefits. His advocacy efforts led to invitations to join the boards of Yay Bikes! in 2020 and COTA's Mobility Advisory Board in 2024.

If you ask him though, his most valuable and rewarding work has been to connect nearby neighbors to each other. Since 2017, he's organized regular social meetups on his street to bring neighbors together to strengthen their relationships and build stronger connections on the block. His efforts led his neighbors to nominate him for an Everyday Kindness Heroes Award and he was selected as a 2024 Semi-finalist. Chet has embodied the spirit of neighborliness, developing tools and resources like Good Neighbor Thank You Cards, and challenge coins to inspire his neighbors to be a real-world, social, support and safety network for each other. He often paraphrases John F. Kennedy, sharing that JFK would challenge us to "Ask not what our neighbors can do for us, but what we can do for our neighbors."