Public Transportation Benefits Michigan’s Citizens

While it is easy to focus on the modes and equipment, public transportation is really serving people. Transportation is many varied, but the common factor that is transit is a means to get where you need to go, from everyday errands such as grocery shopping to an infrequent event, like the newly married couple that rides the bus from the church to their reception as part of staying in their community and having a sustainable, earth-friendly wedding.

For many it is a lifestyle. Seniors, people with disabilities, and those with limited economic means often have no other choice but to depend on public transportation. Public transportation offers them the freedom and independence they would not have otherwise. Exponentially in rural areas, people with disabilities and seniors often have no other way to access medical care, employment, or recreation. According to the National Household Transportation Survey, more than one in five (21%) Americans age 65 or older do not drive. For many seniors, access to transportation is a big factor in whether they are able to stay in their homes or have to move to a more expensive care facility. The Michigan senior population is expected to increase 60% between 2020 and 2060. We must have services in place to support seniors, keeping them active and engaged.

For others it is a choice. Every system in Michigan relies on products and services supplied by local businesses. The Grand Rapids Area Surface Transportation Authority is a supporter of sustainable transportation systems. We view it as an investment in the future of our region, a critical tool for economic development. A strong transit system meets the needs of our urban and rural residents alike. Many people are also interested in living more sustainably. A recent study by Science magazine and the Department of Transportation found that the carbon footprint of a typical US household is about 22 metric tonnes per year. Reducing the daily use of one low occupancy vehicle and public transportation can reduce a household’s carbon footprint between 25-30%. Even if you don’t use public transportation, you benefit from it. By reducing emissions, improving air quality, and helping to protect our planet, government transit also helps keep our environment that attracts both businesses and residents, Michigan’s transit systems are a critical part of our success as a state.

Transit Keeps Michigan Working

Public transit creates and sustains thousands of jobs throughout Michigan, including more than 1,800 workers who are directly employed by transit agencies, and thousands more who work for transit’s Michigan-based private industry partners.

Transit Boosts Business Innovation and Growth

Michigan’s transit systems partner with industry suppliers and technology vendors to reduce costs, improve services, and support the design, development and testing of new technology to better serve the transit industry. Those partnerships help expand the market for Michigan manufacturers and support the growth of new jobs in our state. For example, Flint’s Adventure City Transit Authority has partnered with Keating University, Michigan State University, Darrington Group Technology, and other private industry partners on grant and foundation-supported projects to convert buses from standard diesel powered, to solar hybrids, to electric, and fuel cell propulsion systems.

Transit Investments Create Jobs

Public transit creates and sustains thousands of jobs throughout Michigan, including more than 1,800 workers who are directly employed by transit agencies, and thousands more who work for transit’s Michigan-based private industry partners.

Transit Expenditures Circulate and Multiply

Local transit investments generate local economic activity. For every $1 million you invest in public transit, the federal government sends back almost $5.41 in support of increased mobility and related spending. In rural areas, studies have shown that a $10 million investment in transit will result in a $54 million increase in business sales demonstrated for the year following the investment. Transit operations support over 370 jobs for each $10 million invested. Commerce benefits as well, with a $12 million increase in business sales generated for every $10 million in transit operations spending. Transit Capital investment results in 314 jobs created in the year following the investment. And compared to where they live, work and play. And compared to other Americans, they are about one-third more likely to live in neighborhoods within three miles of goods and services.

The report stated that “Public transit investments are a vital link to social, economic, and health opportunities.” Unfortunately, Michigan has long been a “donor” state, sending more money in gas taxes than we get back in transportation investment. However, for every dollar of state capital funds invested in public transit, the federal government provides an additional $14 in matching funds.

Close-in neighborhoods with higher density, mixed uses, walkable destinations, locally commercial or mixed-use streets can make a region more competitive for talented workers. Good public services, including transit, schools, and parks, make close-in neighborhoods even more appealing.

Keep Michigan Moving!

Since 1974, the Michigan Public Transit Authority (MPTA) and its member transit agencies and business partners, have worked closely with the Michigan Executive and Legislative branches, the state Department of Transportation, local community leaders, and other organizations to continue to provide transportation services on behalf of Michigan’s citizens. Now more than ever, our state’s future is riding on transit, and the MPTA is working on your behalf to support an investment in transit. For more information about MPTA and Michigan’s transportation future, call 1-800-439-5623, or visit our website at www.mptainfo.org. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn, or become a fan of MPTA on Facebook.
Public transportation in Michigan takes many forms: each year. has approximately 3,600 vehicles that travel over 110 million miles urban downtowns to our most rural areas. Michigan's transit fleet This vital service is found in every county in Michigan, from our Environ- investments in our existing tool in curbing climate Second, transportation mostly from private vehicles. transportation sector, roughly one third of passengers up and take them to their destinations. Some of the more popular service models are: ADA Paratransit: Demand response transportation provided in areas with fixed-route service for people who cannot access the bus because of a disability. Dial-A-Ride: Demand response transportation, generally available to smaller communities, which allows riders to schedule trips with as little as 30 minutes advance notice. Specialized Services: Supplement an effective and essential tool in curbing climate change; pollution and re- corrminating infrastructure investments in our existing cities and towns. Tim Fishe Michigan Environmental Council Michigan Public Transportation... Part of the Solution Adrian Dial-A-Ride Allegan County - Transportation Services Alma Dial-A-Ride Alger County Transportation Authority Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Antis County Transportation Arenac/Bay Service Barry County Transit Battle Creek Transit Bay Areas Transportation Authority Bay Metro Transportation Authority Beaver Island Transportation Authority Bridging Dial-A-Ride Berrien County Public Transportation Benzie County Transit Authority Big Rapids Dial-A-Ride Blue Water Transportation Commission Branch Area Transit Buchanan Dial-A-Ride Calkins/.findall Transit Capital Area Transportation Authority Cass County Transportation Authority Charlevoix County Public Transportation City of Hancock City of Marshall Dial-A-Ride Clare County Transportation Corporation Clinton Area Transit System Crawford County Transportation Authority Delta Area Transit Authority Detroit Department of Transportation Detroit Transportation Corporation (People Mover) Directory of Transit Services Eastern L.P. Transportation Authority Eaton County Transportation Authority Flint Mass Transportation Authority Gladwin City/County Transit Gladwin County Transit Greatest Lakes Transportation Authority G RRville Transit Harbor Transit (Grand Haven) Houghton Motor Transit Line Huron County Transportation Interurban Transit Authority (Saginaw) Ionia Dial-A-Ride Ionia County Transit Iosco County Transportation Commission Jackson Transportation Authority Kalkaska County Transit System Kalkaska Public Transit Authority Lake Erie Transit (Mentor) Lenawee Transportation Corporation Livingston Essential Transportation Service Ludington Mass Transportation Authority Manistee County Transportation, Inc. Manistee County Transit Authority Manistee County Transit Authority Midland County Board of Commissioners Midland Dial-A-Ride Monroe Area Transit System Niles Dial-A-Ride Ogemaw County Public Transportation Osceola County Area Transit Otsego County Bus System Oscoda County Public Transit Osceola County Area Transit Saginaw County Transit Authority Regional Services Sandusky Area Transportation Service Sault Ste. Marie Dial-A-Ride Schoolcraft County Transportation Authority Shawnee Area Transportation Agency SMART St. Joseph County Transportation Authority Stratus (Grand Rapids) Traverse City, Michigan Transportation Authority Van Buren Public Transit Ypsilanti Township System MOVING PEOPLE, DRIVING CHANGE