



Detroit to Ann Arbor Commuter Bus Pilot Project

Public Hearing

January 8, 2020



RTA

**REGIONAL
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Moving **R** People Investing in **R** Future Enhancing **R** Quality of Life Connecting **R** Communities

About this Public Hearing

On December 13, 2019, the RTA issued a request for Public Hearing for the sole purpose of obtaining public comments regarding a new pilot bus service to operate between Ann Arbor and Detroit.

This public hearing being held Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.in Detroit and again at 5:00 p.m.in Ann Arbor will allow interested persons the ability to submit comments on the proposed service, service characteristics and proposed fare.

Comments can also be mailed to attention: RTA of Southeast Michigan at 1001 Woodward Avenue, 14th Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226, by e-mail at info@rtamichigan.org or by telephone 313-402-1020.

The public comment period on this issue will close on January 13, 2020.

Format for this Public Hearing

1. Brief Overview Presentation on the Pilot Project

2. Opportunity to Provide Comments

- Please fill out request to comment card
- Provide to RTA staff
- When your name is called please come forward to the microphone and provide your comments. Please limit your comments to 3 minutes.
- Your testimony will be captured by a court reporter and will be shared with the RTA Board of Directors.
- If you wish to provide additional comments you may do so by submitting written comments today, via e-mail, or U.S. Mail at the address previously provided.

3. Public Hearing Closing/Next Steps

About the RTA

Mission is to manage and secure transportation resources that significantly **enhance mobility options**, to **improve quality of life** for the residents and to **increase economic viability** for the region

ROLE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

- Plan the program
- Coordinate with providers
- Administer regional programs
- Equitable allocation of resources

ROLE OF PROVIDERS

- Operate service
- Own and maintain infrastructure and fleet
- Collect (and keep) fares
- Participate in regional initiatives



Proposed Pilot Project

What is being proposed?

- A proposed pilot commuter bus service connecting Detroit and Ann Arbor.
- The proposed service would be brought to you by the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide) and operated by Michigan Flyer, a subsidiary of Indian Trails.
- Service is open to anyone to use. Riders are encouraged to book their trip in advance guaranteeing a seat for the selected trip.
- Pilot project proposes to use federal and state funds to operate the service.



Proposed Pilot Project

Objectives of the Pilot Project

- In 2019, the RTA Board of Directors identified the following mobility priorities:

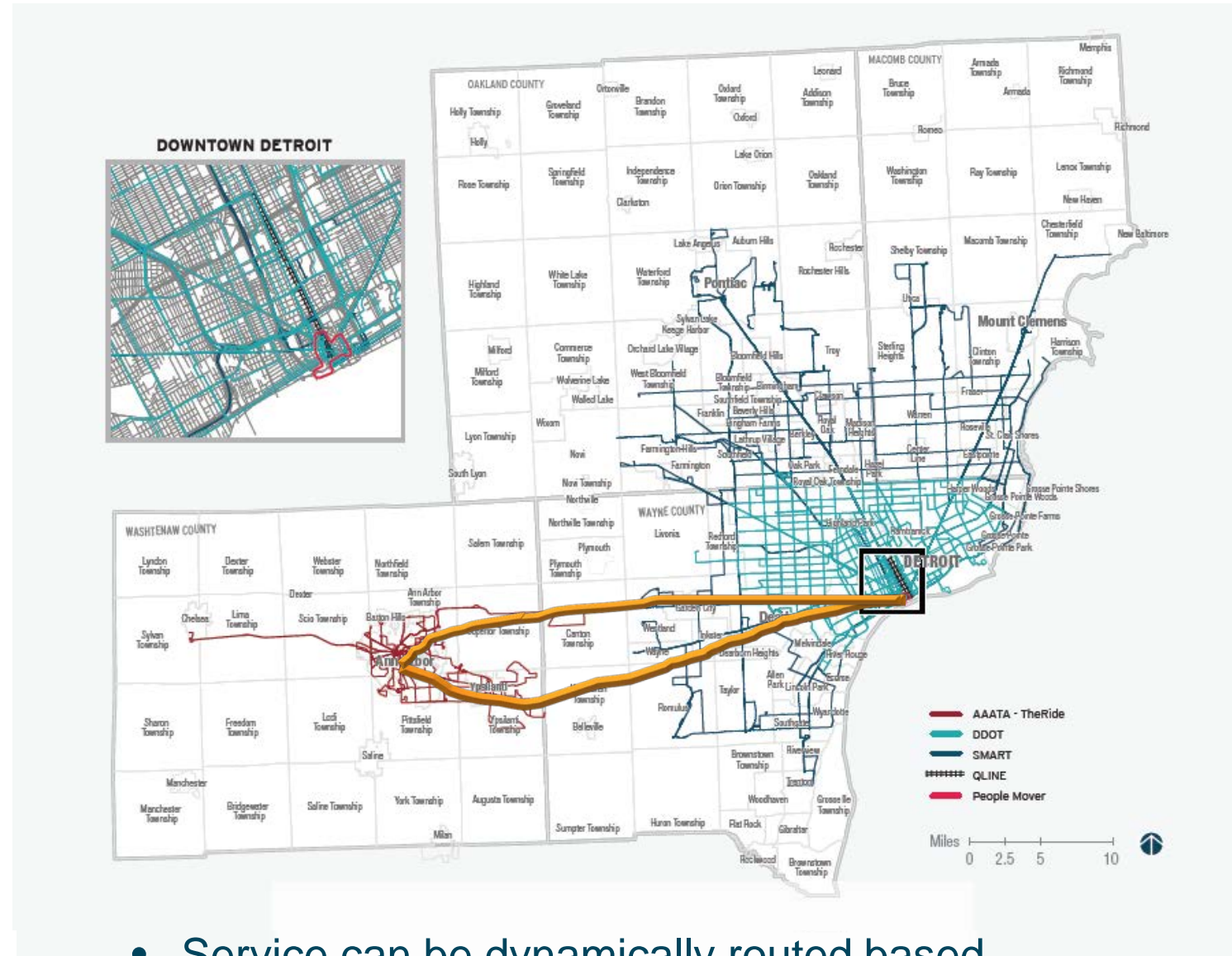


This pilot project directly supports Connecting the Region’s Communities priority by providing an alternative mobility option for the people of Southeast Michigan to connect to both Ann Arbor and Detroit, where limited options exist today

- Evaluate the ridership market that exists between these two communities. The pilot will provide planners from both the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) with valuable data that can be used to help calibrate their regional travel demand models
- Service can be used to evaluate future effectiveness of a commuter express service as a congestion mitigation tool for when mainline I-94 is reconstructed by the Michigan Department of Transportation

Proposed Pilot Service

- Two stops are proposed:
 - Blake Transit Center, Ann Arbor
 - Grand Circus Park, Detroit
- Both stop locations have excellent access to other transit service;
 - DDOT, SMART, PeopleMover, and QLine in Detroit
 - TheRide in Ann Arbor
 - Michigan Flyer connections to Brighton and East Lansing
- Purposely limiting stops to make end to end travel time competitive with vehicular travel



- Service can be dynamically routed based on corridor conditions

Proposed Service Hours

When is the service proposed to operate?

Monday - Friday			
<i>Depart</i>	<i>Arrive</i>	<i>Depart</i>	<i>Arrive</i>
Detroit	Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor	Detroit
		6:00 AM	7:00 AM
5:45 AM	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
6:30 AM	7:30 AM	7:45 AM	8:45 AM
7:15 AM	8:15 AM	8:30 AM	9:30 AM
8:15 AM	9:15 AM	9:30 AM	10:30 AM
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:15 AM
9:45 AM	10:45 AM	11:00 AM	NOON
10:45 AM	11:45 AM	NOON	1:00 PM
12:15 PM	1:15 PM	1:30 PM	2:30 PM
1:15 PM	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM
2:45 PM	3:45 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM
3:45 PM	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:45 PM
5:15 PM	6:15 PM	6:30 PM	7:30 PM
6:15 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	8:30 PM
7:45 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
9:00 PM	10:00 PM		

Saturday - Sunday			
<i>Depart</i>	<i>Arrive</i>	<i>Depart</i>	<i>Arrive</i>
Detroit	Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor	Detroit
		9:45 AM	10:45 AM
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM
3:30 PM	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM
6:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM
11:00 PM	Midnight		

Proposed Draft Fare

How much will this service cost to ride?

Detroit to Ann Arbor Proposed Draft Fare

\$12.00 - Base Fare (One way)

\$10.00 - Advanced Booking Discount*

\$6.00 - Senior/Disability Fare**

A weekly commuter book of 10 trips can be purchased for \$8 each (\$80 total).

* Discount is available for those that pre-book their seat through the advanced reservation system.

** Reduced fares are available for senior citizens (65+), and persons with disabilities. To be eligible, an individual must show one of the following: a valid AAATA, DDOT, SMART, or State of Michigan Senior/Disability ID Card, or a valid disability ID from another transit agency with any valid government issued photo ID card.



Proposed Fares

How does a proposed D2A2 fare compare to other systems?

System	Description	Fare	Details	Reduced Fare	Notes:
AAATA	Commuter Express	\$ 6.25	One way	UM/Get Downtown (50%)	Regional Express Services
DDOT/SMART/Qline	DART Pass	\$ 5.00	24 hour pass	Yes (\$2.00)	Detroit area transit fare for local service
UM Detroit Connector Service	Michigan Flyer Service	\$ 6.00	One way	No	\$12 Round Trip (provides 6 daily trips)
MTA Flint	Regional Routes	\$ 3.00	One way	No	Monthly Pass \$80
Greyhound	AA-Detroit	\$ 12.00	One Way	No	\$11-17 one way/\$28 RT with service fee
Amtrak	AA-Detroit	\$ 21.00	One way	No	\$21-\$36 one way
Uber	AA-Detroit	\$ 59.00	One way	No	UberXfee
Corridor Avg.	AA-Detroit	\$ 32.67	One way		
MTA (Maryland)	Commuter bus to DC	\$ 5.00	One way	Yes (\$1 discount)	
Loudon Co. (Va)	Commuter bus to DC	\$ 11.00	One way	No	
Hart Tampa	Regional commuter bus	\$ 6.00	day pass	Yes (50%)	
Rochester, MN	Commuter bus to Mayo Clinic	\$ 11.00	One way	No	
Boston	Boston Express	\$ 17.00	One way	Yes (50%)	
Arlington Va to DC	Commuter Express	\$ 15.00	One way	No	

Proposed Passenger Experience

How will you book a trip?

- Customers can make advance reservations or walk-on at bus stops located in both Detroit and Ann Arbor.
- For insurance purposes all passengers must be seated during operations. Passengers are encouraged to make an advance reservation, guaranteeing a seat on their preferred trip. By making an advance reservation, a passenger can receive a \$2 discount off the base fare.
- A dedicated web-site will be set up where passengers can make reservations from their mobile device or personal computer. This web-site will also allow passengers to track their vehicle and be notified of their pending trip.
- The service will accept walk on riders.

Proposed Passenger Experience

What amenities will the vehicles have?

- All buses will be wheelchair accessible
- All buses will have deluxe seating with arm rests and foot rests, individual lighting and climate controls, restrooms, Wi-Fi, USB charging ports, cupholders, overhead storage bins, and storage underneath for bikes.



Submission of Comments for the Public Hearing Record

- Please be prepared to come to the microphone to make your comment when your name is called
- Please begin your comments by stating your name and speak clearly into the microphone.
- Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes
- All comments today are being recorded and will be part of the official public hearing transcript



Thank You For Your Comments

Other ways you can submit your comments:

Mail:

RTA of Southeast Michigan
1001 Woodward Avenue, 14th Floor,
Detroit, Michigan 48226

E-mail:

info@rtamichigan.org

Telephone:

313-402-1020

The public comment period on this issue **will close on January 13, 2020**

Media: All media inquires should be directed to Mario Morrow at (313)800-5973 or mmorrow@mariomorrow.com



OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Next Steps

- Comments submitted as part of the public hearing process will be summarized by RTA staff and provided to the RTA Board of Directors.
- Ultimately, the RTA Board of Directors will have the final approval to implement the Pilot Commuter Express Service connecting Detroit and Ann Arbor as well as setting the proposed fares for such service.
- Thank you again for your input!

