



May 20, 2014

Dear Legislator,

Hundreds of thousands of people rely on public transit across Michigan every day to go to work, school, church, shopping, and other daily activities. Yet the State of Michigan has not increased funding for transit in over 25 years, leaving transit agencies unable to provide the transit service that residents demand. That is why I urge you to ONLY support an increase in transportation funding IF it goes through the long-standing Act 51 funding formula that allocates 10% to transit, trails, rails, and other non-road purposes.

Transportation Riders United is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and promoting public transit throughout greater Detroit in order to restore urban vitality, ensure transportation equity, and improve quality of life. TRU represents not only bus riders, but also employers who depend on bus riders, people who wish they could ride transit, and others who recognize the value of transit to a thriving economy.

For most of the past half-century, Michigan transportation revenue has been divided through the Act 51 formula: 90% goes to roads, throughways, and bridges and 10% goes to buses, train lines, bike paths, port maintenance and other non-road transportation purposes. While not sufficient to fully fund transit needs, it is a reasonably fair division and must be maintained.

Unfortunately Speaker Bolger's funding proposals cuts out nearly all non-road needs, allocating less than 1% to all these essential transportation needs. Thankfully some in the Senate seem to understand that while our roads and bridges need maintained, other transportation services have enormous needs as well.

Please tell your leadership that you will ONLY support a transportation funding package IF it goes through the formula and provides 10% to transit and other non-road transportation needs. Please encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Please contact me at 248-259-2439 or [MOwens@DetroitTransit.org](mailto:MOwens@DetroitTransit.org) with any questions, ideas, or concerns regarding this or any other transit-related issues. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Owens', written over a light-colored background.

Megan Owens  
Executive Director

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