

AATA'S PLAN FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN WASHTENAW COUNTY

The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board of Directors adopted a Vision to provide public transportation services throughout Washtenaw County.

"The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority shall be the public transportation provider for Washtenaw County. Our customers shall see AATA's expanded services as the preferred option for traveling to destinations within the county, as well as to and from the county. AATA will offer appropriate modes of transportation with the most efficient use of resources. These services shall enhance the quality of life for Washtenaw County stakeholders while promoting the economy, safeguarding the environment, and strengthening communities."

To complement this Vision, a Board Resolution was also passed providing direction for staff to develop a countywide service plan that includes other transportation initiatives, and positions AATA to identify funding and operating opportunities to coordinate and integrate values-based transportation systems within all of Washtenaw County, including connecting as appropriate with transportation services of adjoining counties. Staff has been directed to seek advice, guidance, and approval from the Board prior to implementing major segments of a countywide transportation system. *THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SERVICE PLAN SOLIDIFIES AATA'S INTENTION TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT WASHTENAW COUNTY.*

This Master Transit Service Plan will include:

- Recommendations that consider not only mobility issues but also related topics such as economic development, land use, air and water quality, housing, job creation, open space and natural resources, sustainability, and energy consumption.
- A financial component that describes the costs, both capital and operating, of undertaking plan recommendations.
- A needs assessment that will describe the consequences of current and future unmet transit needs in terms of mobility, urban form, economic impacts, safety, social impacts and environmental impacts .
- A basis for developing and delivering transit projects and programs over the next 25 years.
- At a minimum, options (or alternatives, or scenarios) that vary according to the funding levels needed to pay for them (e.g. high, medium, and low).
- At minimum, options (or alternatives, or scenarios) for at least three time-frames (e.g. 5-year, 10-year and 20-year).
- Strategies for funding recommended improvements.

Reaching a Shared Vision

A successful future of public transportation in Washtenaw County necessitates open communication with all stakeholders on the current status of services available and performance measures, a comprehensive study and analysis of transit options involving all stakeholders, and a process to evaluate performance of the new system and update goals and objectives as we go along. AATA is committed to engaging, leading, communicating and creating a meaningful dialog with all stakeholders to achieve a shared vision for Countywide Public Transportation Services.

PHASE 1 - Now through the summer of 2010

- A) Assure that the entire community has access to clear and understandable information about AATA's service delivery system and how to measure our performance using multiple communications methods, including traditional and existing as well as emerging technologies, such as improving the content and accessibility of our web site and providing video coverage of meetings, to promote transparency and accountability.
- B) Create opportunities to meet with stakeholder organizations including, but not limited to governmental units, major employers and business organizations, school districts, higher education institutions, senior citizen groups, social service providers, organizations that represent people with special needs, as well as open meetings for all citizens.
- C) Gather information on transit options for the future, the capital and operating costs of each option, and the projected impacts on the county and share this with all stakeholders.

PHASE 2 - Summer of 2010 through the Beginning of 2011

- A) Create DRAFTS of Service Plan options to generate discussion among all stakeholders.
- B) Gather feedback and continue to modify the Service Plan options to generate a final version.
- C) Make changes to governance structure influenced by the outcome of the Master Transit Plan, so short and long term goals have the best chance of success.

Phase 3 - Winter of 2011 through the summer of 2011

- A) The governance structure will develop and implement 3-5 year strategic plans in conjunction with Stakeholders to initiate implementation to achieve the expected outcomes of 2035.
- B) Continue communication with stakeholders to ensure the plan meets their needs and is supported.
- C) Continue to improve accountability and transparency for the community.

AATA Board and Staff are committed to this process. Resources will be provided, as needed, to achieve success in implementing the Master Transit Plan for Washtenaw County. The AATA Board is prepared to transition into the best governance structure to achieve the best public transit plan for our community.

Resolution 12/2010

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A PLAN FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION IN WASHTENAW COUNTY**

Whereas, the Ann Arbor Transit Authority (AATA) was chartered by the City of Ann Arbor in 1969 and has provided public transit services to city residents supported by a millage and to surrounding communities, supported by Purchase of Service Agreements (POSAs), and

Whereas, public transit is a critical part of the regional infrastructure and an essential catalyst for sound development patterns and future economic growth, and

Whereas, Washtenaw County continues to grow in population and continues to evolve as a major economic engine within the State of Michigan and is a destination for employment, entertainment, education and recreation, and

Whereas, a number of plans and proposals have been set forth by various agencies within the county to provide transit infrastructure, and

Whereas, a comprehensive public transit system requires long-term plans which include the perspective of the needs of the area's citizens and institutions, and

Whereas, long-term plans require benchmarks and strategies for implementation, therefore,

Be it resolved that:

The AATA Board adopts the Plan for Shaping the Future of Public Transportation in Washtenaw County, and

Work on this Plan commences immediately to educate the public on current AATA operations and services as well as various transit options for future consideration, and

By summer of 2010, AATA will produce a Draft Transit Service Plan for discussion with all stakeholders. The Plan will include, but is not limited to a vision of public transit services to be provided over the course of the next 25-30 years and potential funding options to capitalize and maintain this Plan, and AATA will identify and implement governance structure changes necessary for the provision of these services.

Through the end of 2010, AATA or its successor organization will finalize the Plan, after providing all stakeholders with the opportunity to comment and provide input, and

By the beginning of 2011, the new governance structure will present a 3-5 year strategic plan to commence implementation of the Plan.

Paul C. Ajegba, Chair

Charles Griffith, Secretary

January 20, 2010

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