

From: Michael Ford
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 12:56 PM
To: Michael Ford
Cc: Sarah Pressprich; Mary Stasiak
Subject: Transit needs you now: Public Hearing Monday at 7 at Ann Arbor City Hall
Importance: High

Ann Arbor residents and business owners;

I would like to thank you for your insights during AATA's development of the Transit Master Plan. I very much appreciate your willingness to come to a meeting and give input. Now that the master plan is completed, AATA is working with a new, unincorporated countywide board on an implementation plan for the first 5 years. When that proposal is ready, we will present it to the citizens of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County for your input. Using that 5-year plan as a basis, we would then take the next steps to incorporate a new transit authority.

While we finalize the short term plan, it is important for Washtenaw County communities to agree to **a clear framework** for how a new transit authority will be created. That framework is being presented to Ann Arbor's city council this Monday in the form of a Public Transportation Agreement. The agreement outlines a transparent, open, and fair process for Ann Arbor and Washtenaw communities to work together.

By signing the Public Transportation Agreement, each community agrees to the following:

- How to incorporate the new, non-operational transit authority
- How to give every community a chance to participate in (or opt out of) the non-operational authority
- How existing transit services will be protected; and
- How, **if all the conditions are met**, Ann Arbor's existing transit services will coordinate with improved transit services within and between communities throughout Washtenaw County.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. This Monday at 7pm, Ann Arbor City Council members will hold a public hearing to get citizen input on the Public Transportation Agreement.

There are many folks who are trying to stop this process, even at this preliminary stage. Please come and show your support for regional cooperation and improved transportation options.

Again, the Public Hearing will be held on **Jan. 23 at 7pm at Ann Arbor City Hall** (301 E. Huron 2nd Floor). Council members need to hear from **all** interested citizens about how important it is to create mobility options that help residents get to their jobs, maintain mobility for seniors and people with disabilities and get all people where they need to go.

If you are unable to attend Monday's city council public hearing, please use the attached messages to write and call Ann Arbor City Council members to encourage them to support the agreement and expand transit options for Ann Arbor and beyond.

- You can find the city council contact information by using this link: <http://www.a2gov.org/government/citycouncil/Pages/Home.aspx>
- For the **latest** information please go to: <http://www.movingyouforward.org/news-resources/Public-Hearing>
- If you have questions or concerns about the process towards countywide transit, please give AATA a call at [734.272.9791](tel:734.272.9791) or email spressprich@theride.org.

With sincerest appreciation,
Michael

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