

DRAFT

**Resolution of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board
to continue work on improving transit services in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County
and offer conditional support for State Regional Transit Authority legislation**

WHEREAS, the AATA Act 55 Board initiated a process in 2009 to plan for better service to the citizens of Ann Arbor and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Transit Master Plan, guided by a 30 year vision, was created after gathering input from stakeholders across the county; and

WHEREAS, a Draft 5-Year Transit Program is an appropriate foundation on which to start to build transit services that support Washtenaw County's economy, quality of life, environment, and social justice values and sets the stage for implementing improved connectivity throughout Southeastern Michigan; and

WHEREAS, 21 of the 26 local governments in the county are actively participating in creating a service plan and funding mechanisms to be governed by a newly chartered Act 196 Board and the door is open for the other five local governments to join; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Task Force, a committee of local business, government, and university leaders has reviewed the vision and will be recommending a service plan and funding options; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has introduced legislation for consideration to create a Southeastern Michigan Regional Transit Authority, create new county and state transportation funding authority, revise Act 51; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislators have started deliberations on a Transportation Reauthorization bill; and

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board supports and is working with a group of representatives that is modeling their work on how the Act 196 Board (u196 Board) may function to develop a 5-Year Service Implementation Plan, focusing on improving local and county connections, with continued input from the Financial Task Force, District Advisory Committees, public officials, and citizens of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County, and;

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board supports finalizing a Public Transportation Agreement with elected and appointed local government leaders from Washtenaw County, City of Ann Arbor, and City of Ypsilanti to establish clear leadership and define the process to form a countywide authority; and

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board and staff will continue to work with State Legislators, local leaders, the u196 board, Financial Task Force, District Advisory Committees, advisers, and the public to evaluate the State and Federal legislation and its impact on implementing the Transit Master Plan.

Therefore, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board resolves the following:

The AATA Board will continue to provide and improve transit service to the City of Ann Arbor and surrounding communities as funding permits.

The AATA Board will participate in the open, transparent process of designing a governance, service, and funding plan to implement the TMP vision through the unincorporated Act 196 board, the District Advisory Committees chaired by the representatives who comprise the u196 Board, and the Finance Task Force chaired by Robert Guenzel and Albert Berriz.

The AATA Board supports the development of a regional transit authority to provide connector corridor transit services in southeast Michigan and will participate in the planning and implementation of these services.

In order to guarantee and assure the continuation of existing services, funding for a southeast Michigan Regional Transit Authority must be new, additional funding so that the existing (and future state and federal funding) for the current Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board, and any Board that supersedes it, will not be negatively impacted.