



**To:** Board of Commissioner  
**From:** Conan Smith, Chair  
**Date:** December 31, 2012  
**Re:** Appointment of Members of the Regional Transit Authority Governing Board

Members of the Board:

Earlier this month Governor Snyder signed Public Act 387 of 2012 creating a regional transit authority (RTA) for southeast Michigan, including the City of Detroit and Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties. Pursuant to Section 5 of that law, I am hereby appointing two members to the governing board of the RTA:

For a term commencing January 1, 2013 and expiring December 31, 2013, Richard Murphy.

For a term commencing January 1, 2013 and expiring December 31, 2015, Elisabeth Gerber.

I have the utmost confidence in these two individuals to help our region build a connected and integrated transportation network that will reestablish us as national leaders in this critical field. Passionate consensus-builders and clear-headed pragmatists, both Murph and Liz can help this nascent board work through the complex challenges that inevitably face individuals and agencies thrust together by force rather than choice.

Murph has a deep understanding of the region's transit issues – as a rider, a professional planner and hopeful visionary. He can help ensure that the system we build serves the broadest set of the population and is rooted in data and professional acumen. Liz brings to bear an unparalleled expertise in regional governance and Michigan's fiscal structures. Her keen mind and inquisitive nature will keep us focused on a system that both serves our people and grows our economy. Together with the representatives appointed by the governor, Mayor Bing and my fellow county leaders, I trust that they will put us, at long last, on the path to a more connected, robust and useful public transportation system.

Perhaps more importantly, I know that each of these outstanding individuals brings with them a sincere compassion for those who are transit-dependent in our region. In an era when ability should be no barrier to a high quality of life, transit is essential to ensure access to the services, the benefits and the treasures of our diverse communities. The elevation of this regional transit system is therefore, at its heart, a humanitarian achievement – one that I hope brings us all closer together, as people in a common place with a shared future.

I thank Mr. Murphy and Dr. Gerber for their willingness to serve and wish them good luck in this endeavor, knowing they have the full support of Washtenaw County behind them.

**CC:** Larry Kestenbaum, Clerk / Register of Deeds, Washtenaw County  
Rick Snyder, Governor, State of Michigan