



A2YChamber
ANN ARBOR / YPSILANTI REGIONAL CHAMBER

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November 14, 2013

Ann Arbor City Council
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear Mayor Hieftje and members of the Ann Arbor City Council:

We write to you on behalf of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti (A2Y) Regional Chamber and its 1,200 plus members to express support for Ypsilanti Township's efforts to join the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, or "The Ride." We are hopeful you will approve this effort at your November 18th, 2013 meeting.

Regionalism, coordination and cooperation have long been hallmarks of the A2Y Chamber's advocacy efforts. The Chamber believes that Ypsilanti Township's inclusion in The Ride represents a very positive development towards further regional transit collaboration. This is especially relevant since the City of Ypsilanti joined The Ride earlier this year. Questions remain regarding the proposed five year plan that AAATA is advocating for, along with how best to configure governance of the future Ride Board. Properly addressing these questions will be critically important and the Chamber hopes you will see it as an asset in those discussions.

At this juncture we respectfully ask that you approve Ypsilanti Township's Ride membership. Doing so will allow you to fully address future finance and governance questions from a position of collaboration and inclusion. Expansion of local transit options can also provide tangible economic benefits to our community, while citizens will also benefit from a service standpoint by having a strong core of municipalities united towards providing excellent transit options. Thank you for your consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (734) 214-0101.

Sincerely,

Diane Keller, President & CEO
A2Y Regional Chamber

Doug McClure, Chair
A2Y Chamber Public Policy Committee