

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

to the

Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan

TOPIC: Preparation for a 2018 Election

REC. NUMBER: 17 - 2

DATE ADOPTED: 8/28/2017, by a unanimous vote of the Citizens Advisory Committee

The RTA's CAC emphatically asks the RTA Board to act with all due urgency and make every possible effort to place funding for an updated Regional Transit Master Plan on the November 2018 ballot. The RTA Plan and millage put forth to voters in 2016 lost by less than 1% despite being a new millage and the effect of a national presidential election which dominated voter attention. Moreover, the plan and millage had a broad and solid base of support from the business, health care, education, social service and environmental sectors, and was endorsed by every major newspaper, a wide array of elected leaders, faith-based, senior and social groups.

The RTA's funding beyond 2018 faces too much uncertainty to ensure the ongoing existence of the authority. Yet the need for regional public transit has not gone away. Far too many people cannot access jobs, job training, or services. Our region's economy is stalled because too many businesses can't find the employees they need to grow their business. Southeast Michigan is being left behind. We are the last major metropolitan region in the country without regional transit services. This should be a call to action. The CAC looks forward to helping inform plan updates and assisting with the RTA's educational and outreach efforts with the goal of a successful outcome at the November 2018 ballot.