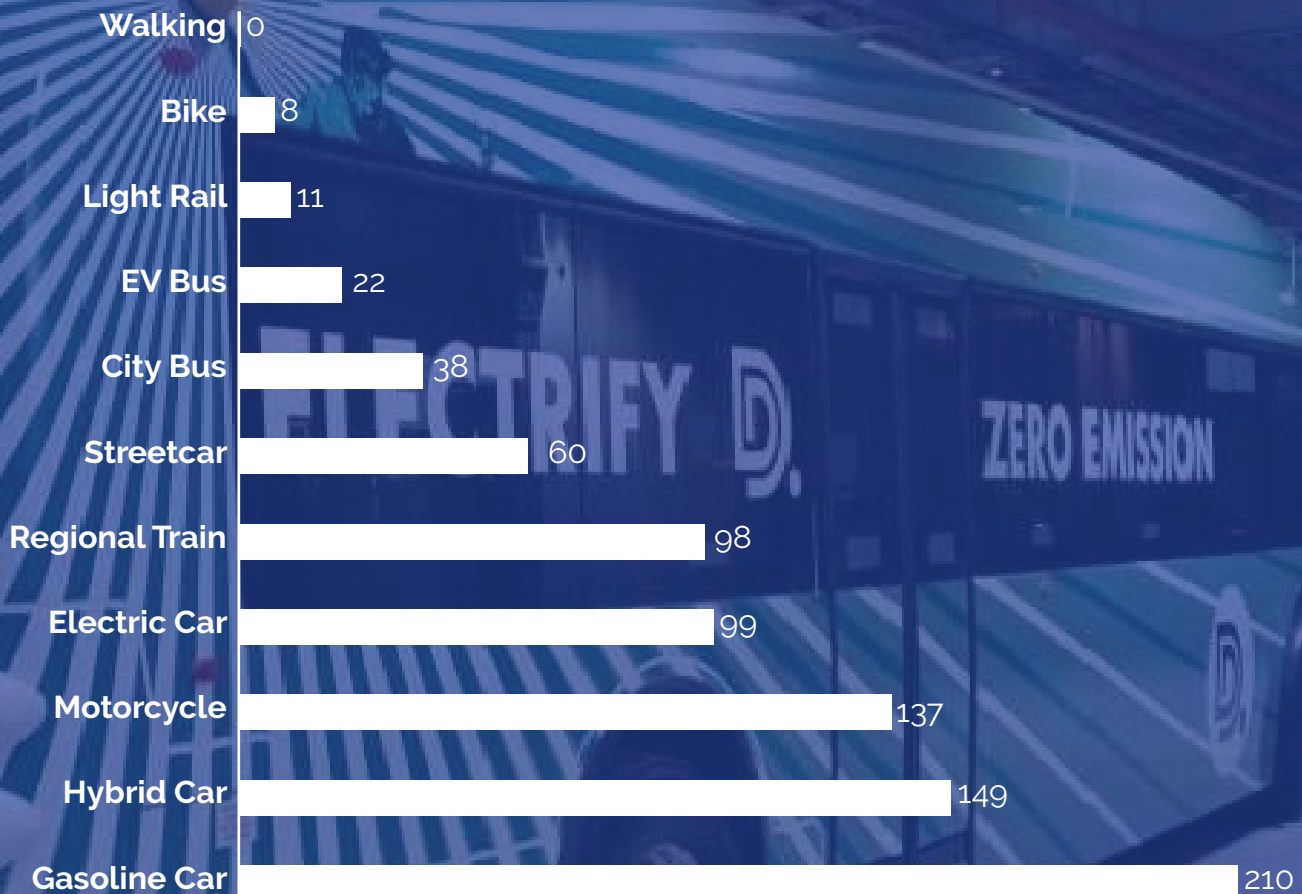


# Public Transit is a Critical Part of the Climate Solution

Average carbon emissions by transportation type



Source: The industry deep dive into Travel and Mobility Tech: *The environmental impact of today's transport types*; grams per pkm; 2021

For Michiganders to drive less, policy makers need to provide convient, attractive public transit

**TR** Transportation  
Riders United

# Policy Recommendations

Michigan leaders must take bold action to provide the sustainable, attractive public transportation we need.

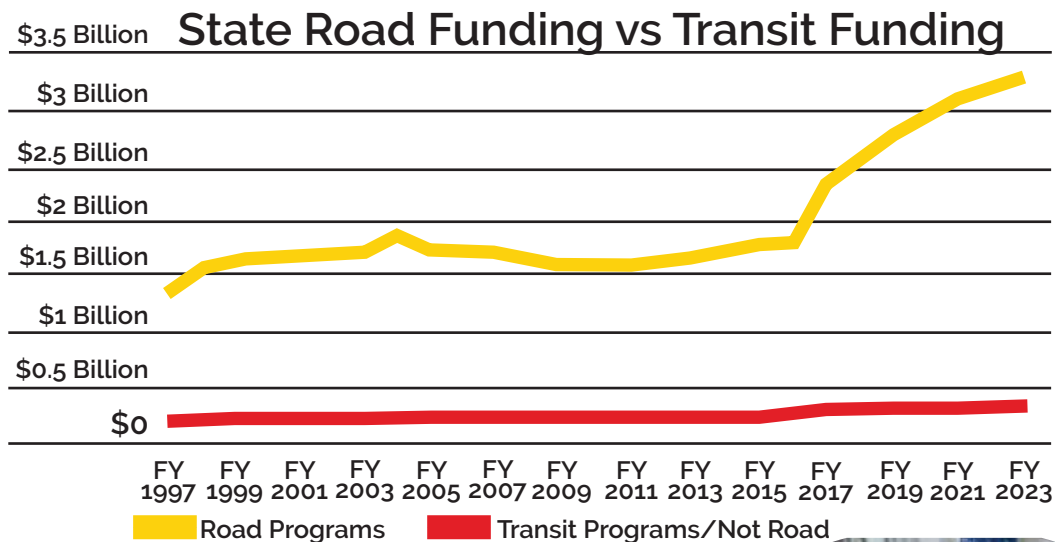
## INVEST IN GREAT TRANSIT

As President Biden says, “Don’t tell me what you value. Show me your budget and I’ll tell you what you value.” Michigan leaders say they value equitable, affordable climate solutions. Yet investment in transit has been flat for decades.

**Michigan should invest \$1 billion a year in transit, rail, and safe walking and biking.** That’s roughly double what’s spent now, but still just 15% of MDOT’s total budget.

**Restore state investment in Local Bus Operating** back to 50% of local operating costs - or about \$360 million a year. This will enable the state’s 77 transit agencies to provide the consistent, reliable transit Michiganders need.

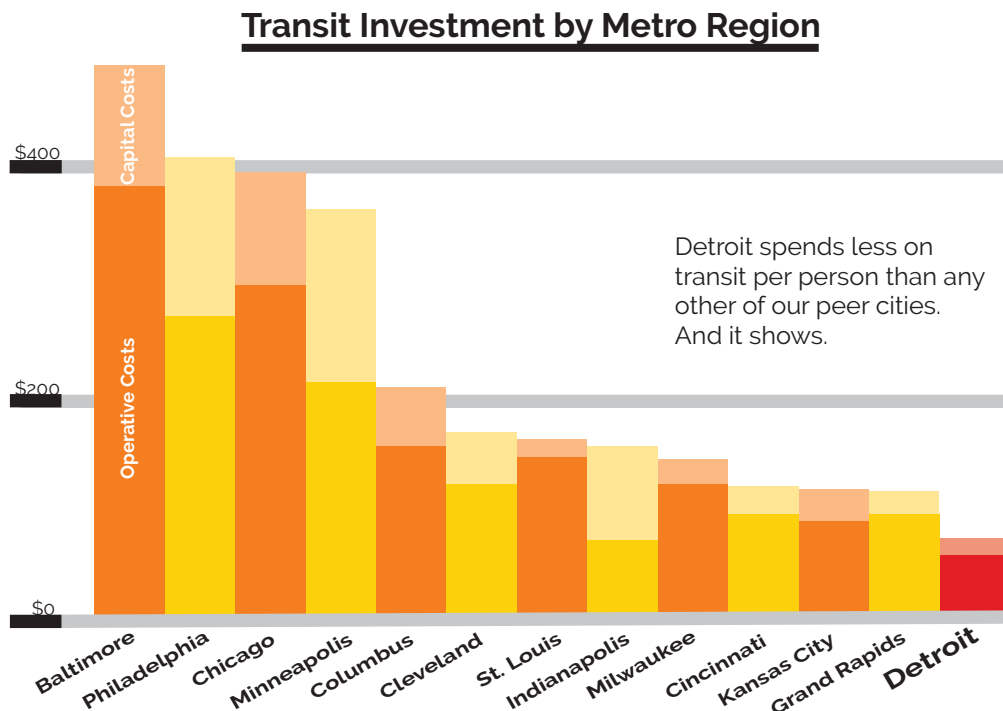
**Make transformational investments in rapid transit and rail** to seize upon the enormous potential for corridors including Woodward, Washtenaw, and Michigan Ave to become even more vibrant, walkable, and attractive magnets where people want to live, work, and play. And upgrade Michigan’s existing rail infrastructure to conveniently link passengers among Michigan’s cities and towns.



## SUPPORT CITIES AND METRO REGIONS

Many Michigan cities and metro regions want to invest in great transit but are held back by the state. Lawmakers need to change state laws to enable local communities to make the investments that are right for them.

**Amend RTA to allow more flexibility.** The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan was created by state law and needs amending to allow fewer than four counties to invest together and to allow counties with countywide transit to focus on urbanized areas in future RTA funding measures



## MODERNIZE MDOT PRIORITIES

A modern Department of Transportation does much more than fill potholes and build roundabouts; MDOT should provide an affordable, equitable, climate-friendly transportation system that works for all Michiganders.

**Direct and fund MDOT's Office of Passenger Transportation** to measure Michiganders' access to public transit, then to explicitly work **to support transit expansion throughout Michigan, implementing the MI Healthy Climate Plan** commitment to "increase access to clean transportation - including public transit - by 15% a year."

**Prioritize people over pavement.** Given our stagnant population, MDOT must stop widening roadways, even for so-called "flex lanes." Instead, regulate roads to prioritize the safety of people who walk, bike, and use wheelchairs, not the convenience of car drivers. And appoint MDOT and Transportation Commission leaders with substantial multimodal experience.

These investments and policy changes can put Michigan on track to provide all Michiganders the affordable, accessible transportation choices we all deserve, while finally making Michigan transportation part of the climate solution.

Transportation Riders United is a Detroit-based nonprofit organization with over 20 years of transit advocacy experience. TRU believes everyone should be able to get where they need to go, regardless of whether they drive. TRU educates, advocates, and mobilizes for more and better public transit and other affordable sustainable mobility options throughout the Detroit region.

TRU is honored to be supported in this work by the Sally Mead Hands Foundation, the Energy Foundation, Greenlining, and Forth and to work in partnership with the Ecology Center, Michigan Environmental Council, Detroit Greenways Coalition, the Michigan Energy Michigan Jobs coalition, TEEM, and many other extraordinary organizations.

### Contact

Transportation Riders United  
PO Box 2668, Detroit, MI 48202  
[www.DetroitTransit.org](http://www.DetroitTransit.org)

 [www.DetroitTransit.org](http://www.DetroitTransit.org)

 [@DetroitTransit](https://www.instagram.com/DetroitTransit)

 [@DetroitTransit](https://twitter.com/DetroitTransit)

 [@DetroitTransit](https://www.facebook.com/DetroitTransit)

 [info@DetroitTransit.org](mailto:info@DetroitTransit.org)



[www.DetroitTransit.org](http://www.DetroitTransit.org)