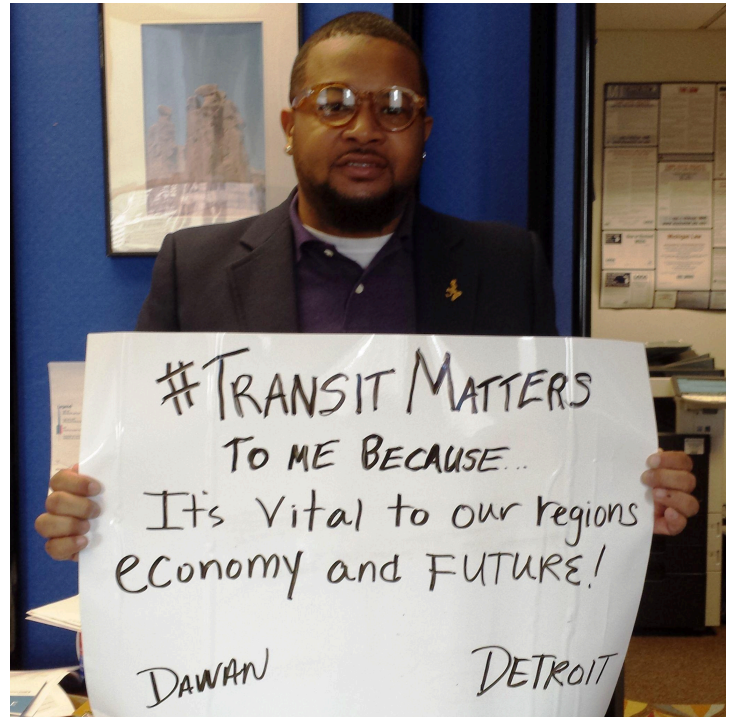


Public Transit is a Tool for Economic Development

There's a reason world class cities have a world class transit system: **Transit is important for a healthy economy.** Transit connects workers to jobs, saves employees money, and is crucial for attracting young people. Our city governments even save money in the long run when they invest in transit; meaning more money for more economic investment. **For metro Detroit and Michigan to stay innovators in transportation, we must ensure all jobs can be accessed via transit.**

Transit is Vital for Jobs

- Detroit has the worst job access by transit in the country. **If there were a million jobs in metro Detroit, only about 5,000 would be accessible by transit.** Thousands of vacant positions across Metro Detroit could be filled by expanding transit.¹



Transit Saves Cities Money

- **Investments in transit creates about 50,000 jobs per \$1 billion invested in transit.** This equates to transit spending having a 5:1 economic return! These investments continue to benefit cities in the long term, as productivity trends upwards with strong transit.²
- Cities with high-quality transit systems save more in operating costs, have a higher cost recovery, and lower per-capita transportation expenditures than car-dependent cities.³ **Detroit and suburban cities could save millions by upgrading our transit system.**
- Housing security increases with transit investment: Mortgage foreclosure rates tend to increase as neighborhood car ownership rises.⁴ If more Michiganders turn to transit instead of relying solely on cars, cities can spend less on repossessing and land banking foreclosed homes.

"One of the biggest challenges for filling restaurant jobs in Detroit is reliable transportation for workers."

- Scott Lowell, former owner of Traffic Jam & Snug in Detroit.⁵



¹ Cox in Newgeography. "Auto/Transit Job Access Ratios: 50 Large Metro Areas" 2024.

² American Public Transportation Association, "Economic Impact Of Public Transportation Investment" 2020.

³ Litman, "Evaluating Public Transit Benefits and Costs" 2006.

⁴ NRDC, "Reducing Foreclosures and Environmental Impacts through Location-Efficient Neighborhood Design" 2010.

⁵ Livengood in Crain's Detroit, "Detroit Rising podcast: City's restaurants struggle with worker retention" 2017.

Transit Gets People Where They Need To Go

Transit connects people to jobs, school, healthcare, community, and so much more. There are 77 transit agencies across Michigan, **providing 40 million rides a year statewide.**

Transit is Essential for:

- **Older Michiganders** who want their independence after retiring from driving
- **Persons with disabilities**
- **Low-Income workers**
- **Young people** who can't afford to drive
- People who'd prefer not to drive

Transit Benefits People Who Don't Ride:

- **Decreases traffic** and congestion
- **Makes roads safer** for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians
- **Lowers pollution** and helps Michigan meet our climate commitments
- Drives **economic development**
- We all depend on people who depend on transit



Public transit is at the heart of everything.

Unfortunately, transit is underfunded and under attack, leaving many people stranded without other options. But TRU is working to change this!

TRU is a nonprofit dedicated to bringing more and better transit to metro Detroit. We advocate, educate, and mobilize for transit and other affordable mobility options. For 25 years, we've been advocating for the right to get where you need to go, throughout Detroit and Michigan.

Learn more and get involved at [DetroitTransit](https://www.DetroitTransit.org)

