

Transit is Important for Older People

Michigan is an aging state, and as people get older, they often can't drive. This is especially true in rural areas of Michigan, where older people make up a large proportion of the population. To give older Michiganders the self autonomy and mobility they deserve in a safe and affordable manner, it's crucial we provide transit access to all older people in Michigan.



What To Know:

- **One in five older people don't drive in the USA.¹**
- **Fatal crash rates increase significantly for drivers over age 70 and are highest among drivers 85 and older.** Having transit options for older people greatly reduces the amount of fatal crashes.²
- **68% of older people aged 65-79 in the metro Detroit region had poor access to transit in 2015,** totaling 445,000 people. Metro Detroit ranks fourth worst among large metro regions nationally.³
- **Northern Michigan has a disproportionately older population than most rural areas in the country.** Older Michiganders are far more reliant on transit than most populations. We need transit so that older people in Northern Michigan can get around.⁴
- **78% of caregivers provide or arrange for rides for their older relatives.⁵** Providing transit for older Michiganders could make caregivers' lives easier, and give older people more autonomy.

¹ Metro Magazine Staff, "Lack of transportation options worry seniors, people with disabilities", 2018.

² Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, "Fatality Facts 2022, Older People", 2022.

³ Transportation for America, "Aging in Place, Stuck Without Options: Fixing the Mobility Crisis Threatening the Baby Boom Generation", 2011.

⁴ Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, "Rural Transit Fact Book | 2022", 2022.

⁵ National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, "Unique Issues Related to Older Adults and Transportation", 2025.

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.org.

