

# Transit is Essential for People with Disabilities

Everyone deserves a right to reliable, frequent transportation. While many people have the option of driving a car, not everyone can. **One in four Michiganders have a disability, and they face greater barriers to transportation** than other populations. Transit services that are accessible, affordable, and reliable allow people with disabilities to travel independently with dignity, something everyone deserves.

## What To Know:

- 34.5% of people with disabilities are employed, compared to 76.9% of general Americans. **This employment disparity has been primarily attributed to a lack of transportation.**<sup>1</sup>
- In 2019, over 650,000 Michiganders with disabilities lived in poverty or were unable to afford essentials. **One of the largest barriers** identified by Michiganders with disabilities **was a lack of access to transit.**<sup>2</sup>
- Nationwide, about 560,000 people with disabilities indicate they never leave home because of **transportation difficulties**. Out of all Americans that never leave their home, over half are people with disabilities, making up 1.9 Million People.<sup>3</sup>

*"I love going to the cider mill, to the zoo, seeing fireworks at the park and Wicked at the Opera House.... My life as I know it wouldn't exist without public transportation options."*

- Dawn Hammontree, a Detroit-area resident who is unable to drive after a stroke she suffered behind the wheel in 2016.



<sup>1</sup> Anand & Sevak, "The role of workplace accommodations in the employment of people with disabilities", 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Rahman in Detroit Free Press, "Michiganders with disabilities are living in poverty, struggling to afford basics", 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Transportation Statistics, "Transportation Difficulties Keep Over Half a Million Disabled at Home", 2012.

# 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](http://DetroitTransit.org).

