

Transit is Important for Rural Communities

People who rely on public transit live in both urban and rural areas, and transit can be found in both too. **Michigan is a state with many rural communities, and it's crucial transit is provided to everyone in rural Michigan.** Rural areas have more older, lower-income, and people with disabilities - all people who are especially reliant on transit.

What To Know:

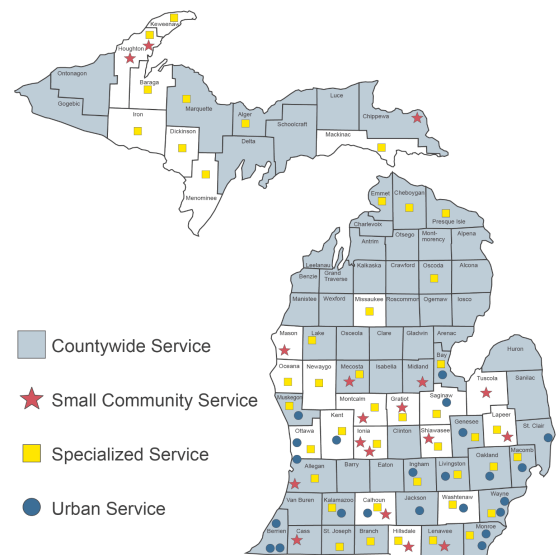
- Northern Michigan has a disproportionately older population and population with disabilities than most rural areas in the country, meaning Northern Michigan has more transit reliant people than other rural areas in the country.¹
- All of Michigan's 83 counties have public transit. 74 of these are serviced by rural transit providers.
- In 2022, Michigan's rural transit agencies provided 4,715,000 rides - the third most out of any state. Out of these, 3,467,000 of these rides were dial-a-ride - the most out of any state in the country.²
- Over a million households in rural America don't have a vehicle.³
- While only 19% of Americans live in rural areas, 47% of fatal car crashes occur in rural areas. Taking public transit can reduce your personal risk to car-related fatalities by 90%.⁴

"Before WOTA came to Holly, I would have never been able [to go to the pool]. The isolation was horrendous."

- Theresa Rodgers, resident of Holly in rural Oakland County, who relies on rural transit to live her life.⁵



Michigan Local Public Transit



¹ Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, "Rural Transit Fact Book | 2022", 2022.

² Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, "Rural Transit Fact Book | 2022", 2022.

³ Soron in Inequality, "Small Towns and Rural Communities Need Transit, Too", 2021.

⁴ U.S. Department of Transportation, "The Critical Role of Rural Communities in the U.S. Transportation System", 2025.

⁵ Oakland County on YouTube, "Transit on the Move Through #OaklandCounty", 2024.

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.

