

Thank You for an Amazing 25th Anniversary Gala



Thanks for joining us at our Gala! We started off with some statements honoring TRU's founding family, and our special guests, the **Kendrick-Hands Family!** Steve, Karen, and Larry all gave interviews on what TRU was like when it was first founded 25 years ago, what it's become, and how TRU has impacted Detroit.

Nicole Brown, President of TRU's Board, passed the torch onto **Robert Cramer**, Executive Director of Transit for the City of Detroit. While he was talking about his experience with TRU over the past decades, Megan presented him with a Transit Champion pin, to recognize his service as a champion for transit in Detroit.
Continued on next page



Featured Inside:

25 Years of TRU's Board
25 Years of Partners & Coalitions
25 Years of Volunteers
Transit Progress Across 25 Years
Honoring Our Family
Recognition of Our Work
Thank You





25 Years of TRU's Board

Up next was **Deb**, TRU's Assistant Director. Deb spotlighted TRU's board of directors and partnerships. Dozens of people have served on TRU's board over the years, and we're looking forward to all of our new members too! October kicks off TRU's board recruitment season. If you're interested in serving as a TRU board member, please email Megan@DetroitTransit.org.

25 Years of Partners & Coalitions

TRU has many partnerships in the community, from grassroots allies, local businesses, major corporations, city government, state leaders, and transit agencies. To highlight this work, we worked with SMART to produce a video on our work together, and presented SMART's General Manager **Tiffany Gunter** with a transit champion pin. Then,



Megan Owens, TRU's Executive Director, took a moment to recognize everyone in the room and their service to the transit



transit coalition as our next step in coalition building, giving a voice for transit advocacy for everyone throughout Michigan!



community, and **Conan Smith**, Michigan Environmental Council's Executive Director, joined her to have a conversation about coalition work.

TRU has been part of many coalitions in the past and present. Currently, we're part of the local **Double DDOT** coalition, the statewide **Clean Rides Network**, and the national **Towards Equitable Electric Mobility (TEEM)**, as part of the Michigan cohort. And while we're figuring out the final details, we're excited to announce the launch of a statewide

25 Years of Volunteers

Up next was **Za'Nyia Kelly**, TRU's Engagement Manager, who took a second to appreciate the hard work of our volunteers. TRU's Communications Associate, **Theresa De Benedetti**, also made a video highlighting our interns from past and present, and where they've gone onto now thanks to their time at TRU. If you want to join our awesome volunteer team, let us know! And check out TRU's intern opportunities.

Transit Progress Across 25 Years

Ben Stupka, president of the RTA, and **Megan** took the stage to discuss the progress metro Detroit has made in the past 25 years, and some of the regions transit plans! The highlighted the three main attributes that transit plans have included:

- 1. Filling in gaps & expand transit throughout the region**, like D2A2, SMART Flex, and eliminating opt-outs.
- 2. Rapid transit & other corridor investments**, including FAST, TheRide and DDOT high frequency plans, and the Qline.
- 3. Convenience and making transit easy to use**, such as same day paratransit, DAX and DART. Next



Recognition of Our Work

was **Tim Killeen**, Wayne County Commissioner, and **Assad Turfe**, Wayne County Deputy Executive, to present TRU a testimonial resolution from Wayne County, acknowledging our service in the community!

Then **Dave Woodward**, Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chair, **Megan**, and **Assad** talked

about what's next for transit in metro Detroit, including fighting to end Wayne County opt-outs next year, Double DDOT and 10 minute frequencies on key routes, expanding our statewide coalition, and some state reforms like increased state transit investment, fixing MDOT's priorities to balance transit and cars, and improving cross-state transit.

Thanks to Everyone for Coming!

Honoring Our Family

Joel Batterman, TRU's Campaigns Manager, took a moment to remember those who were part of our family but have since passed on. We wish all of our friends could be here with us today, but their memory and service to our fellow bus riders will never be

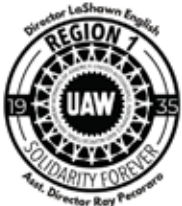
forgotten. We'll remember everyone who has touched our hearts over the years, but give special recognition to **Marcia Yakes**, **Jack Schram**, **Tommy Meadows**, **Mark Flanders**, **Brother Tom Zerafa**, and **Anna Holden**.



Finally, the program ended with TRU board members **Farai Gundan** and **Gillian Gainsley** took a moment to ask our guests to become a sustaining member of TRU. Our work is possible thanks to our monthly members. Consider becoming a member of TRU today, for 25 more years of advocacy! Thank you to each and every person who has ever contributed to TRU. Without any of you, none of this would be possible.



Thanks to our sponsors for making TRU's 25th Gala possible



Michigan Climate
Action Network

Programs to Educate
All Cyclists

University of Detroit
Mercy School of Law

Comerica Bank

Ecology Center

Liz in Detroit

Greater Detroit
Windsor Project

Detroit Jews
for Justice