

THE VEHICLE

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

April 2008

Vol. 2

2008 MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following table is a list of major construction and resurfacing projects scheduled to begin or resume during the 2008 construction season. Included is the location of the project and a brief description of the type of improvements being undertaken. The agency or agencies responsible for the project, the estimated construction start and completion dates, project funding sources and approximate project costs are also provided. A map identifying the project locations can be found on page 5.

Project Location and Improvement	Agency	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Funding Source	Construction Cost
S. Main at Eisenhower - Reconstruct intersection	Ann Arbor	April 2008	July 2008	Ann Arbor Resurfacing Millage	\$324,000
Huron River Dr from N. Main to Bird - Reconstruct road, replace sanitary sewer	Ann Arbor	May 2008	November 2008	Ann Arbor Resurfacing Millage	\$2,000,000
N. Maple from Miller to Dexter (Southbound lanes only) and Miller from N. Maple to Fulmer - Resurfacing and water main construction	Ann Arbor	May 2008	October 2008	Ann Arbor Resurfacing Millage	\$430,000
W. Stadium at Pauline intersection - Reconstruct intersection	Ann Arbor	August 2008	October 2008	Ann Arbor Resurfacing Millage	\$453,000
Railroad (McKinley to the east) and McKinley (Jackson to E. Middle) - Reconstruct road - new water main, storm and sanitary sewere	Chelsea	June 2008	September 2008	MTF, Local, STP-R, TEDFD	\$730,000
M-14: 5 Bridges (M -153 connector ramps B & C, Flemming Creek, Curtis, Joy) - Deck Replacement, paint, substructure repair	MDOT	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	STP, Critical Structures	\$4,359,520
US-23 Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw Counties - Sign replacement	MDOT	Spring 2008	Fall 2008	Safety	\$5,190,000
M-14 at Gottfredson - Deck replacement, paint, replace pin and hanger	MDOT	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	Economic Development, Private	\$2,006,000
M-153 from Frains Lake to Napier - Two course overlay	MDOT	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	STP, Michigan Betterment	\$3,428,000
I 94 BL from US-23 BR to US-23 - Milling and single course overlay	MDOT	June 2008	August 2008	Michigan Betterment, National Highway System	\$1,277,200

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Project Location and Improvement	Agency	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Funding Source	Construction Cost
I-94 Corridor at Rawsonville, and at Jackson/Fletcher - Cantilever sign replacement	MDOT	Winter 2007	Spring 2008	Safety	\$240,000
I-94 from Huron River to Harris - Ultra thin overlay	MDOT	April 2008	June 2008	Interstate Maintenance	\$442,900
M-52 from Sibley to Roepkie - Double micro surface	MDOT	April 2008	August 2008	Interstate Maintenance	\$371,600
US-23 N. to M-14 S. over US-23 SB - Bridge beam end repairs	MDOT	Summer 2008	Fall 2008	MTF, National Highway System	\$280,000
US 23 under Ford Blvd - Thin overlay, paint, pin and hanger joint replacement	MDOT	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	STU	\$420,000
Third from Central to end - Rehabilitation of local road	Dexter	May 2008	June 2008	Local	\$360,000
Dexter Ann Arbor from Dan Hoey to Meadowview - Widening of Dexter Ann Arbor to add bike and turn lanes resurface	Dexter	June 2008	August 2008	STPU, Jobs Today, Local	\$600,000
Liberty Culvert over Hass Drain - Replace short bridge	WCRC	July 2008	October 2008	MTF	\$250,000
Carpenter from Textile to Ellsworth - Widen roadway from 2 lanes to 5 lanes	WCRC	March 2007	July 2008	STPU, HPP, Jobs Today, MTF	\$6,000,000
Munger @ Textile - Reconstruction of intersection; safety project	WCRC	June 2008	September 2008	Safety & MTF	\$100,000
Platt from Ellsworth to US-12 - Construct non-motorized pathway	WCRC	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	HPP, Enhancement, Local	\$869,000
East Delhi over Huron River - Rehabilitate existing structure	WCRC	July 2008	November 2008	Local Bridge, MTF, Local	\$1,100,000
Jackson from Honey Creek to Dino - Construct 4 lane boulevard	WCRC	May 2008	November 2009	HPP, Jobs Today, Scio DDA	\$17,000,000
Main (Dexter) Bridge over Mill Creek - Replace existing structure	WCRC	April 2008	November 2008	Local Bridge, MTF, Village of Dexter	\$2,200,000
Geddes @ Superior - Construct Roundabout	WCRC	April 2008	July 2008	STPU, HPP, Jobs Today, MTF	\$1,500,000
Public Housing at Arlington and First Court - Reconstruction and YCUA water main project	Ypsilanti	June 2008	September 2008	Paving Local Street Fund	\$290,000
ADA Ramp Program - City wide construct ADA ramps	Ypsilanti	Summer 2008	Summer 2008	CDBG, Washtenaw County Urban	\$610,000
Mills from US-12 to Hollywood - Reconstruct curbs, add sidewalk ramps	Saline	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	Road Bonds, Major Local Street Funds	\$425,000
Maple from US-12 to Library - Resurface, concrete repairs, new signal system	Saline	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	Road Bonds, Major Local Street Funds	\$650,000
Forestbrook from Forestbrook to end of cul-de-sac - Reconstruct road	Saline	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	Road Bonds, Major Local Street Funds	\$30,000
South Industrial from US 12 to Bemis - Chip seal and fog seal	Saline	Spring 2008	Summer 2008	Road Bonds, Major Local Street Funds	\$25,000

2008 WCRC PERMIT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



The following table is a list of privately funded construction projects scheduled to begin during the 2008 construction season. The table includes the location of the project and a brief description of the type of improvements being undertaken. Privately funded projects are completed under permit with the WCRC. Estimates and timing information is not available for these projects. These projects have been mapped with major projects on Page 5.

Project Location	Township	Work Description	Private Partner
Geddes @ LeForge	Superior	Construct turn lanes	Hyundai
Bemis @ Platt	Pittsfield	Construct turn lanes and install traffic signal	Toyota
Platt from Willis to Toyota	Pittsfield	Construct 4 lane road and turn lanes at Toyota entrance	Toyota
Platt @ Willis	Pittsfield	Construct traffic signal installation	Toyota
Willis from Platt to US-23	Pittsfield	Construct 5 lane road	Toyota

AATA TO BEGIN CHELSEA EXPRESS SERVICE

Commuters into Ann Arbor from Chelsea and western Washtenaw County will have a new transportation option beginning May 15th when AATA will begin operation of a new express bus. Service will be operated Monday through Friday on a twice-daily basis between the Arctic Coliseum ice arena near I-94 in Chelsea, and four bus stops in Ann Arbor.

The service will be operated by Indian Trails as a pilot project, with federal grant dollars making up the cost of service not covered by passenger fares. Comfortable, over-the-road coaches will be used, offering such amenities as upholstered high-backed seats, reading lights and overhead storage.

Early morning trips will leave the Arctic Coliseum in Chelsea at 6:09 and 7:08 a.m.; stop at Huron and Ashley, Huron and Fifth, and Huron and Fletcher, and arrive at Ann and Observatory streets in Ann Arbor at 6:40 a.m.



Return trips in the afternoon will depart from Ann and Observatory at 3:44 and 5:12 p.m.; make stops at Huron and Fletcher, Huron and Fifth and Huron and Ashley, and arrive at the Arctic Coliseum in Chelsea at 4:14 and 5:44 p.m.

LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE WATS LIBRARY

- ◆ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality: 2006 Annual Air Quality Report
- ◆ Washtenaw County Road Commission: 2008 - 2012 Capital Improvement Plan
- ◆ Office of Highway Safety Planning: 2007 Annual Evaluation Report, The Faces of Safety
- ◆ Huron River Watershed Council: Potential Impacts of Transfer of Development Rights for Michigan Communities, The Huron River Watershed Scenarios
- ◆ Western Washtenaw Area Value Express: Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007 Data Report
- ◆ MRide Program Annual Report, March 2008



2008 ANN ARBOR LOCAL STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM

Estimated Beginning and Ending Date	Street	Limits
April 28 - May 3	W. Ann	N. Main to N. Fifth
	Maynard	E. Liberty to E. Jefferson
	Glen court	Fuller to UM parking structure
May 27 - June 25	Linden	Geddes to S. University
	Onondaga	Geddes to Dorset
	Berkshire	Hill to Vinewood
	Martin Place	Cambridge to Wells
June 24 - July 21	Arlington Blvd	Devonshire to Heather Way
	Woodside	Welingford to Shadford
	Shadford	Harding to Brockman
	Medford	Needham to Manchester
	Buckingham Court	Buckingham Rd to Dead End
July 21 - August 29	N. Fourth Ave	Depot to Kingsley
	N. Fifth Ave	Depot to Beakes
	W. Summit	Brooks to Wildt
August 29 - Sept 19	Sunset	Spring to Wildt
	Foss	N. Maple to Flumer
	Kirtland Dr	W. Stadium to Glen Leven
	Farmbrook Court	Eisenhower Service Dr to end
	Baylis	Beaconsfield to Stone School
	Ward Court	Baylis to Dead End
	Logan Court	Baylis to Dead End



2008 CHELSEA LOCAL STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM

June - July	E. Middle St.	M-52 to Madison
June - September	Wilkinson	Willington to Chandler
	Taylor Lane	Railroad to Savannah Lane
June - October	McKinley	Railroad to E. North St.
	McKinley	Railroad to Dewey

MDOT: FLASHING LEFT TURN ARROWS

MDOT is beginning to install new four-arrow left turn signals. The new signals have been found to reduce crashes, process more traffic, and will be consistent as they are rolling out nation wide, and will provide more flexibility in traffic management.

In most locations, the flashing yellow arrow will be part of a four-arrow signal. In areas where this is not possible, the bottom of the three-arrow signal will display the flashing arrow or a steady green arrow.

NEW WATS EMPLOYEE: NICK SAPKIEWICZ

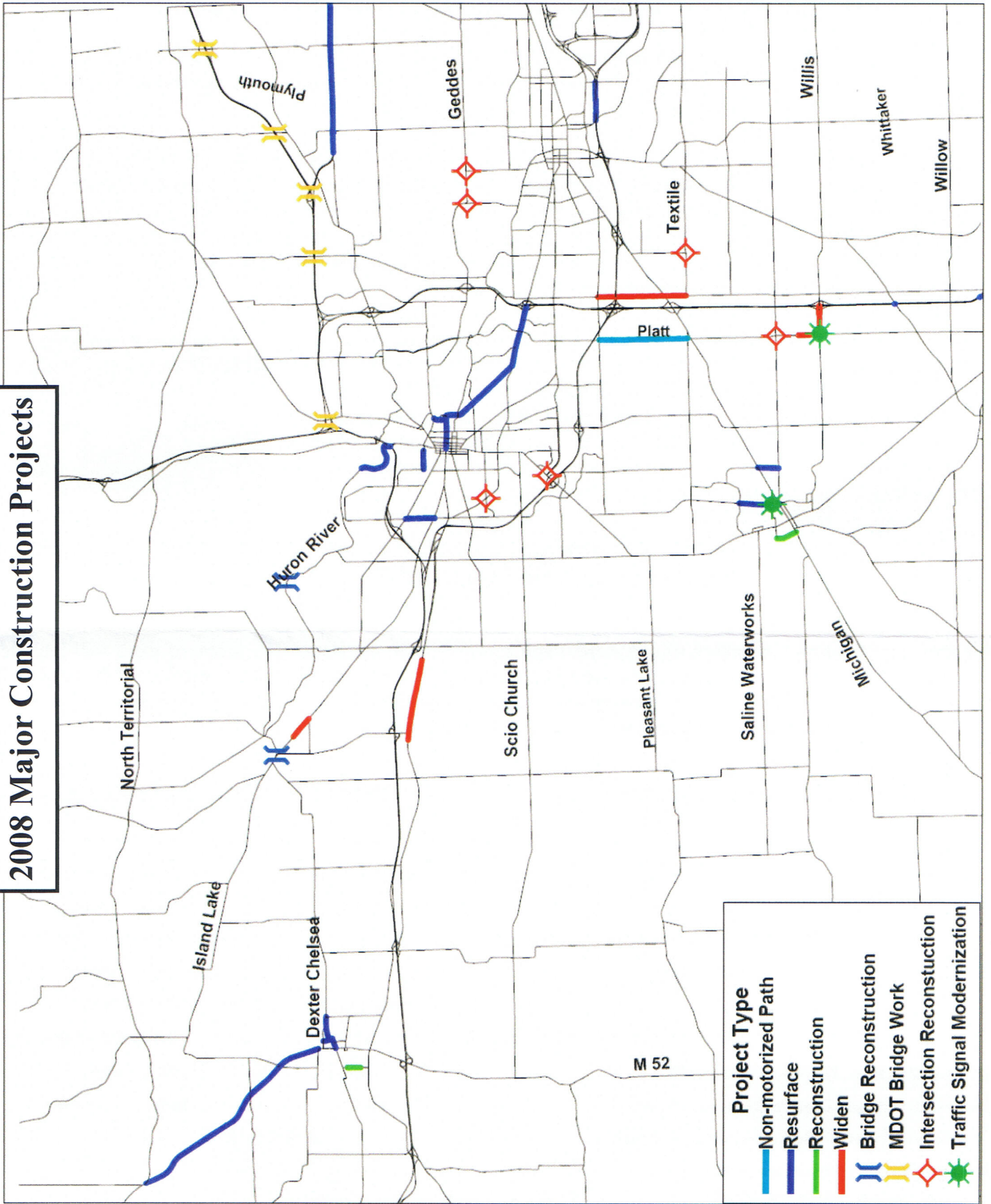
Nick Sapkiewicz began interning with WATS in June 2007, and was officially hired in early January. WATS considered three candidates to replace the position left open by the departure of Matt Raschke to a career in law enforcement.

Originally from Livonia, and now living in Ferndale, Nick completed his bachelors degree in urban and regional planning at Eastern Michigan University in 2007. Prior to his WATS internship, Nick worked with the City of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority in economic development initiatives and Downtown infrastructure enhancements.

At WATS, Nick has been working on the Transportation Profile and Transit Plan, as well as with the HPMS program and various other initiatives undertaken by WATS.



2008 Major Construction Projects



Project Type	
Blue line	Non-motorized Path
Dark blue line	Resurface
Green line	Reconstruction
Red line	Widen
Blue brackets	Bridge Reconstruction
Yellow brackets	MDOT Bridge Work
Red diamond	Intersection Reconstruction
Green star	Traffic Signal Modernization

READ ALL ABOUT IT: 2008 WATS PUBLICATIONS

WATS has recently completed two publications which are now available. Both the *Washtenaw County 2006 Transportation Profile*, and *The Transit Plan for Washtenaw County*, were approved by the WATS Policy Committee on February 20th.



Washtenaw Area Transportation Study
Transportation Profile 2006

The *Washtenaw County 2006 Transportation Profile* is a snapshot in time of the most up to date information available on the transportation network within the county. This comprehensive report is broken down into five sections: Demographic Profile, Roadways and Bridges, Transit, Non-Motorized, and Freight. Readers of this report will be able access information on numerous transportation facets, as well as view maps graphically depicting the data.

The *Transit Plan for Washtenaw County* identifies and maps deficiencies within the existing transit network, the needs of those who are served by transit, 14 recommendations to implement the plan's findings, and next steps. Unlike other transportation improvement plans which must remain fiscally constrained to current budget limitations, the Transit Plan explores what the ideal components necessary to complete the Washtenaw County transportation network would be, and how they may be implemented.



TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TASK FORCE

Governor Granholm has appointed a transportation task force required by Senate Bill No. 59 to evaluate the adequacy of funding for surface transportation and aeronautics in the state. The scope of work will include reviewing "strategies for maximizing the return on transportation investments, and evaluation of the potential of alternate strategies to replace or supplement the state motor fuel taxes, existing and alternative user fees, and nonuser revenues to support economic activity and personal mobility in the state."

Transportation Funding Task Force

Citizen Advisory Committee to the Task Force

Cindy B. Elliot - Manufacturing, Midland
 Dennis H. Gillow, Co-Chair - Labor, Lake City
 John A. James - Transportation, Detroit
 Ann M. Jousma-Miller - Agriculture, Escanaba
 Michael A. Nystrom - General Public, Okemos
 Roger F. Salo - Aviation
 Richard K. Studley, Co-Chair - Commerce, Lansing
 L. Susan Zehnder - Tourism, Frankenmuth
 Sen. Glen Anderson - Senate Democratic Caucus
 Sen. Judson Gilber II - Senate Republican Caucus
 Rep. Pam Byrnes - House Democratic Caucus
 Rep. Philip J. LaJoy - House Republican Caucus

Linda M. Atkinson - Channing
 Mickey Balshfield - Bloomfield Hills
 Gloria R. Combe - Northville
 Daniel M. DeGraaf - DeWitt
 Gretchen D. Driskell - Saline
 Michael W. Fikes - Grand Blanc
 William E. Gehman - Grand Ledge
 Russell A. Gronevelt - Plymouth
 Kari L. Hughston - McBain
 James A. Klett - Dowagiac
 James A. Koslosky - Grand Rapids
 Keith P. Ledbetter - Lansing
 William A. McFarlane - Ypsilanti
 John D. Niemela - Belding
 Sylvester Payne - Freeland
 Steward E. Sandstorm - Kalamazoo
 Kirk T. Steudle - Lansing
 Robert C. Struck - Marquette



SEMCOG RESPONDS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S LOWERING OF THE OZONE STANDARD

March 12, 2008 the United States Environmental Protection Agency announced a lowering of the ozone standard, from 80 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb. SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, as Southeast Michigan's lead planning agency for air quality, opposes this change and issues the following response:

- SEMCOG is not debating whether air quality should improve. SEMCOG's work clearly shows that, regardless of any change in the standard, air pollutant emissions will continue to decline significantly for several years as newly enacted control programs are phased in.
- Compliance with this new standard will be very difficult because most emission sources are already being controlled.
- There are a variety of challenges Southeast Michigan needs to confront related to air and water quality, most notably climate change. SEMCOG needs to apply the public's limited fiscal resources to the programs that will provide the greatest environmental benefits.
- This is an especially critical issue for Southeast Michigan, where the region is 600 percent more dependent on the auto industry than the rest of the country for our economic vitality.
- This new standard will put many areas of the country out of compliance. As they are required to reduce their emissions to meet the standard, the auto industry will be a likely target.
- The likelihood that there will be national legislation to require reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, at significant cost, is extremely high. Addressing climate change and ozone are being approached as separate policy decisions, despite the fact that our financial ability to implement one will affect the other.

SEMCOG will continue to track this issue and closely monitor air quality improvements in the region to determine what actions will be needed to comply with this new standard.

WATS WEBSITE HAS INFORMATION FOR YOU

Have you been looking for data such as a traffic count or a crash rate for your community? How about a printable version of a WATS report such as the current list of obligated projects, non-motorized plan, or the transportation improvement plan?

The agency's website at www.miwats.org has years worth of information on the Washtenaw County transportation network on topics ranging from grant funding initiatives, to construction projects, to brochures summarizing the data compiled by WATS.



Additionally, if you are looking for a way to become active in the transportation projects that will help shape the future of the county, check the website from time to time for upcoming public meetings where comments, questions, and a chance to help shape transportation plans for the county are available.



TRANSIT TOWN HALL

We aren't the only ones excited about transit! Transit Town Hall forums were held March 3rd in Detroit, and March 24th in Ann Arbor to discuss regional transit solutions. Both discussions reaffirm the desire and commitment to developing a regional rail system. The Ann Arbor to Detroit portion of the rail system has been the focus of attention, with the most recent initiatives being to run service past Ann Arbor to Chelsea, where commuters from Jackson would be able to park and board trains.

Held on March 24th, the Washtenaw County Transit Town Hall included public discussion with local transportation planning professionals, and with State Representatives Pam Byrnes and Marie Donigan. Donigan, chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on Mass Transit, shared some of the following findings of the subcommittee's recent mass transit study: efficient, modern public transit increases employment and bolsters the economy; investing in transit is a more effective way of investing in road infrastructure; demand for transit has never been greater and people are moving to areas with transit.

Jennifer Kalczuk of The Rapid in Kent County shared that a key ingredient to funding transit initiatives is demonstrating to elected officials and the public that transit funding is an investment in local and regional economic development.

Terri Blackmore spoke on funding options for development of initiatives listed in the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County. Public involvement sessions for the plan identified a property tax millage as the most common choice for funding regional transit and a sales tax increase as the second most common choice.



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