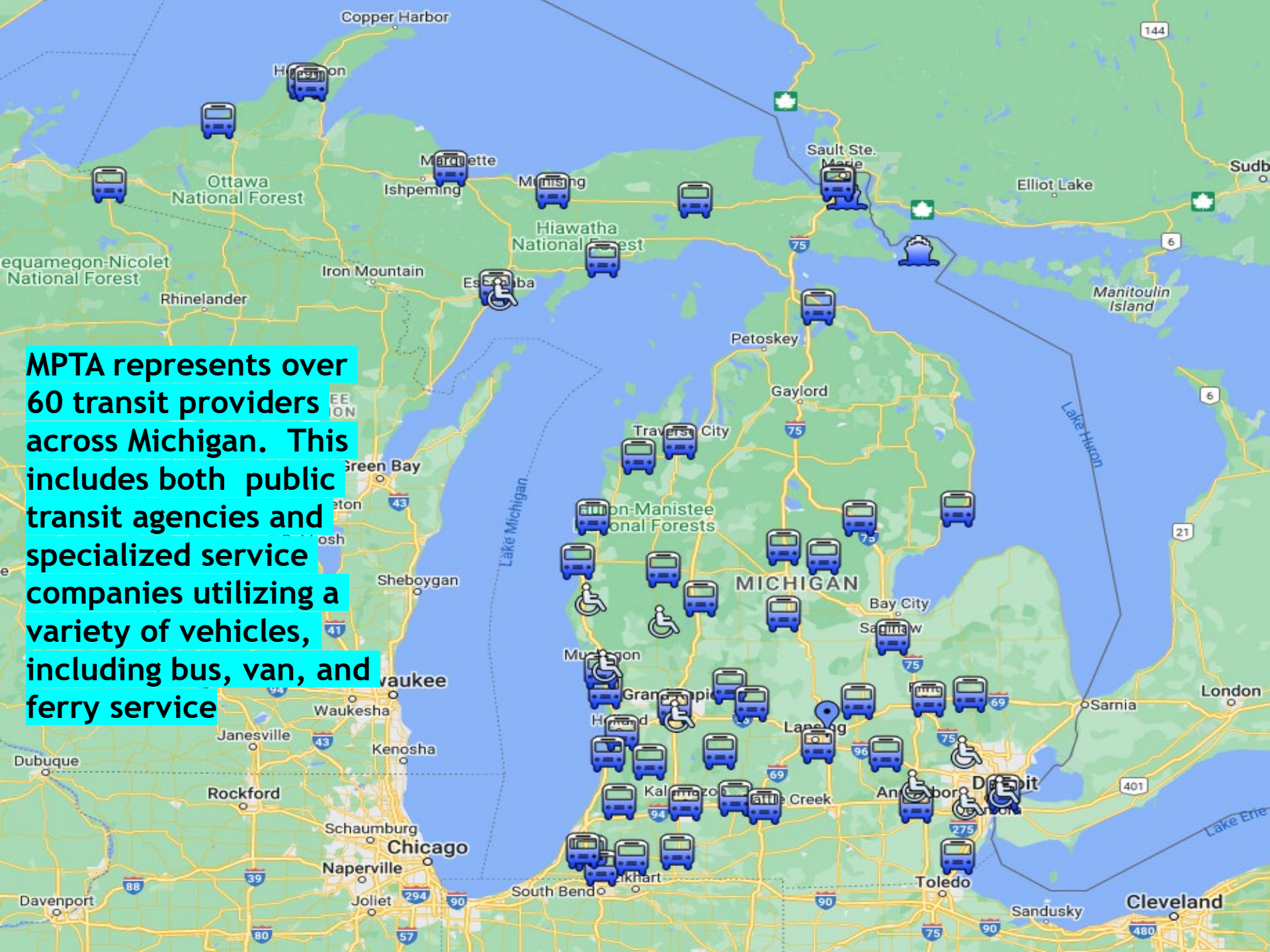




Michigan Public Transportation Association
Testimony to Michigan Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation
3/13/2024

Harmony Lloyd
Vice Chair, MPTA Board
VP of Planning and Innovation, SMART

MPTA represents over 60 transit providers across Michigan. This includes both public transit agencies and specialized service companies utilizing a variety of vehicles, including bus, van, and ferry service



Public Transit is About Quality of Life for Michiganders

Public transit provides rides to over 30M Michiganders a year

It is an essential service to communities and provides access to life outside a person's home

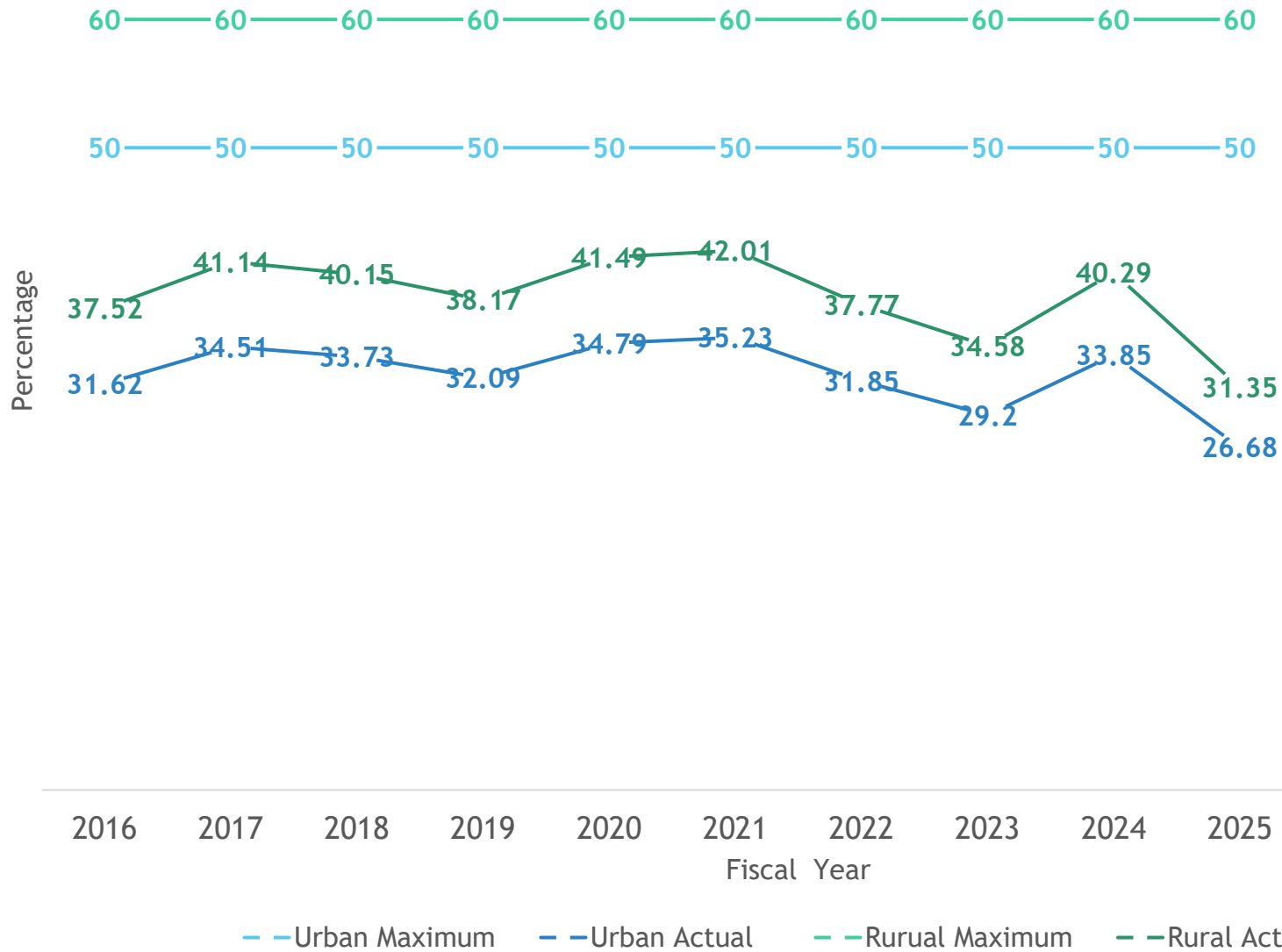




Funding of Transit

- ▶ Federal Funding
 - ▶ Focused on capital needs (buses, facilities)
- ▶ State Funding
 - ▶ Provides 20% match to federal capital projects
 - ▶ **Local Bus Operating or LBO**
- ▶ Local Funding
 - ▶ Millages
 - ▶ Farebox
 - ▶ General fund

LOCAL BUS OPERATING REIMBURSEMENT LEVELS





What does LBO mean to transit riders and agencies?

Roscommon County Transportation Authority

Impact of Local Bus Operating



- ▶ *No hospital in Roscommon County*
- ▶ *Seniors are 35% of population*
- ▶ *LBO funds transportation for seniors who are discharged from hospitals or need a ride to a specialist throughout Michigan*
- ▶ *Over 64,000 trips in 2023*

The Ride - Ann Arbor Impact of Local Bus Operating

- ▶ *Workers from Ypsilanti cannot get to jobs in Ann Arbor*
- ▶ *New service - the Washtenaw Avenue Express bus will open the door for new job opportunities*
- ▶ *An effective, commonsense solution to the transportation barrier for workers*



The Rapid - Grand Rapids

Impact of Local Bus Operating

- ▶ The Rapid is able to offer fixed route and paratransit bus service to riders like Joel.
- ▶ Being able to use the bus provides the opportunity for riders with disabilities to travel independently to school and work.
- ▶ Through rider surveys, 80% of The Rapid's riders indicated they are using it for work.



SMART - Metro Detroit

Impact of Local Bus Operating

- ▶ SMART was able to expand routes in all three counties it serves creating new access to jobs, schools, and food
- ▶ SMART's paratransit service ensures persons with disabilities will not miss medical appointments like dialysis
- ▶ SMART's late-night hours of service allow riders to take second and third shift jobs and know they are going to be able to get home



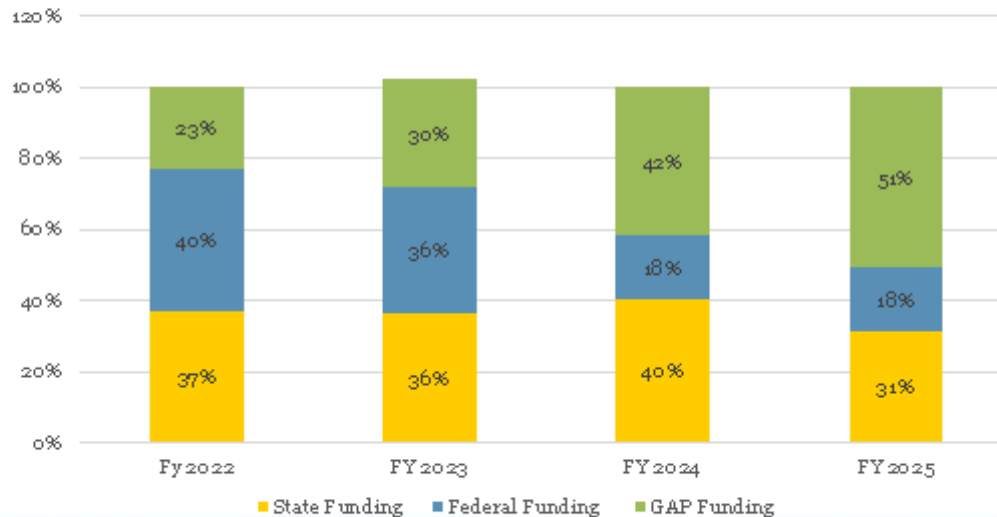
Always moving forward

- ▶ Route expansion
- ▶ Non-emergency medical transportation
- ▶ Multi use sites
 - ▶ Housing
 - ▶ Childcare
 - ▶ Community gardens
- ▶ Smart bus shelters
- ▶ Bike racks
- ▶ Clean energy
- ▶ Creating mobility hubs at Park and Ride lots



Rural Transit Funding

Rural Funding Gap



MPTA Budget Request

- MPTA requests at a minimum that Local Bus Operating (LBO) for FY 2024-2025 be restored to the 2023-2024 level of \$261M. It is our long-term goal to reach the full statutory ceiling of 50%/60% (urban/rural state funding) by the fiscal year 2027.