Annual Legislative Report

Delivering Regional Value: The Role of the RTA

February 25, 2026

Regional Transit Authority
Of Southeast Michigan

What is the RTA?

Purpose: Improve transit in the four-county region through coordination, funding, and strategic implementation

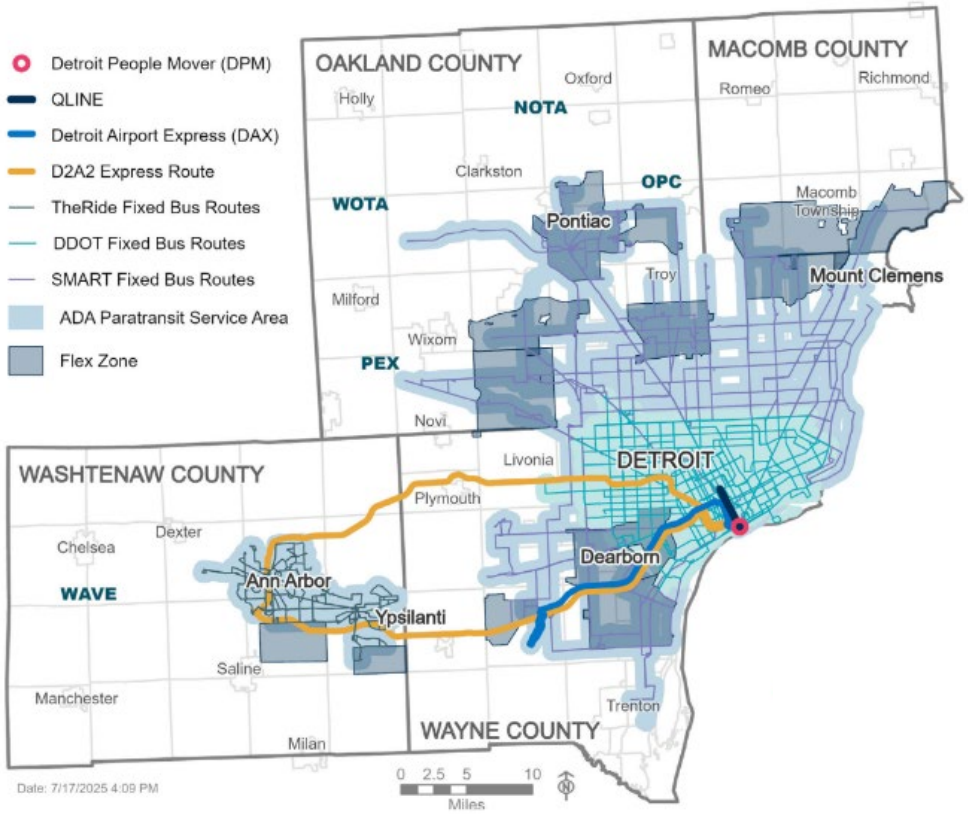
Mission: Create new and better ways to move and connect people

Vision: A Southeast Michigan where advances in transit create greater prosperity or all

The Region

Our region includes **4 million people** and over **2 million jobs**. At almost **3,000 square miles** it spans urban centers, major suburban job centers, rural townships, and a large university community.

That scale and complexity make regional alignment essential.



29.7 MILLION

rides provided by the **5 largest** transit providers

97% **SAW THE BENEFIT OF IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSIT**

The Role of the RTA

1. Regional Coordination

2. Leveraging State and Federal Funding

3. Strategic Regional Implementation

Regional Coordination

Formal and informal coordination has led to success!

- Transit App
- Corridors/FAST
- SMART/DDOT Fare Alignment
- Mobility Management

Leadership from RTA, DDOT, SMART, TheRide and MDOT at the launch event of Transit app Royale, thanks to a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

myride2

rta

Leveraging State and Federal Funding

We have worked hard to maximize funding opportunities.

- Federal Formula and Discretionary Funding
- Support for Local Initiatives
- Federal Funding for Services for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

$11M distributed to 39 community providers and non-profits.

Area Agency on Aging 1-B
AgeWays
Nonprofit Senior Services

OPC
SOCIAL & ACTIVITY CENTER
The Best Place To Be 50+

STAR
TRANSPORTATION
ROMEO•WASHINGTON•BRUCE
586.752.9010

RICHMOND LENOX
EMS
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

NANKIN TRANSIT
NTC

People's Express

Ride the W.A.V.E.
Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express

RIDENOTA

Jewish Family Service
OF METRO DETROIT

WESTEI
OAKLA
TRANS
AUTHC

rta

Strategic Regional Implementation

We lead programs and services with regional benefit

- D2A2 – Detroit to Ann Arbor express bus
- DAX – Detroit to Airport express bus
- QLINE – Streetcar in the heart of the region
- Access to Transit – safety improvements at transit stops

1+ MILLION
RIDERS IN 2025

106,000+ RIDERS

+15,000 from 2024

57,000+ RIDERS

+25% from 2024

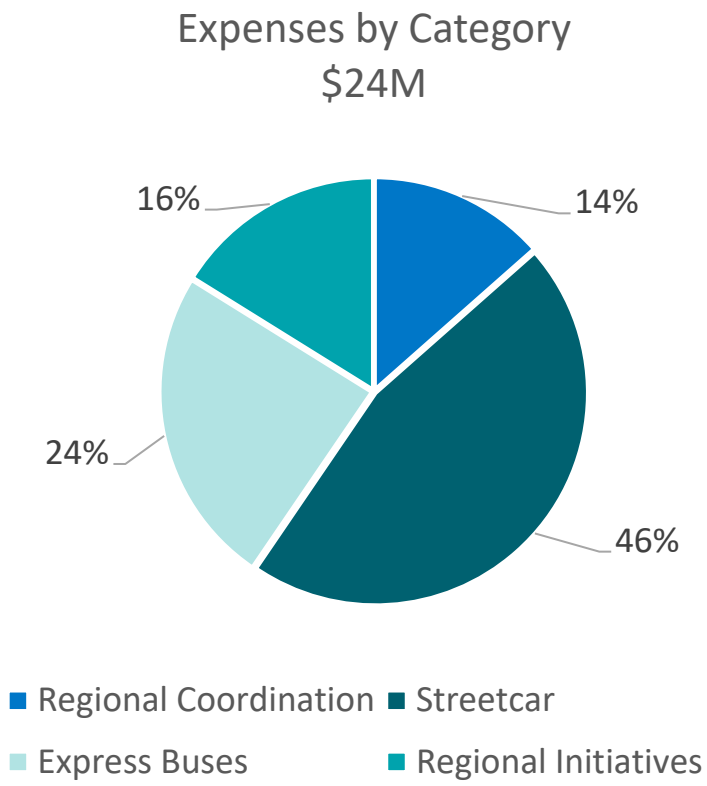
Why Does this Model Work?

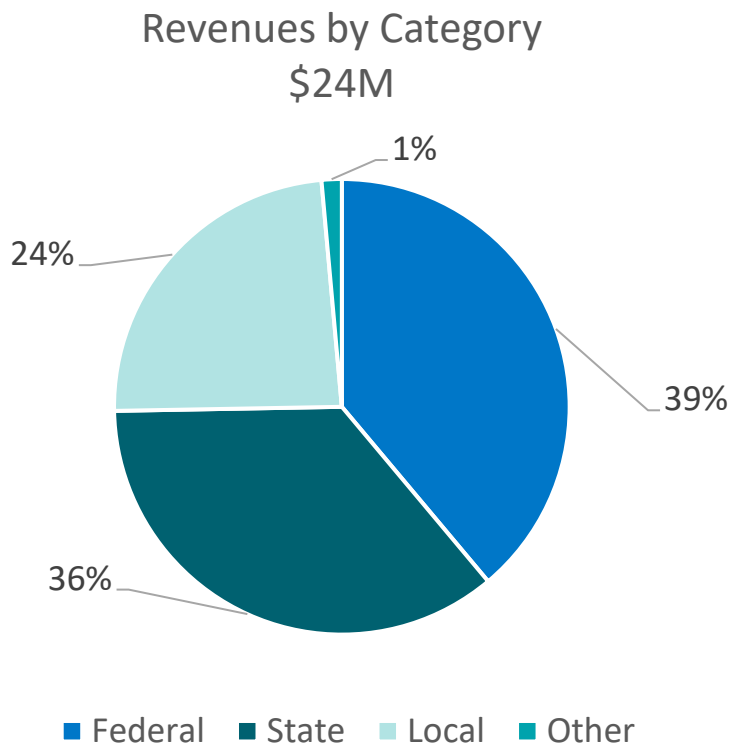
The RTA is built for a complex region.

- Preserves Existing Community Services
  - No forced consolidation or transfer of local assets.
- Maximizes Federal Competitiveness
  - Regional alignment strengthens grant applications.
- Delivers Cross-County Services
  - Express routes operate where no single agency has authority.
- Scalable and Disciplined
  - Grows services only where measurable demand exists.

RTA by the Numbers

The RTA is lean and focused delivering value.





What's Next?

The RTA is just getting started. Here's what's next on our agenda:

- Improved regional express services
- Corridor improvements
- Improvements for community providers
- Expansion of the Transit App and additional payment solutions
- More investments in and around bus stops

Deploying State Investment with Measurable Accountability

Questions?
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