

DRAFT MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Transportation

DATE: March 13, 2024

Chair Puri called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Representatives Puri, Morgan, Skaggs Steckloff and Hood, Steele, and Borton were present.

Representative Steckloff moved to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2024 meeting. The motion was adopted without objection.

The subcommittee heard testimony by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) on public transportation programs. The presentation was given by Jean Ruestman, Office of Passenger Transportation, and Peter Anastor, MDOT Office of Rail.

The subcommittee then heard testimony on public transportation from the following presenters advocating for increased support for public transportation, and specifically, for local bus operating assistance.

Harmony Lloyd, SMART Vice President of Planning and Innovation, testifying on behalf of the Michigan Public Transit Association.

Megan Owens, Transportation Riders United.

Amalgamated Transit Union: Steve Soliz, President ATU Local 1039 (Lansing); Melvin Turnbo, President ATU Local 836 (Grand Rapids).

The subcommittee then heard from Steve Vagnozzi, Government Affairs Coordinator, Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers regarding support for rail passenger service in Michigan. Mr. Vagnozzi indicated that increases in service frequency drove increases in passengers. He presented a comparison of Michigan and North Carolina service.

Presentation documents are included in the official HFA minutes and are posted to the [House Fiscal Agency website](#).

A testimony card was turned in by Glen Steffens, Director, Saginaw Transit.

Chair Puri adjourned the subcommittee, without objection, the time being 1:30 PM.

Minutes taken by William E. Hamilton, House Fiscal Agency
Approved: