

Detroit City Council

Resolution in Support of Boosting State Investment in Public Transit

Whereas, tens of thousands of Detroit residents rely on public transit, including Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) buses, each day to get to work, school, and other destinations;

Whereas, roughly one-third of Detroit households lack access to a car;

Whereas, Detroiters have a civil right to public transportation, and;

Whereas, the risk of eliminating bus lines also imperils paratransit riders with disabilities, whose travel is bounded within a mile from a fixed-bus route;

Whereas, the City of Detroit has supported DDOT bus service through its General Fund for decades, and recently approved an additional \$21 million funding increase for DDOT in the City's FY 2025 budget;

Whereas, the State of Michigan has long supported public transit agencies throughout the state with allocations of funding from the state's Comprehensive Transportation Fund, particularly through Local Bus Operating (LBO) funding, which at one time funded nearly half the costs of running local buses;

Whereas, the State of Michigan allocated \$261 million in LBO funds in FY 2024, including \$45 million in one-time funds;

Whereas, Governor Whitmer's proposed budget allocates only \$221 M in LBO funds for FY 2025 which would result in the lowest state reimbursement rates in decades;

Whereas, according to MDOT, operating costs for public transit agencies increased 9% last year so the State would need to invest \$285M in LBO to not move backwards on transit;

Whereas, failure to maintain state reimbursement rates to Local Bus Operating funding will imperil future wage and benefit increases to transit operators, mechanics, and customer service personnel who are still leaving for higher paying jobs in freight, school bus transportation, etc;

Whereas, the proposed state budget would provide DDOT with approximately \$10 million less than last year;

Whereas, this failure to keep up with inflation would threaten to undo the progress made by the Department over the past year, and potentially force cuts to essential bus service;

Whereas, by Michigan increasing LBO funding, we can retain our drivers and recruit more, which is directly connected to reliable and frequent bus service in majority Black, POC, and low-income communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that:

Detroit City Council considers improved transit service essential for the health and prosperity of Detroit and its residents;

Formally urges the Legislature to increase Local Bus Operating funding in the FY2025 state budget to at least \$285 million to maintain state reimbursements levels to DDOT and other transit agencies;

And resolves that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and all members of the Detroit Caucus of the Michigan Legislature.