

For decades there had been a transportation gap between Wayne County, and its neighboring counties. It was believed that this disconnect, hindered that quality of life for its residents, which negatively affected healthy, sustainable growth. Thankfully, The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) of Southeast Michigan, founded in 2012, was created to advance equity, by increasing public transit mobility. Its 10-membered board of directors, composed of representatives from Wayne, Washtenaw, Macomb, and Oakland Counties, make are responsible for making the final decisions about the RTA's operation. The following board members were in attendance of 09/15/2022 Meeting:

Freman Hendrix

City of Detroit Representative

Paul Hillegonds

Governor Representative, Chair

Dr. Erica Robertson

Wayne County Representative

June Lee

Wayne County Representative

Ned Staebler

Washtenaw County Representative

Alma Wheeler Smith

Washtenaw County Representative

Helaine Zack

Oakland County Representative

Jeannette Bradshaw

Oakland County Representative

Donald Morandini

Macomb County Representative

Jon Moore

Macomb County Representative

For more info on RTA's Board of Directors, including their full bio visit:

<https://rtamichigan.org/about/board-of-directors/>

This month's meeting was primary to discuss 2nd quarter's budget, new staff hires, and new public transit projects.

RTA was in desperate need of new staff which caused the administrative budget to be slightly over during the months of July and August, in order to pay new staff hires, computers for the new staff, and traveling expenses. However, the board also announced it received an unsolicited \$200,000 for the 2024 fiscal year. Both 2023 and 2024 was approved during the board's vote. Among the new hires is Harmony Lloyd, who spoke and expressed excitement about the RTA's plan to increase mobility throughout the four counties, for the advancement of social justice via public regional transportation.

Today the RTA proudly announced their Detroit to Ann Arbor Express Bus Service (D2A2), in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (The Ride), is extending weekend service hours. The service will provide trips between the two communities throughout the day, from 7:30 AM to Midnight. To get schedules and updates of this service visit:

<https://d2a2.com/>

With the new formed RTA of Southeastern Michigan, the once trouble transit system between Wayne and its surrounding counties is taking a turn for the better. New staff has been hired, and public transportation project are on the rise. It's exciting to see social justice being address in Southeastern Michigan.