



THE VEHICLE

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

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DRAFT NON-MOTORIZED PLAN AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

The draft Non-Motorized Plan for Washtenaw County is complete and available for review on the WATS website at www.miwats.org. The plan identifies a future vision for the county's non-motorized transportation system and is meant for use by local communities and developers to develop a comprehensive non-motorized system.

The plan identifies a future vision of Washtenaw County's non-motorized transportation system which is the collective result of various agencies, communities and considerable public participation. The plan includes maps of existing facilities, deficiencies, major destinations, Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) bus stop accessibility and possible future non-motorized improvements. A list of the possible future improvements is also included. Funding, agency coordination and accessibility are also discussed. The plan identified 866 miles of existing non-motorized facilities and an additional 1,729 miles with deficient non-motorized access.

The plan includes 6 policies to guide the development of non-motorized facilities. The policies address what types of non-motorized facilities are necessary, where they are needed and that maintenance agreements need to be determined prior to implementation of non-motorized facilities. As mentioned earlier, the policies also provide a framework for identifying deficiencies.

The non-motorized plan will be incorporated into the WATS 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. This will provide a pipeline of non-motorized projects for agencies to submit for funding through WATS. In order for a project to be eligible to receive federal funds it must be included in a Long Range Plan.



A final set of public involvement meetings have been scheduled during July. The date, time and location of the meetings are included in the box to the right. These meetings will include a presentation on the draft document and its findings and will provide an opportunity to comment on the plan either in person with a WATS staff member or by using a comment sheet. The Non-motorized Plan for Washtenaw County is scheduled to be adopted by the WATS Policy Committee in August of 2006. Comments on the plan will be accepted until Monday, September 18th at the close of business by e-mailing buckr@miwats.org, fax or U.S mail.

NON-MOTORIZED PUBLIC MEETINGS

All meetings are from 6 to 8pm.

- ◆ July 5: Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, Superior Township
- ◆ July 6: Saline City Hall, 100 N. Harris, City of Saline
- ◆ July 10: Manchester Village Hall, 912 City Road, Manchester Village
- ◆ July 12: AATA Offices, 2700 S. Industrial, City of Ann Arbor
- ◆ July 13: Ypsilanti City Council Chambers, 1 N. Huron, City of Ypsilanti

WESTERN WASHTENAW REGIONAL COORDINATION TRANSIT STUDY REPORT - UPDATE

On June 21, 2006 the WATS Policy Committee approved the Western Washtenaw Coordination Transit Study Report. The report explains the possible merger of the Manchester Senior Citizens transit service with the Western Washtenaw Area Value Express, formally known as the Chelsea Area Transportation System. Major points of the study include:

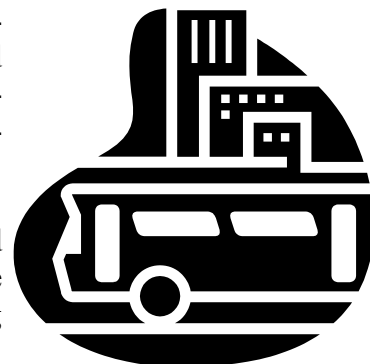
- ◆ Types of services include demand response, fixed route service, and group trips.
- ◆ Trip characteristics include medical, shopping, recreational, work, meals, and field trips.
- ◆ Senior citizens population, persons 65 years and older, living in western Washtenaw County increased from 2,736 to 3,357 or 18% between 1990 to 2000.
- ◆ The population of persons 65 years and older who have a disability, that reside in western Washtenaw County, increased from 773 to 885 or 13% between 1990 to 2000.
- ◆ The Manchester Senior Citizens is a non-profit agency that relies on volunteers to keep the transit service operating. The Manchester Senior Citizens receives no federal operating funding, but does receive state operating funding, as well as, federal and state capital funding for the purchase of replacement vehicles. The federal and state funding that the Manchester Senior Citizens receives is passed through the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA).
- ◆ CATS is a non-profit organized transit agency that receives federal and state operating dollars, as well as, federal and state capital dollars. All federal and state dollars that CATS receives are passed through the AATA.
- ◆ A merger will need to retain the identity that the current Manchester service has created at least in the short run, but the structure of the transit service and the programs that the MSC currently provides will need to be restructured over time.

The entire Western Washtenaw Regional Coordination Transit Study Report can be viewed on the WATS website at www.miwats.org.

COUNTYWIDE TRANSIT PLAN

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study will be conducting a Countywide Transit Plan in the summer of 2006. The Countywide Transit Plan will examine the current level of transit service in Washtenaw County and how well transit is serving major employers and places of higher learning within Washtenaw County. The plan will identify deficiencies and make recommendations on the types and level of service for different areas throughout Washtenaw County.

In July of 2006, a Steering Committee will initiate the planning process and guide the development of the plan. Public meetings to kick off the plan are scheduled for the month of September. For more information on the upcoming Countywide Transit Plan contact the Matt Raschke at 734-994-3127.





AATA BOARD RULES OUT FARE INCREASE

May 26, 2006: The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) Board of Directors decided at last night's scheduled board meeting to no longer consider the proposed fare increase that would have taken effect August 27, 2006. The Board is also not planning to reduce service at this time.

Public meetings previously scheduled for May 31, 2006 and June 8, 2006 to receive public input on the proposed fare increase were cancelled.

For the coming fiscal year, AATA is expected to cover the shortfall in funding from Ypsilanti with existing revenues and internal cost reductions. According to AATA Executive Director/CEO Greg Cook, "a long term solution such as a countywide millage would permit AATA to provide the level of service which meets the demand in the Ypsilanti area. This has not been possible due to the absence of a consistent source of revenue. In addition, funding from areas that don't currently receive service would permit AATA to provide needed transportation for a growing senior population, people with disabilities and commuters in these areas."

No AATA service will be cut this year with this plan. The envisioned countywide millage would not be to deal with the Ypsilanti shortfall, but rather add new service where it is needed.

AATA Press Release from www.aata.org

***AATA PARK & RIDE RELOCATING DUE
TO PIONEER PARKING LOT RECONSTRUCTION***

June 8, 2006: The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) Park & Ride lot now located at Pioneer High School will be temporarily relocated beginning Monday, June 19 through Friday, August 25 due to the reconstruction of the school's parking lot.

In cooperation with the University of Michigan (U-M), Park & Ride space for AATA Routes 7 and 16 passengers is being made available at U-M Lot SC36 at Main Street and Keech, north of Michigan Stadium, and for Route 14 passengers at U-M Lot SC7 along West Stadium Boulevard at Kipke Drive, east of the stadium. Signs will be posted at each temporary Park & Ride lot.

Routes 7 and 16 will board passengers along Main Street, while Route 14 will pick up passengers at the west end of the U-M SC7 lot.

In order to park in either lot, AATA passengers will need to obtain a courtesy U-M parking permit from AATA. To receive the temporary permit, Park & Ride commuters may contact AATA Community Relations at 734.528.5433.

AATA route and schedule information is available at 734.996.0400 and at www.TheRide.org.

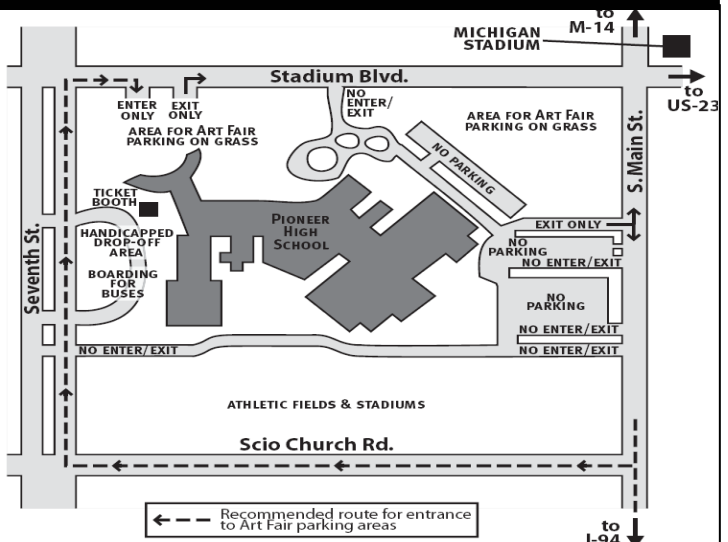
AATA Notice from www.aata.org

AATA ART FAIR PARKING & SHUTTLES AT PIONEER HIGH

Due to reconstruction of the Pioneer High School parking lots, AATA parking and shuttle boarding areas for the Ann Arbor Art Fairs will be relocated for 2006 as shown to the right. Overflow vehicles will be directed to the AATA shuttle site at Briarwood Mall.

For further information on the Art Fair shuttles from Pioneer High School or Briarwood Mall, contact AATA at 734.973.6500 or visit www.aata.org.

AATA Press Release from www.aata.org



LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE WATS LIBRARY

- ◆ Serious Motorcycle Crashes in Michigan: An Analysis of. Michigan State Police
- ◆ Community, Character and Cash: How you can reform transportation with context sensitive solutions. Michigan Environmental Council
- ◆ A Plan for Coordinated Parkland and Open Space. Washtenaw Metro Alliance
- ◆ Environmental Assessment for Jackson Road Phase 3: Scio Township, Michigan. Washtenaw County Road Commission
- ◆ Capital Improvement Plan 2006-2010. Washtenaw County Road Commission

