

THE VEHICLE

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study



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TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

WATS provides continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning to guide the use of state and federal transportation funds in Washtenaw County

WATS Meetings

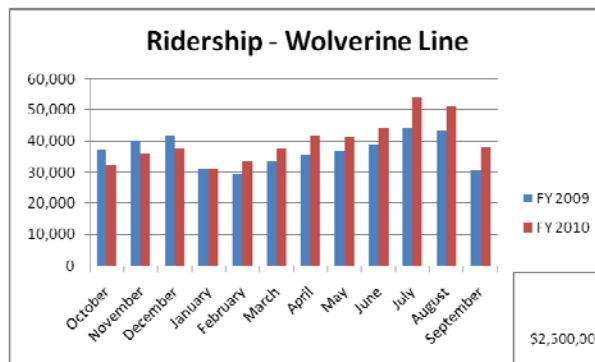
- Technical Committee
1st Wednesday 9:30 am
- Policy Committee
3rd Wednesday 9:30 am

WATS Products

- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Transportation Improvement Plan

Amtrak Ridership, Revenue and Future

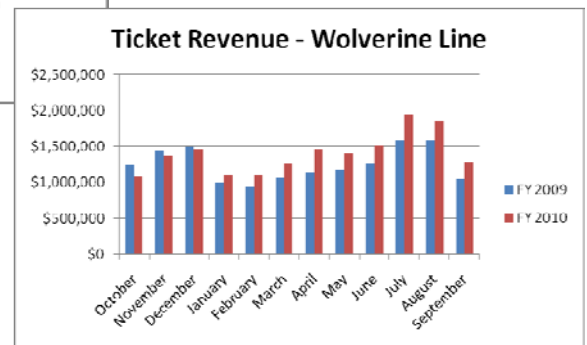
Public interest in, and use of, Michigan's rail network is picking up steam! Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 has shown steady growth compared to FY 2009, and Amtrak ridership and revenue have increased by 24% for the months of October and November in early FY 2011. The graphs below compare FY 2009 - FY 2010 ridership and ticket revenue on the Amtrak Wolverine Line (Pontiac, MI to Chicago, IL).



The Federal Rail Administration awarded Michigan \$161 million in Federal High Speed Rail (HSR) funding for the Wolverine corridor which must be matched by State transportation funds. Without the

matching funds, this money will be lost. At stake are funds that would be used to buy the decrepit tracks from Kalamazoo to Dearborn and make improvements in Detroit.

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WATS Initiates Complete Streets Plan

On December 1, 2010, WATS hosted the Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County kick off meeting! The meeting was attended by over 30 community and transportation agency representatives from across the County. The plan will identify enhancements to Washtenaw County's transportation network that

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Upcoming Meetings

- January 12 - Complete Streets Plan 10:30-Noon, Washtenaw County LRC, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor
- January 31 - TheRide - Moving You Forward public forum 6:00-8:00 Manchester Village offices 912 City Road, Manchester Village

New on MIWATS.org

- Resolution to support matching Federal High Speed Rail funding with State dollars
- FY 2010 Obligated Project Report for Washtenaw County

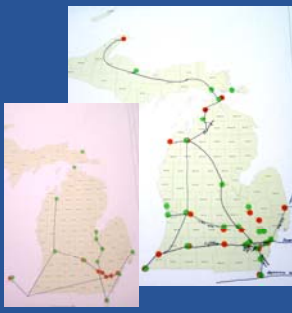


Phase 1 transit needs identified include:

- Better serve transit-dependent populations
- Adapt to changes in population and employment growth patterns
- Provide increased access to and from areas outside of TheRide's service area

Amtrak works as a contract service provider to States. It is the State that develops routes and train timetables.

Michigan by Rail Forum
- Public participation rail route maps



Moving You Forward

The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority recently completed the first phase in developing a Countywide Transit Master Plan. This portion of plan development involved significant public participation from across Washtenaw County to identify unmet transit needs. TheRide is now preparing for a second set of community forums which will present the public with three potential scenarios based on continued development at varying levels of transit service in the County.

Plan goals for developing a countywide:

- Support Economic Growth
- Promote Livability
- Improve Accessibility
- Protect the Environment
- Improve Safety



Passengers of TheRide are surveyed at the Blake Transit Center.

A list of upcoming community forums can be found on page 4. For more information on plan development visit www.MovingYouForward.org.

Amtrak - continued

Continued from page 1 Purchasing the track and track improvements allows Amtrak to prioritize passenger trains over freight trains, eliminating long delays, and gradually increasing train speeds from 79 mph to 110 mph. These improvements have the potential to reduce travel time between Ann Arbor/Detroit and Chicago from 5+ hours to 3 hours, an economic development opportunity the State's new legislature cannot afford to fumble. Funds for a HSR service are included in the \$161 million.

Michigan State Rail Plan

The Michigan Department of Transportation is currently developing a rail plan for the State. The Michigan Environmental Council, along with partners including WATS, have hosted a series of public forums across the State to supplement MDOT public meetings and provide broad public input for the rail plan. The forums had attendees develop rail routes throughout the state and an Amtrak representative was available to answer service questions. Nearly all public participation identified the Wolverine Line as a key piece of the rail infrastructure, highlighting the importance for High Speed Rail local matching funds. For more information visit www.mibyrail.org.



Amtrak Station, Ann Arbor



**ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
TRANSIT MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY FORUMS
JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2011**

| COMMUNITY | DATE | LOCATION |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Southwest Washtenaw | Monday, Jan. 31 6-8 pm | Manchester Village Offices 912 City Road, Manchester |
| Downtown Ann Arbor & UM | Tuesday, Feb. 1 6-8 pm | Ann Arbor District Library, Main Branch |
| Northeast Washtenaw | Wednesday, Feb. 2 5-7 pm | Dominos Farms, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr., Ann Arbor. EBA Café, Lobby H, Level 1 |
| Southeast Washtenaw | Thursday, Feb. 3 6-8 pm | Ypsilanti Library 5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsi Twp. |
| Chelsea Area | Friday, Feb. 4 8-10 am | Washington St. Education Center 512 E. Washington St., Chelsea; Conference Room |
| WCC and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital | Monday, Feb. 7 11 am-1 pm | Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor |
| Ypsilanti Area | Monday, Feb. 7 6-8 pm | SPARK East 215 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti |
| West Ann Arbor Communities | Tuesday, Feb. 8 11 am-1 pm | Ann Arbor District Library, Pittsfield Branch 2359 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor |
| Saline Area | Tuesday, Feb. 8 6-8 pm | Saline City Hall 100 N. Harris St., Saline |
| EMU Community | Wednesday, Feb. 9 11 am-1 pm | EMU Student Center Room 350, 900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti |
| Northwest Washtenaw | Wednesday, Feb. 9 6-8 pm | Dexter Township Hall, 6880 Dexter Pinckney Road, Dexter |
| Manchester Area | Thursday, Feb. 10 9-11 am | Manchester Village Offices, 912 City Road, Manchester |
| Pittsfield & Washtenaw Ave. Corridor | Thursday, Feb. 10 7-9 pm | Carpenter School 4250 Central Blvd., Ann Arbor |
| Ann Arbor Area | Monday, Feb. 14 11 am-1 pm | SPARK Central 330 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor |
| Ypsilanti Area | Wednesday, Feb. 16 9-11 am | SPARK East 215 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti |
| South Ann Arbor Area | Wednesday, Feb. 16 6-8 pm | Malletts Creek Library 3090 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor |
| Milan Area | Monday, Feb. 21 6-8 pm | Milan Senior Center Great Room, 45 Neckel Ct., Milan |
| Whitmore Lake & N. Washtenaw | Tuesday, Feb. 22 9-11 am | Northfield Township 8350 Main St., Suite A, Whitmore Lake |
| Chelsea Area | Tuesday, Feb. 22 6-8 pm | Chelsea Library McKune Room, 221 S. Main St., Chelsea |
| Dexter Area | Wednesday, Feb. 23 6:30-8:30 pm | Dexter Library 3255 Alpine, Dexter |

Attend an upcoming public meeting, where you can speak with a representative of TheRide's Master Plan team to provide your vision.

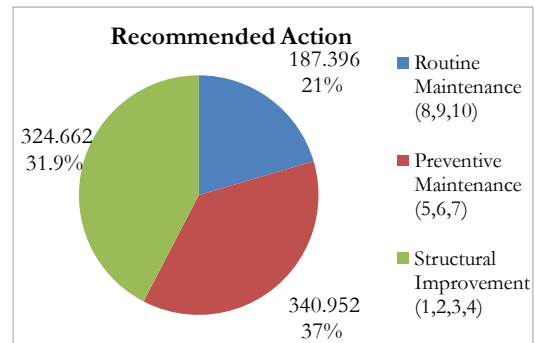


Asset Management

Michigan's Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC), in cooperation with MDOT, local transportation agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations, enhances the productivity of investing in our roads and bridges by:

- 1) Collecting federal aid eligible road and bridge pavement ratings
- 2) Collecting the data on the investments made for these assets
- 3) Analyzing and reporting the effectiveness of treatments by rating

Locally, WATS, WCRC and MDOT collect data for TAMC analysis, while local transportation agencies report their investments on the transportation network. 2010 summary data is available for all Washtenaw County communities. The adjacent chart outlines the County's mix of recommended improvements. The map on Page 5 shows pavement conditions across Washtenaw County's transportation network.



For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/hOg3oQ>



Over 600 transportation agencies participate in Asset Management

The TAMC has been collecting data and reporting on transportation investments since 2003

The Washtenaw Avenue corridor is poised for re-development as a new "talent-center", linking downtowns, universities and new commercial and residential opportunities

Reimagining Washtenaw Update

Reimagining the Washtenaw Avenue corridor as a vibrant community and driving economic development in the County is becoming a tangible prospect. The project's leadership team have set strategies for the project to move forward including: Project goals, Land use, Transportation improvement, Right-of-way and Cooperation recommendations.

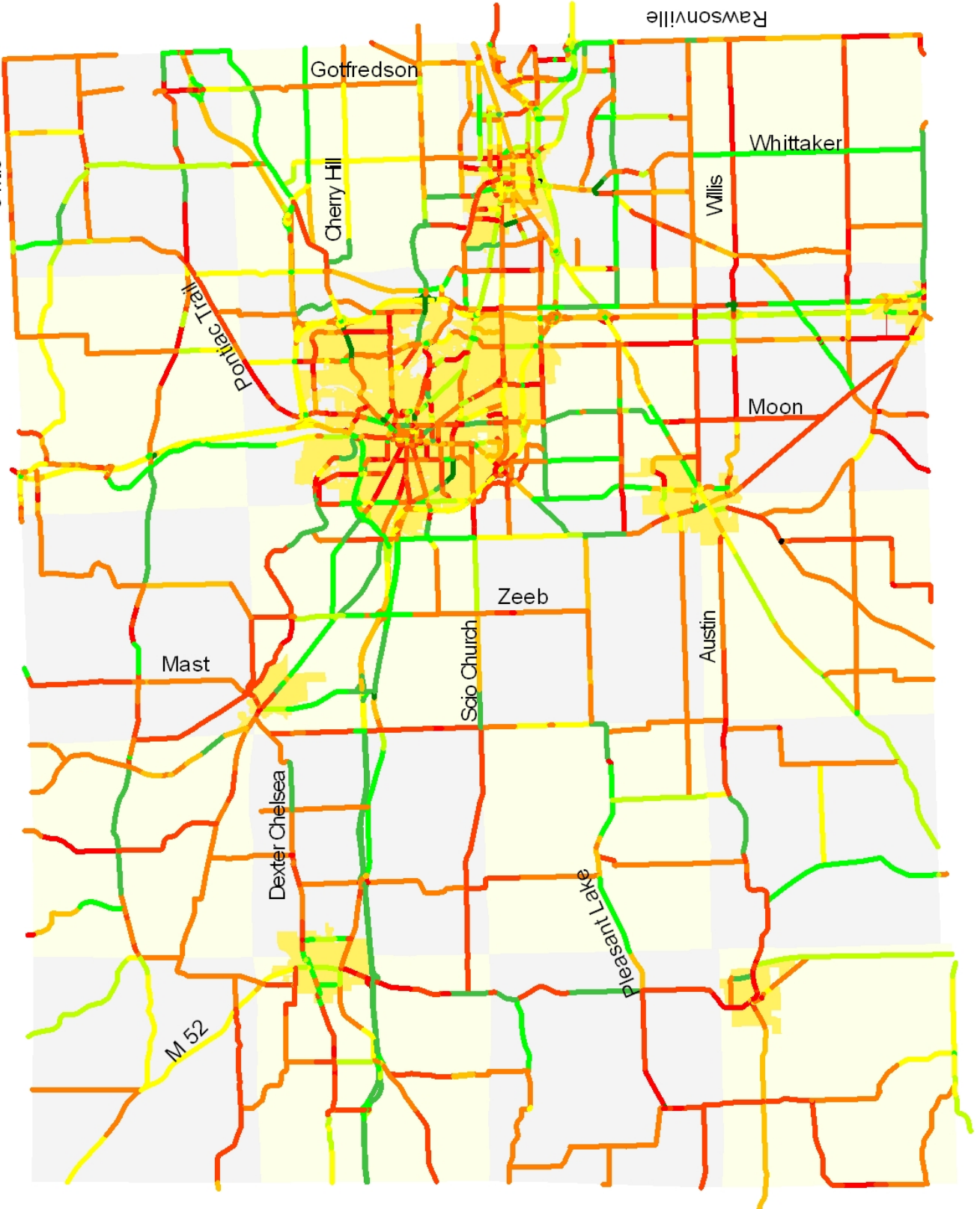
Cooperation recommendations are especially important to the project as Washtenaw Avenue connects four communities; City of Ann Arbor, Pittsfield Township, Ypsilanti Township and City of Ypsilanti as it links downtown Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and Michigan and Eastern Michigan Universities.

All four of communities approved a resolution of intent to form a Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) which could raise funds to match Federal and state dollars for infrastructure improvements sought by private developers. The communities will be meeting with business owners and residents in January, and will hold public hearings on creating a CIA in March. For more info visit www.WashtenawAvenue.org

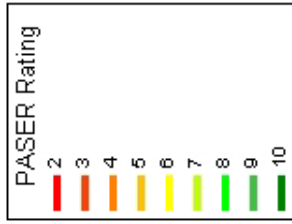


2010 Washtenaw County Road Conditions

8 Mile



Note: 10 is best condition



Complete Streets - *continued*

Continued from page 1

improve safety and accessibility for all users of the transportation network. Plan development will include: identifying needs and deficiencies, identifying treatment/improvement options and developing draft policies beginning in February, creating maps of, and organizing recommended improvements beginning in May and developing a draft plan beginning in June. Final approval of the plan by the WATS Policy and Technical Committees is anticipated in October.

The City of Saline and Village of Dexter adopted Complete Streets ordinances and the City of Ann Arbor's active transportation philosophy by nature encourages similar improvements. The Complete Streets Plan for Washtenaw County will identify Complete Streets improvements to implement and assist communities without Complete Streets ordinances to obtain funding and to pass their own policy or ordinance.



Opportunities for public involvement will occur throughout plan development. Regular steering committee meetings will be held 10:30am on the second Wednesday of each month at the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center located at 4135 Washtenaw Avenue in Ann Arbor. Public welcome! Watch for Complete Streets updates at www.miwats.org.

WATS IS COMMITTED TO AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE OFFICE.

EMAIL WATS@MIWATS.ORG TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER.

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