



# Enhancing the System

For Public Review  
Summer 2019

Enhancing **R** Quality of Life

## What is ENHANCING THE SYSTEM?

Enhancing the System means to provide **efficient, modern, reliable and safe service for the people of the region**. Eligible expenses under this investment category will ensure transit and mobility assets in our region meet performance expectations (e.g., service reliability, customer friendly and comforts, safety, and other current industry standard(s)).



Source (all photos): DDOT

Adding enhancements to the transit system will keep transit services modern by using funding to implement new technologies to adequately keep pace with the changing mobility demands of the region.



## How are SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS implemented today?

Federal programs are available to assist with the costs associated with keeping a transit system in good repair, however a local funding match is required for federal funds. Historically MDOT funds have been used for the local match. Despite the federal and MDOT funding, it is difficult for transit agencies to keep pace with their needs and changing technologies.

Today local providers, SMART, DDOT and AAATA all leverage the federal dollars mentioned above and have recently paid particular attention to reducing the age of their bus fleets. In the past year all agencies have added to their fleets. SMART has reduced the average age of their fleet from 11.7 years to 6 years, and DDOT has replaced 30 buses in the past year with more replacements on the horizon. DDOT has also received special funding for repairs to their Coolidge facility.

Transit agencies develop asset management plans, incorporating the condition of their facilities and fleets. These plans help the agencies and FTA access funding needs. These plans, which were recently completed by local providers, help the agencies and FTA access funding needs.

## Supporting the overall vision

Enhancements to the transit system can be a gauge for the health of services provided in the region. It is critical that the existing fleet and facilities be maintained in good condition to support further growth. Aging fleets discourage ridership and investment that is needed to provide service. Building upon the existing transit infrastructure and assets, the region can provide more transit to more places, supporting the vision of moving people, investing, and improving quality of life.

## Current funding sources

### AAATA



### DDOT



### DTC



### RTA



### SMART



REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Moving **R** People Investing in **R** Future Enhancing **R** Quality of Life Connecting **R** Communities



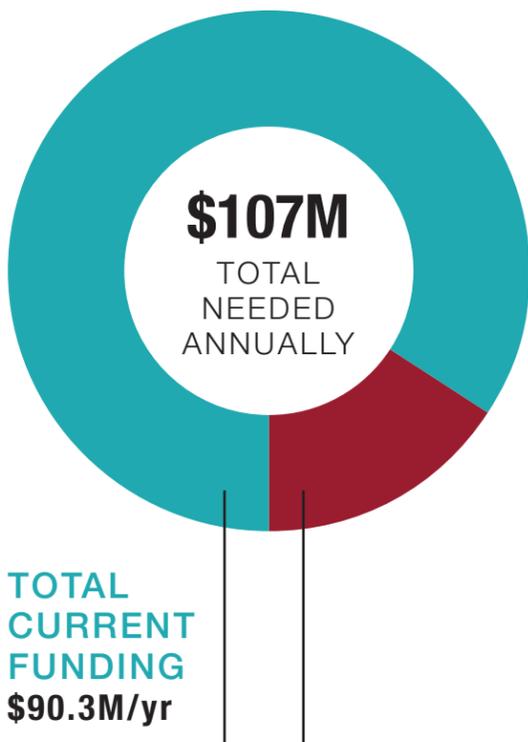


# Enhancing the System

## Funding needs for near-term priorities



An additional **\$335 million** over 20 years is needed to maintain existing equipment, modernize the system to keep pace with innovation, and provide amenities to improve the passenger experience.



Source: Shutterstock

### Near-term priorities

- Station upgrades.
- Shelter upgrades.
- New regional fare collection system and regional fare card.
- Implementation of passenger amenities, such as wifi.
- Continued effort to reduce the average fleet age.
- Continued funding of big data analytics.
- Continued effort to modernize and scale facility investments to optimize service performance.
- Facility expansion plans.

### Aspirational goals

- Provide more regional services, such as a call center.
- Develop a long-term strategy to maintain the State of Good Repair for fleet vehicles and facilities.
- Introduce alternative fuel vehicles.
- Upgrade technology and security features.
- Maintenance and replacement work on the People Mover's Automatic Train Control (ATC) system and driverless vehicles.