



Local Bus

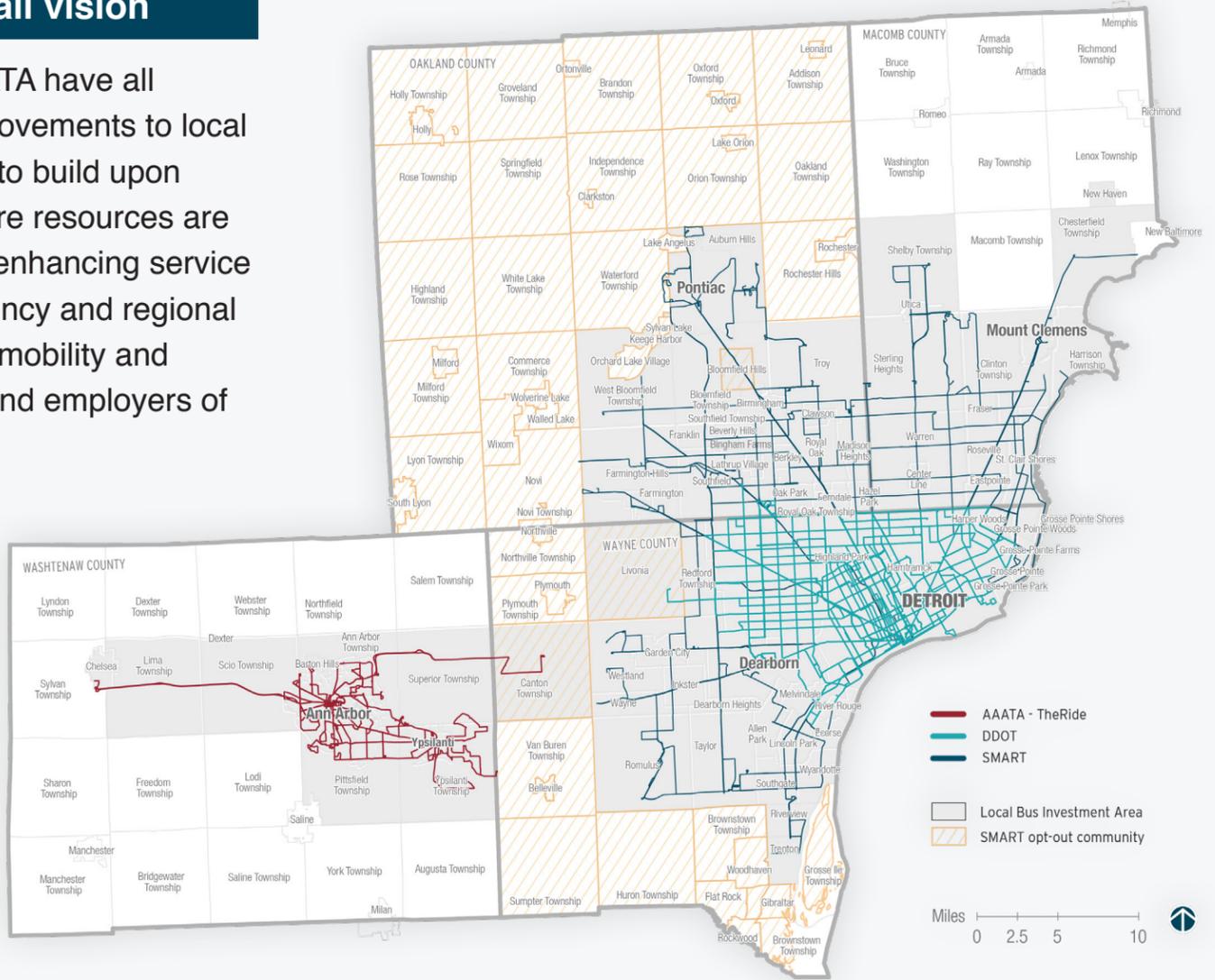
For Public Review
Summer 2019

Moving **R** People

Supporting the overall vision

DDOT, SMART, and AAATA have all implemented recent improvements to local bus service. To continue to build upon these improvements, more resources are needed. Expanding and enhancing service through increased frequency and regional connectivity will improve mobility and better serve the people and employers of Southeast Michigan.

Recent improvements on the system include the roll out of improved service on major regional routes and the implementation of ConnectTen service on high demand corridors in the City of Detroit.



Delivering more value across the region



AAATA — TheRide, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2019, continues to evaluate its fixed-route service. TheRide will implement new approaches to address growth while continuing their commitment to serve customers, who remain at the center of all decisions.



DDOT Connect Ten — In 2018, DDOT rolled out expanded service on its ten most popular routes used by 60% of its riders. ConnectTen routes are the backbone of the DDOT system. Routes feature 24/7 service and improved frequency. DDOT intends to focus service improvements and infrastructure improvements around ConnectTen routes, stops and transfer points. DDOT is also evaluating local bus services that serve neighborhoods with a goal of ensuring that community needs are at the heart of new, improved transit services. The City of Detroit's General Fund is the source of 40% of DDOT's budget



SMART — SMART is currently completing a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) study that will identify future priorities.

Today SMART operates 48 routes on the weekday for 1,793 revenue hours, and over 1,900 trips. Saturdays operate with 28 routes for 982 revenue hours, and over 1,100 trips. Sundays operate with 19 routes and 463 revenue hours, and approximately 600 trips. On average, there are about 16 passengers per trip on weekdays, 15 passengers per trip on Saturdays, and 17 passengers per trip on Sundays.

Current funding sources

The local providers spend the majority of their operating costs on local buses. Percentages of total annual budgets each provider spends on local bus is as follows:

AAATA

75% \$30M annually

DDOT

92% \$108M annually

SMART

39% \$40M annually

Source: SMART, Existing Conditions Report, 2019



REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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



Funding needs for near-term priorities



An additional **\$69 million** is needed annually to support local bus improvements.



Near-term priorities

- Harnessing the power of Big Data to make route modifications more efficiently
- Implementing recommendations from SMART’s Comprehensive Operations Analysis
- Implementing recommendations from DDOT Your Routes, Your Ideas Program
- Implementing recommendations from AAATA’s revised master plan
- Expansion of local bus service into underserved areas of our region
- Activate more bus routes with service every 15 minutes on major corridors
- Make it easier to pay for trips
- Seamless coordination with first mile/ last mile connections between job centers and major transit routes
- Expanded security presence
- Educate local officials on how to be transit supportive and build transit friendly environments
- Upgrade bus stop basic infrastructure (curbs, pads, signs, lighting etc.)
- Increase awareness and utilization of existing service

Aspirational goals

- Expansion of local bus services into current opt-out communities
- Evaluation of underperforming routes regularly and pilot alternative forms of mobility (i.e. microtransit, public private partnerships service models, etc.)
- Evaluation of Alternative Propulsion Systems (i.e., electric fleets)
- Continue to monitor and test the future of connected and autonomous vehicle technology to serve existing local bus services
- Comprehensive integration of services
- Identify funding specifically for non-regional services