

**Let's Get Moving Legislative Day  
Guide for Advocates  
April 22, 2008**

Let's Get Moving is a coalition of public transit passengers, operators and advocates with the goal of increasing the accessibility and effectiveness of public transportation in Michigan.

**Primary Legislative Goals**

Protect and Enhance State Support for Public Transportation

- State funding for Public Transportation has been basically flat for over six years. Meanwhile, demand is skyrocketing and ridership is up all across Michigan.
- Hundreds of thousands of Michigan citizens depend on public transportation to go to work, attend school, go shopping, go to the doctor and the like. For many Michigan residents, public transit is a vital lifeline to their own independence.
- Public transit has proved to be a powerful tool for economic development. Businesses depend on public transit to help both their employees and customers to get to their front doors.
- Public transportation helps the environment by preserving greenspace and burning less fossil fuels. In addition to helping with traffic congestion, as more and more transit agencies use green technology in their vehicles, pollution is reduced even further.
- Current revenues are not keeping pace with transit demands. Unless new sources of funding can be found, some agencies that have not been able to rely on local funding have had to reduce services nearly to the point of closure.
- Over the past few years, the Legislature has often used public transit funding to fill gaps in other budgets by diverting funds via the auto-related sales tax. LGM opposes any further shifts from the auto-related sales tax away from public transportation.
- Let's Get Moving supports an increase to the Motor Fuel Tax to help fund increasing public transportation demand.

### Increase Safety for Transit Operators and Passengers

- For public transit to succeed, riders and operators must feel safe. Assaults on transit drivers and passengers occur on every major transit system in the state.
- Assaults on public transit drivers and passengers create a risk to the general public and also harm the ability of public transportation providers to serve the public.
- An MDOT study on public transit violence suggested that one cost effective way to address the issue is to increase criminal penalties on perpetrators of assaults on transit operators and passengers.
- House Bills 5560, 5561 and 5562 would make an assault of a transit operator or passenger that causes bodily injury a felony punishable by up to 2 years in prison. The bills passed the House by a large margin and are awaiting action in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- Signage and notice of increased penalties will be a deterrent against violent crime on public transit systems.
- The Let's Get Moving Coalition strongly supports this legislation as a means of increasing the safety and perception of public transportation in Michigan.