Dear Senator,

This week you have the opportunity to make a big difference in the lives of Michiganders. Our state is in dire need of a financial boost to our complete transportation system, from our pothole ridden roads to our struggling bus agencies to our impressive system of trails.

**Now is the time to support increased state funding for our complete transportation system.**

For years Michigan has woefully under-invested in its roads, bridges, streets, and public transit. We are now experiencing the pitfalls of this decreased investment. According to TRIP, a nonprofit organization that studies transportation issues, Michigan will lose $7.7 billion a year in wasted fuel, lost time, and increased accidents unless we start investing now. With increased funds, we can begin to plan for infrastructure that focuses on connecting people to opportunity.

**Ensure that any increased state transportation revenue goes through the full, traditional Public Act 51 formula.**

It’s not enough just to invest in our roads. We must invest in our complete transportation system, including our public transit, rail, bike, and trail infrastructure. Public transit offers seniors and people with disabilities the freedom and independence they otherwise would not have, especially in rural areas. Public transit creates and sustains thousands of jobs throughout Michigan, including more than 5,800 workers who are directly employed by transit agencies. A modern transportation system, including reliable transit and safe bike and pedestrian options, is vital to attracting and retaining talent; more than one half of millennials would consider moving to another city if it had more and better options for getting around.

**Be a champion for Michigan. Pass a comprehensive solution to fund our transportation system now.**

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**Did you know?**

70% of Michiganders believe MI needs to improve or fix bus systems. 62% are willing to pay at least $10 more a month in taxes for infrastructure investment.

1 in 3 Michiganders are too old, too young, or physically or financially unable to drive.

Property values increase when they are within half a mile of green infrastructure such as bike paths and pedestrian trails.

The Michigan senior population is expected to increase 44% between 2000 and 2020. In 2010, Michigan transit providers served 4,330,670 elderly passengers.

Reducing the daily use of one low occupancy vehicle and using public transit can reduce a household’s carbon footprint between 25-30%.

Passenger rail brings more than $62 million per year in community benefits to towns along its routes.