

**Sept. 28, 2011**

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## Two-day Transit Odyssey starts Saturday in Detroit, ends Monday at Transportation Forum in Traverse City

A two-day odyssey on public transportation will start at Detroit Metropolitan Airport Saturday morning and conclude in Traverse City at a Monday meeting: “Michigan: The Logistics Hub of the Midwest,” from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Along the way, members of the Transportation for Michigan (Trans4M) coalition and others will meet with lawmakers, local officials and citizens interested in improving the reliability and convenience of public transportation throughout Michigan.

“We want to draw attention to the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in Michigan’s statewide passenger train and bus-transit systems,” said Tim Fischer, deputy policy director with the Michigan Environmental Council and a Trans4M member.

“It isn’t that someone can’t use public transportation to get from one end of the state to the other; it’s that it’s extremely difficult. A simple trip of a few hours becomes a two-day odyssey. There are too many unnecessary roadblocks placed in the way of streamlined public transit viability,” said Clark Harder, executive director of the statewide Michigan Public Transit Association, which represents bus, light rail and water ferry operators in Michigan.

“Michiganers want safe, convenient, affordable transportation options,” said Rory Neuner, project coordinator with Transportation for Michigan. “Michigan must compete economically with neighboring states where residents and visitors have convenient ways to get around.”

“Michigan’s existing passenger trains are heavily used and well liked; we need more service frequency and more routes,” said John Langdon, governmental and public affairs coordinator with the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers. “This odyssey highlights the potential and desire for more transportation options.”

**Transit Odyssey tentative itinerary:**

### Saturday, October 1

- 8:25 am - Depart DTW airport on SMART bus #125 for downtown Detroit
- 9:45 am - Arrive at Larned & Woodward
- 10:00 am or 10:11 am - Depart Larned & Woodward on DDOT bus #53 for the Detroit Amtrak Station
- 10:40 am approx. - Arrive at Detroit Amtrak Station
- 11:23 am - Depart Detroit Amtrak Station on Wolverine train #353 for Jackson Train Station
- 1:10 pm - Arrive at Jackson Train Station
- Meet with elected officials, others
- 4:30 pm - Depart Jackson Baymont Inn & Suites on Michigan Flyer motor coach #8017 for East Lansing
- 5:10 pm - Arrive at East Lansing Marriott at University Place
- Meet with elected officials, others

### Sunday, October 2

- 11:10 am - Depart East Lansing on CATA bus #1 (Grand River & MAC) for Lansing Transit Center
- 11:40 am - Arrive at Lansing Transit Center
- Meet with elected officials, others
- 12:30 pm - Depart Lansing on Indian Trails #25 for Kalamazoo
- 2:15 pm - Arrive in Kalamazoo
- Meet with officials
- 3:00 pm - Depart Kalamazoo on Indian Trails motor coach #0082 for Grand Rapids
- 4:00 pm - Arrive in Grand Rapids
- Meet with officials
- 4:50 pm - Depart Grand Rapids on Indian Trails motor coach #0080 for Traverse City
- 8:25 pm - Arrive in Traverse City

### Monday, October 3

*Michigan: The Logistics Hub of the Midwest*, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm at the Grand Traverse Resort, <http://www.tcchamber.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=10254>

More Transit Odyssey details at:

[http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=224812890908475&notif\\_t=event\\_photo\\_change](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=224812890908475&notif_t=event_photo_change)

Follow the trip on Twitter via @T4Michigan and the #MIOdyssey hashtag