

MIRS Capitol Capsule, Monday, June 16, 2008

MML Green Light Donigan Transit Plan

Updating Michigan's mass transit system could be instrumental in boosting the economy and bringing talented young people to the state, according to a bill introduced by Rep. Marie **DONIGAN** (D-Royal Oak).

HB 6114, which is before the House Transportation Subcommittee, would establish "Transit Revitalization Investment Zones" (TRIZ) which uses a hybrid of tax increment financing (TIF) and a transit-oriented development (TOD) approach to funding. TIF funding is widely used by communities to stimulate redevelopment and finance public improvements.

The proposal included examples of the positive impacts of TOD funding through the state, citing record private investment witnessed in automobile-dependent cities like Dallas.

Donigan's plan has received support from the Michigan Municipal League (MML).

"Michigan needs to update the way it develops or, in some cases, redevelops urban cores to reflect the changing times," said MML Executive Director Dan **GILMARTIN**. "Public transit is essential to attracting the millennial generation because it drives the activities, business climate and quality of life they demand."

A 2006 CEOs For Cities survey showed that two-thirds of college-educated 25-to 34-year-olds chose where to live before looking for employment. Often factored into their decision was the availability of mass transit.

"Zones strategically set around transit hubs, facilities, and routes would raise capital funds for new transit development, bringing people to businesses and more businesses to Michigan," said MML Legislative Associate Dave **WORTHAMS**.