

As faith leaders, it is our greatest privilege when we have the opportunity to come together and speak in one voice to make a difference for our community. That time is now.

On November 8, we will have the opportunity to vote YES in support of a truly Regional Transit system that connects our communities: Macomb, Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties.

For too long, our disconnected transit system has left seniors and the disabled isolated in their homes –unable to get to the doctors or shopping for basic needs. It has left hard-working families struggling to find good-paying jobs accessible by bus and often spending nearly 40% of their income on transportation. It has left young people cut off from educational opportunities at our local community colleges, trade schools and universities.

We believe that supporting Regional Transit is a moral imperative – to help bridge the widening gap of economic inequality and access to opportunity. We believe it it's the right thing to do. But in this case, when we do better for them, we do better for ourselves and our families, too.

Seniors and the disabled across our community will have access to truly seamless transit options, just a phone call away. People will be connected to good-paying jobs that are increasingly located in hard-to-reach communities. And families will be able to safely and easily travel to shopping centers, sporting events and cultural institutions across our region.

We urge you to vote YES FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT. Now is the time to act.

While certain communities are thriving, the physical separation of some neighborhoods in Southeast Michigan creates limited access for residents, which can lead to poor health, underemployment, poor education and loss of opportunity. Connected regional transit will expand economic opportunity for low-income residents in the four counties by connecting them to jobs that are increasingly located in hard-to-reach communities.

To date, under-investing in regional transit has made it difficult to travel to certain parts of the region, which especially affects low-income people, people with disabilities, and seniors. Far too many people are physically isolated from jobs, health care, grocery stores and schools.

Connecting Southeast Michigan's four counties — Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne — with one truly regional transit system will ensure people can easily travel throughout the region. All residents of Southeast Michigan would reap the benefits of connected regional transit with a better-connected region that expands access to jobs, health care, education and entertainment. We urge you to Vote Yes for Regional Transit this November.

When hard-working people can't reliably get to their jobs; when our seniors and disabled cannot get to shopping and doctor appointments and when

Connected regional transit expands opportunity and access for everyone. Unfortunately, due to Southeast Michigan's current disconnected system, far too many people are stuck in their homes and unable to take advantage of all the amazing opportunities in Southeast Michigan. That includes seniors, people with disabilities, potential employees and many more. We need reliable regional transit to help residents in all four counties – seniors, people with disabilities, employees, the jobless, and students – who struggle every day to get where they need to go.

Employees and the unemployed in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties need connected regional transit. Connecting people to jobs is a critical benefit of the RTA's Regional Master Transit Plan. We all know the stories of people in the region who brave Michigan's unpredictable weather – rain, sleet or shine – to walk miles just to get to work. That's because about 92 percent of jobs in Southeast Michigan cannot be reached within 60 minutes on existing transit services. Connecting our communities with regional transit will ensure access to critical job centers that are not currently accessible by transit, including Livonia, Novi and Rochester Hills.

Many seniors rely on regional transit to maintain access to critical services and regional opportunities. The need for transit is compounded by the fact that seniors outlive their ability to drive by an average of seven to 10 years, according to the AARP. Without transit to connect them to where they need to go, seniors struggle to get to doctors, the grocery store, church and to visit friends and family. Connected regional transit is absolutely essential for seniors to maintain independence.

People with disabilities also rely on connected regional transit to maintain independence. Gaps in the current system make it difficult for people to get from county to county – and sometimes even from city to city. In some cases, people with disabilities are literally left at the border to wait for a transfer. Without regional transit to help them maintain independence, many people with disabilities would not be able to leave their homes. This separation has a profound negative impact on quality of life, health and safety. Reliable regional transit increases independence for

people with disabilities by ensuring they can get where they need to go on a daily basis, including: to work, church, doctors, grocery stores, and friends' houses.

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