



Access to Transit Program

Introductory Webinar
September 23, 2026



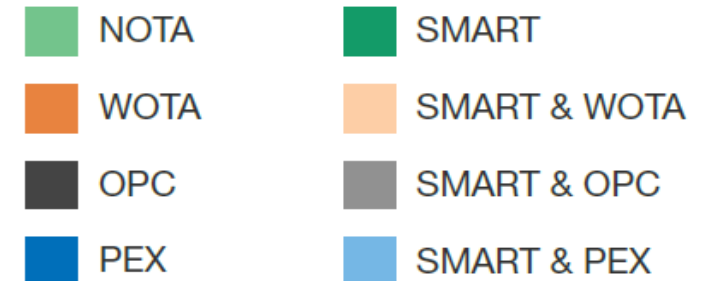
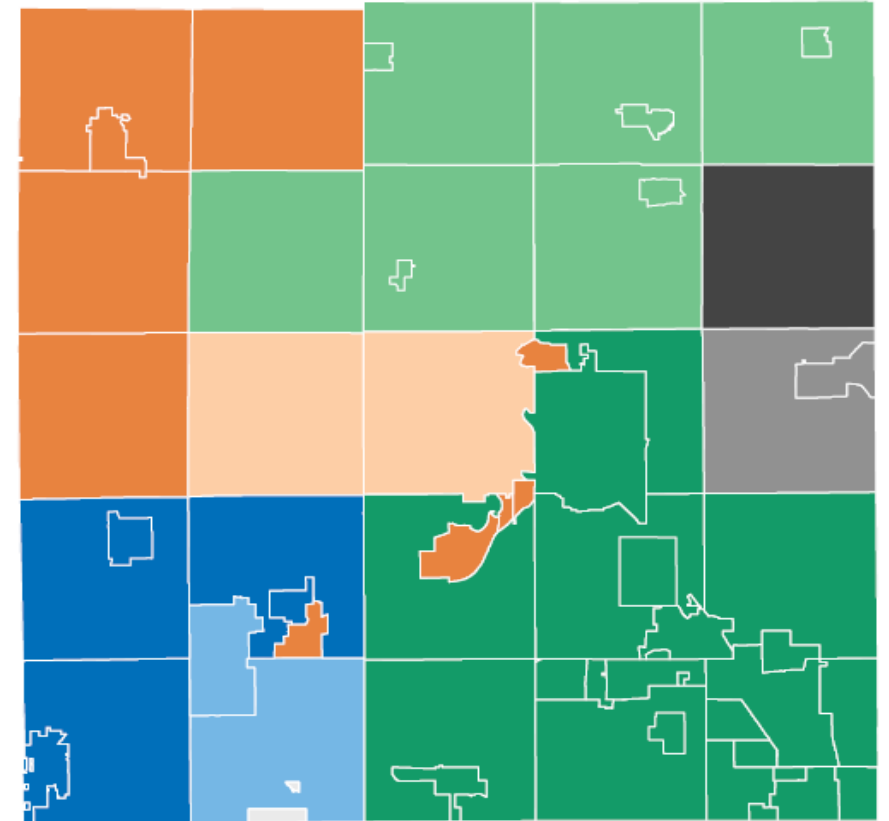
Housekeeping

- Please mute your audio and turn off your camera
- Please type your name, organization and email address in the chat
- This webinar will be recorded and posted along with the slides on the [Oakland County Access to Transit Program](#) webpage.
- Please put your questions in the **chat**. We will address them at the end of the presentation.

Transit Services in Your Community

- Transit services available depend on where you live and where you're traveling ([Locate your Provider](#))
- Transit providers coordinate to get people to and from places across the county
 - **SMART** smartbus.org
 - **NOTA** ridenota.org
 - **WOTA** ridewota.org
 - **OPC** opctransportation.org
 - **PEX** peoplesexpress.org

Oakland County Transit Providers



What Do We Mean By “Transit”?

Demand Response



Community Transit

Prebooked, door-to-door or curb-to-curb service within a designated area



Microtransit

On-demand, app-based rideshare service. Pick-ups and drop-offs at locations assigned by technology.



ADA Service

Prebooked, curb-to-curb service. Pick-ups and drop-offs within $\frac{3}{4}$ -miles of nearest bus stop. (ADA certification required)

The “Modes” of Transit



Fixed Route

Schedule-based, operates along a designated route with pick-ups and drop-offs at designated bus stops

What Do We Mean By “Transit”?

Demand Response



Door-to-Door

Driver assists riders between the door and the vehicle



Virtual Pick-Up & Drop-Off

Technology assigns the rider a convenient pick-up and drop-off location



Curb-to-Curb

Driver assists riders between curb and vehicle



Bus Stop Pick-Up & Drop-Off

Designated route stops along fixed route service.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off

Access to Transit Program

\$2.5 million

to provide financial support to **municipalities in Oakland County** to design and/or implement **capital projects** that make it...

- **easier**
- **safer**
- **more comfortable**

...to get to and wait for transit services.



Why?

Addressing the “**first mile/last mile**” problem:



Lack of convenient access



Poor pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure



Distance and time barriers



Accessibility for vulnerable populations



Safety concerns

- Oakland County residents **age 65+ to increase by 31.4%** through 2050
- **53% of all fatal or serious injury pedestrian or bicyclist crashes** in Oakland County happened **within a 5-minute walk from a transit stop** (based on 2020-2024 data)

Eligible Projects

Eligible Phases:



Conceptual
Design



Preliminary
Engineering



Bidding &
Construction



Construction
Engineering

- **Universal Accessibility Improvements** (ex: pickup/drop-off areas, curb ramps)
- **On-Road and Off-Road Bicycle Facilities and Amenities** (ex: bike lanes, bike repair stations)
- **Bus Stop Enhancements and Amenities** (ex: shelters, electronic schedules)
- **Intersection Improvements** (ex: crosswalk pavement markings, curb extensions)



Eligible Projects

Eligible Phases:



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- **Mobility Hub Elements** (ex: bikeshare stations)
- **Filling Gaps in Pedestrian Networks** (ex: sidewalk connection between segments)
- **Street Lighting, Street Trees, Solar Charging Stations and Streetscape**
- **Wayfinding Signage to transit stops & facilities**
- **Park-and-Ride Enhancements**
- **Other Innovative Projects**

Previously Funded Projects

- **Design Phase**
 - Intersection Study
 - Corridor Safety Improvements
- **Engineering**
 - Non-motorized Bridge
 - Pathway Connection
 - Sidewalk Enhancements
- **Construction**
 - Bus Stop Improvements
 - Pathway Connections
 - Mid-Block Crossing
 - Intersection Improvements
- [Birmingham](#)
- [Rochester Hills](#)
- [Ortonville](#)
- [Southfield](#)
- **Improvements to 42 Bus Stops**
 - Throughout Oakland County

NEW THIS YEAR...

- **Eligible Applicants**

- Transportation service providers
- SMART Community Partnership Program (CPP)
- Downtown Management Organization (DMO)
- Corridor Improvement Authority
- Downtown Development Authority
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- Tax Increment Finance Authority

- **Eligible Projects Can Include**

- Environmental Enhancements
- Streetscape Improvements

- **Project Selection Criteria**

- User Experience



How will projects be selected?

Selection Criteria:

- Proximity to Transit
- Access Improvement
- Safety Improvement
- Public Support
- Design
- Ridership Increase Potential
- Equity Community
- Long-Term Maintenance
- Universal Accessibility
- User Experience

Selection Committee:

- **Oakland County Staff:**
 - Transit Division
 - Planning Division
 - Main Street
- **Transit Providers**
 - SMART
 - Local Service Provider
- **Road Agencies (permitting):**
 - MDOT
 - RCOC



How will projects be funded?

Grant Award Limits:

- **Conceptual Design:** \$15-50k
- **Preliminary Engineering:** Up to 10% of estimated construction costs
- **Bidding & Construction:** No limits
- **Construction Engineering:** up to 15% of construction costs



20% Local Match

- Local Match may be waived, or partially waved, for communities experiencing financial distress. [Link](#)

Payment:

- **50% delivered up-front** from Oakland County to cover initial project costs
- **Remaining** award grant funding delivered at project completion; after final review of semi-annual and final expense reports have been completed.

What is required of awardees?

- Conceptual Design & Preliminary Engineering projects commit to implementation and construction.
- Compliance with:
 - All federal and state requirements regarding accessibility for people with disabilities.
 - The requirements of the Davis Bacon Act/Michigan Prevailing Wage Act.
- Coordination among appropriate stakeholders to obtain all necessary approvals, easements, rights-of-way (ROW), and permits within the project timeline.
- Maintenance of project sites and approved project scope items installed for the intended design life.
- Verified certification that all design and/or construction was completed according to industry standards with the necessary permits.
- Installation and (a minimum) of five (5) years of maintenance of an Oakland Transit recognition plaque at the project location.

Timeline

2026:

- **September 21:** Letter of Intent Portal Opens (required)
- **October 30:** Letter of Intent Portal Closes
- **Oct/Nov:** Pre- Application Meeting with Oakland Transit
- **November 20:** Project Application Deadline
- **December/January:** Selection Committee Meets

Q1 2027: Board of Commissioners review and approve selected projects, interlocal agreements and initial payments are made.

2027-2028:

- **Semi-Annually:** Awardees submit project status reports.
- **Upon Project Completion:** Awardees install Oakland Transit signage and submit final project report. Second grant payment from Oakland Transit to Awardee is processed.

Q6. **Project Partners:** List any other communities, agencies, or organizations that are partners on this project, if applicable.

Q7. **Project Location:** Use the applicable fields below. You must enter data in at least ONE of the three fields.

☐ Site Address(s):

☐ Parcel Identification Number(s)

☐ Written Description (e.g. "northbound bus stop on Perry Street @ Pike St" or "John R Road between 9 Mile Road and 10 Mile Road" or "near Milford Senior Center, 1050 Atlantic St, Milford, MI 48381")



Ready to apply?

- Visit the [Access to Transit Program webpage](#)
- Review the [2027 Program Guide](#)
- Obtain a Certified Resolution from your City/Village Council or Township Board (see example resolution in the [2027 Program Guide](#))
- Coordinate with MDOT and/or RCOC to obtain a Letter of Support for your project (if located on a state and/or county road)
- Complete and submit [Letter of Intent](#)
- Reach out to the Oakland County Transit Division if you have any questions or concerns (Lindsay Wallace, wallacelr@oaklandcountymi.gov)



Q&A





OakGov.com/OaklandTransit

Eli Cooper, AICP

Oakland County
Transit Manager
(248) 975-9876

cooperel@oaklandcountymi.gov

Lindsay Wallace

Oakland County
Principal Transit Planner
(248) 452-9749

wallacelr@oaklandcountymi.gov

