

April 10, 2024

Jean Ruestman
Administrator
Office of Passenger Transportation
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 West Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Ruestman:

This letter serves as official notice of support from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce for the Capital Area Transportation Authority's application for the MDOT Mobility Challenge grant. Grant funds would be used to pilot overnight microtransit in the Greater Lansing region, ensuring that third-shift, transit-dependent workers in the manufacturing and warehouse sectors have transportation to get home from work. The proposed microtransit service will improve equitable access to job opportunities in our region.

As a CATA community partner, the LRCC encourages the movement toward sustainable business practices that better serve the needs of our region's businesses, residents, and communities resulting in economic growth. CATA's leadership in regional public transportation is a vital component in achieving these goals.

The need in the Greater Lansing region to invest in equitable public transit is evident. In recent years, we have seen tremendous growth in manufacturing and warehouse facilities. The corresponding demand for transit access that facilitates recruitment, fills jobs and allows emerging companies to operationalize expansive facilities is undeniable. This is especially true among the third-shift labor force, whose work schedules end late at night when transit service is limited. Indeed, nearly 40% of residents living in the Greater Lansing region reside in single-car or no-car households, which inhibits their ability to commute to and from work. Opportunities for those without access to a vehicle – primarily marginalized populations – to apply for good-paying jobs, obtain gainful employment and achieve upward mobility are far less prevalent. Transit improvements from the MDOT Mobility Challenge grant would bring prosperity to underserved communities.

For years, county borders in the Greater Lansing region have served as a barrier to access to new job opportunities. Located within Ingham County, CATA is working with transit agencies in neighboring Eaton and Clinton counties to remove barriers



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and allow residents to travel throughout the region with ease. A formal relationship exists between the three local county transit agencies. Now is the time to remove barriers and connect area residents to job opportunities. We fully support CATA's goals to do so with the implementation of overnight microtransit through the MDOT Mobility Challenge grant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman
President and CEO
(517) 930-2660

tdaman@lansingchamber.org