

**RESOLUTION 11-34**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, Southeast Michigan is the largest region in the U.S. without high capacity rapid transit service in place or in development, which requires SMART and DDOT to run less cost-effective bus routes; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Michigan region spends \$75 per capita annually on transit services, while the average of the top 25 metropolitan regions is \$184 per capita annually; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Transportation Association projects that every \$1 spent on public transit projects generates an average of \$6 in local economic activity; and

WHEREAS, by 2015, nearly a half-million people aged 65 and older in Metropolitan Detroit will live in communities where public transportation service is either poor or non-existent; and

WHEREAS, working families earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 are estimated to spend almost 30 percent of their household income on transportation, which is more than housing. Michigan's difficult economic times call for investment in mass transit; and

WHEREAS establishing a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) allows for the capturing of federal and state funding, building projects and network expansion into other counties. The creation of an RTA is essential to following federal guidelines for developing regional transit systems; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Michigan must demonstrate a willingness and ability to cooperate across communities to create and implement regional transit plans as well as develop reliable funding systems; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners calls on both the executive and legislative elected bodies of the City of Detroit, Macomb, Oakland and Wayne County to support the establishment of a Regional Transit Authority; and calls on the Governor and the Michigan legislature to take action to ensure passage of all necessary, related legislation in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate advancing the formation of regional transit authorities, their management and funding mechanisms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the County Clerk to transmit a copy of this adopted resolution to the Governor, and City of Detroit, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne County governing bodies and state delegations.

**DATED: September 21, 2011**

Reviewed and Approved As To Form By:



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