

# [ RIDE ON!! ]

## TRANSPORTATION ZINE





# History of Transit



**We're no longer the Motor City.**

**1890's** Electric streetcars replace horse-drawn carriages in Detroit.

**1937-1956** Buses slowly replace trolleys.

**1974** DDOT is formed. Detroit is falling behind on providing adequate public transportation.

**2012** Budget cuts severely limit bus routes, crippling the working class.

**From 2007 to 2012**, the number of car-free households in Detroit grew by 5 percent.

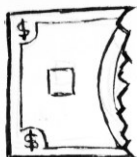


# A Growing Need

**It's expensive to own a car.**



**Maintenance: \$9,122/yr**

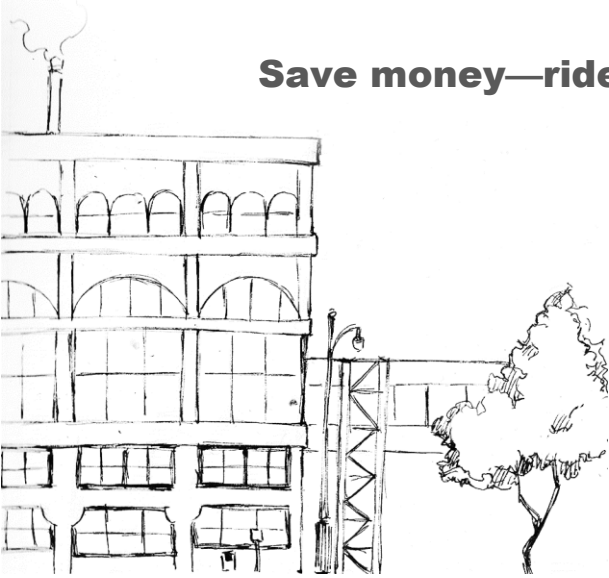


**Car Insurance: \$2,000/yr**



**Regional Bus Pass: \$600/yr**

**Save money—ride the bus.**



# Why Do We Need Public Transit?

A growing number of people rely on public transit:



**66%** of people who answered a survey about public transit use it to get to work.



**45%** rely on public transit for medical needs.



**48%** use the bus in order to visit friends and family.



# **Why Do We Need Public Transit?**

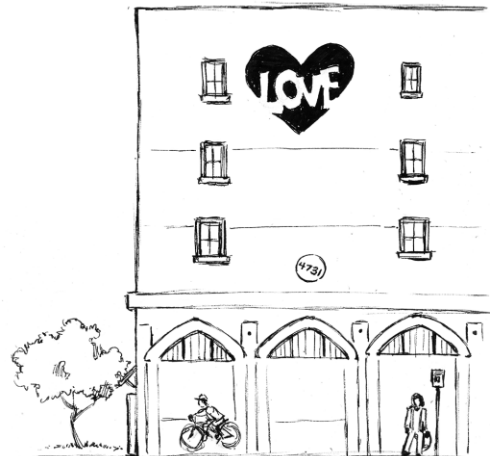
Because we have a growing number of bus riders who use public transit that they rely on for various reasons that bus riders need it and that is to maneuver around the city and not weary about how they are going to get there and get back, plus the automotive industry is going to drive people into wanting to use public transit because of the advanced technology that people almost have to read a manual before driving a new car.

## **Here Is What Detroiters Would Like To See:**

Less overcrowding on the buses, need more buses on the road and better scheduling of buses and showing up on time adding service to routes that's been cut, better bus stop locations and driver accountability over all is getting people to places that they need/have to be on time. Would like to see DDOT add additional service to meet the needs of the people.

# What Does Good Public Transit Look Like?

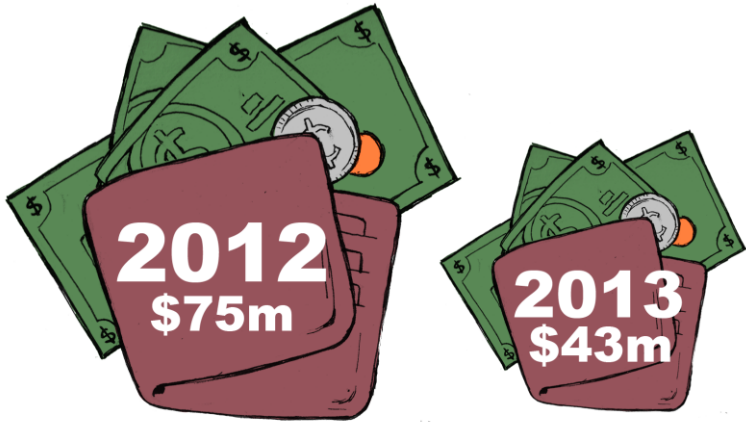
For us to have a good transit system in Detroit one that allows people without a car to enjoy all the same opportunities as a person with a car can enjoy. It must have for one geographical coverage that's within the service area. A good transit system should always strive to reach low density areas that are hard to reach. Operating during off peak hours in with is 24 hour bus service expanded to those areas where needed and on the weekends. Then we want Frequency so that bus riders don't have to plan their lives around a schedule. Reducing travel time, that the bus will be there when it's supposed to. Lastly it's the speed of the buses that makes transit a good working system.





# Who Pays?

## Who Benefits?



Between 2012 and 2013, money from Detroit's general fund for DDOT was cut by nearly half. What caused this to happen?

- Divestment in public transit
- Reduced funding
- Racial tensions between Detroit and suburbs
- Uneven funding of DDOT and SMART





# What Is BRT?

Bus based mass transit system. A true BRT system generally has specialized design, services and infrastructure to improve system quality and remove the typical causes of delay. Sometimes described as a "surface subway", BRT aims to combine the capacity and speed of light rail or metro with the flexibility, lower cost and simplicity of a bus system.

To be considered BRT, buses should operate for a significant part of their journey within a fully dedicated right of way (busway) to avoid traffic congestion.

In addition, a true BRT system has most of the following elements:

- Alignment in the center of the road (to avoid typical curb side delays)
- Stations with off board fare collection (to reduce boarding and alighting delay related to paying the driver) Station platforms level with the bus floor (to reduce boarding and alighting delay caused by steps)
- Bus priority at intersections (to avoid intersection signal delay)

# How Has A Lack Of Public Transportation Impacted Detroit?



Out of 404 survey responses, 59% of all bus riders admitted to being negatively impacted by the 2012 service cuts.



10% of all respondents admitted to being forced to change jobs as a result of service cuts.



4% of all respondents were forced to find a new place to live as a result of 2012 bus service cuts.

# Mythbusting



## **“The bus isn’t reliable transit.”**

It can be—if we demand to have enough buses on the streets and arriving at stops on time.

## **“Bus riders are criminally dangerous.”**

If this were true, crimes such as car-jacking wouldn’t exist.

## **“A bus system can’t save Detroit.”**

It may not solve all of our problems, but it can help Detroiters save money and get to work. And that’s a good start to helping our city recover.



# **A Transit System For Everyone**

The connection between cities with high-functioning public transit and equality is obvious: when residents are able to use public transit to work, their lives are better. There's a more even hiring ground and more opportunities for employers to find the right workers for their companies.

## **What Can I Do To Help?**

You can connect with the Transit Justice Team at [Rhodest0@comcast.net](mailto:Rhodest0@comcast.net) , or call (313)338-9396.





**The People's Platform** is a broad network of Detroit-based social justice organizations, activists, and residents committed to bringing about racial equity and economic justice in post-bankruptcy Detroit. We address the issues of Food, Land, Transit, Good Jobs, Governance, Poverty and Inequality through our work. Each and every Detroiter has a voice in deciding the future of the city.

Join us! Visit [detroitpeoplesplatform.org](http://detroitpeoplesplatform.org) or call 313.338.9396

Developed by Building Movement Project/Detroit People's Platform, with leadership from bus riders who participated in our focus groups and surveys.

The logo for Detroit People's Platform is centered in a white rectangular box. It features the word "DETROIT" in red, "People's" in large blue script, and "PLATFORM" in large blue block letters. A red horizontal bar is positioned between "People's" and "PLATFORM". The website address "detroitpeoplesplatform.org" is written in small black text on the right side of the red bar.

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**PLATFORM**

