



2016 Public Transit

Annual Report

Public Transit

System Transferred to the CCTA

On October 1, 2016, the public transit system was transferred from the City of Kalamazoo (COK) to the CCTA. The COK has been operating public transit since 1967. The transfer is a result of creating a single operating entity to provide high-quality and integrated public transportation services to better serve the residents of Kalamazoo County.

The process to regionalize public transit began about 15 years ago. At

that point, there were public transit services being provided both by the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County. Community leaders through their work at the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) determined it was best to unify public transit. Many steps have been taken to achieve this goal and many community partners have been involved:

- 2006—the Kalamazoo County

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Transit Facts

- The Metro County Connect service provided a record number of rides during the year 2016. 162,647 rides were provided during the year.
- 56,168 rides were provided throughout the year on Community Service Vans.
- 2,865,614 rides were provided on Metro Transit services in 2016.
- Metro Transit buses ran on 19 routes using 36 buses. 14 of those buses are hybrid electric.
- Service is provided seven days a week.
- Sunday and late night service was added for the first time in 2016.

Sunday & Late Night Service Added

Fixed-route bus and Metro County Connect service began providing extended service hours and Sunday service in 2016 for the first time in Metro Transit's 50-year history.

Many bus routes now operate from 6 am until 12:15 am Monday through Friday, ending at approximately 10:15

pm on Saturdays, and from 8 am to 5 pm on Sundays. Each route is different, so please consult the individual bus schedules for exact times. The new hours went into effect in September 2016, following months of planning, researching route effectiveness, and community

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Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority board meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month.

Central County Transportation Authority board meets on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

All meetings are held at 530 N. Rose, Kalamazoo, Michigan. For more information about boards, go to www.kmetro.com.



(Transition—Continued from Cover)

- Transportation Authority (KCTA) was established by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners and later that year the first county-wide millage was approved by the voters to support regional public transit services.
- 2009—the City of Kalamazoo and KCTA were close to transferring the system, however, the transfer was dependent on the passage of a single county-wide millage to fund public transit that was not approved.
 - 2012—State legislation was passed with the help of Senator Schuitmaker, Representative McCann and Representative O'Brien that allowed for overlapping governance and millage funding that best meets the urban and rural characteristics of Kalamazoo County.
 - 2013—officials developed a plan to move forward with regional public transportation in Kalamazoo County that was formally endorsed by many regional partners like Kalamazoo County, the City

of Kalamazoo, KATS, City of Portage and others.

- 2014—the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners created the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA). The district boundaries of the CCTA include the cities of Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, and Townships of Comstock, Kalamazoo, and Oshtemo (partial area that includes voting precincts 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8).
- 2015—voters approved a CCTA millage to fund the fixed-route bus system and

service expansion to include Sundays and later night service.

- October, 2015 — the KCTA, CCTA, TAB, and City of Kalamazoo approved a comprehensive Transfer Agreement to facilitate the transfer of the City of Kalamazoo Metro Transit bus system to the CCTA.

Following many months of planning, the transfer was finalized on October 1, 2016, and the public transportation system is now regional.

2016 Service Facts and Stats

- Service Area—562 Sq Miles
- Kalamazoo County Population—250,758
- Route Miles Served for Fixed-Route Bus—1,152,351
- Hours Fixed-Route Buses in Service—117,660
- Western Michigan University Passenger Trips—522,627
- Passenger Trips per Week (avg. system-wide)—55,108
- Average Passengers per Hour per Bus—22.5
- Routes Served—19
- Line-Haul Diesel Buses—22
- Line-Haul Hybrid Buses—14
- Average Vehicle Age—8
- Oldest Vehicle Age—16
- Number of Bus Shelters—77

(Sundays—Continued from Cover)

meetings to determine the public transportation needs of the area. Each Sunday alone, there are approximately 2,000 passenger trips taken on-board buses.

Metro County Connect (MCC) service hours are the same as the fixed-route bus system, listed above. Sunday service on MCC began in February, 2016. There have been an average of 60 rides

provided each Sunday on MCC.

The increase in service was made possible by voters within the CCTA boundaries approving a 2015 millage request to fund fixed-route bus service that included funding for the increased service hours.



(above from left) Transportation Director Sean McBride, passenger William Drain, and CCTA Board Chairperson Linda Teeter take the first Sunday ride.

50 Years—Serving Kalamazoo County

Metro Transit will spend the year 2017 celebrating 50 years of providing dedicated public transportation services to the Kalamazoo area community.

In looking back through the years to the origin of Metro Transit as a public transportation system, there have been a lot of changes and growth, beginning in 1967 when a privately owned transportation system was struggling and taxpayers voted in

favor of the City of Kalamazoo taking over what was then known as Kalamazoo City Lines and operating the system as a transportation system for the public.

For those next 50 years, Metro Transit would provide safe, dependable, convenient, accessible, and cost effective transportation services to anyone needing a ride in Kalamazoo County. In just the

past 20 years, there have been approximately **57 million** public transit rides provided by Metro Transit.

Some of the very significant milestones throughout the years were:

- Becoming the very first fully accessible public transportation system in the State of Michigan in 1980

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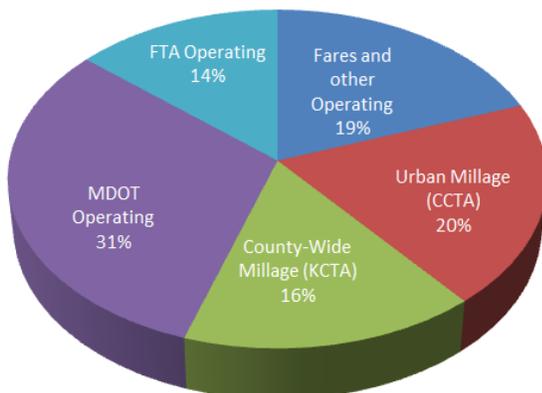
Transportation Funding Details

The cost to operate the public transit system is around \$17.8 million per year, enabling the provision of the fixed-route bus system, Metro County Connect (the demand-response service), Community Service Van program, operation of the Kalamazoo Transportation Center and other complementary

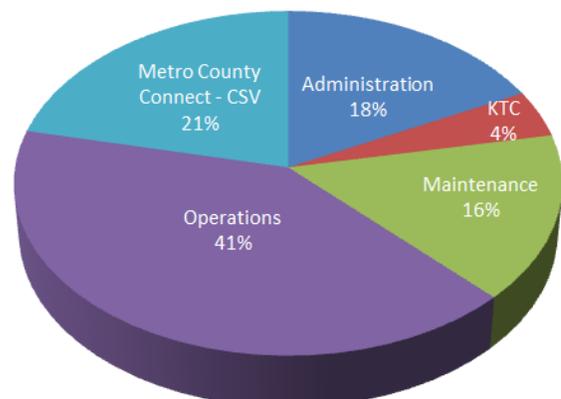
services like travel training. The revenue needed for the system comes from a variety of sources (55% of revenue) including passenger fares, two voter approved millages and a small portion of non-operating revenues. State and Federal grants account for 45% of system revenue. In addition to operating

costs, there is an annual capital investment. In Fiscal Year 2015, capital expenses totaled \$2.5 million and funded the purchase of buses, vans, and facility and information technology investments. Capital purchases are funded 80% from Federal grants and 20% from State grants.

PROJECTED 2017 CCTA REVENUE
\$17,822,279



PROJECTED 2017 CCTA EXPENSES
\$17,654,696



(50 years—Continued from 3)

with the addition of wheelchair lifts in all 54 vehicles.

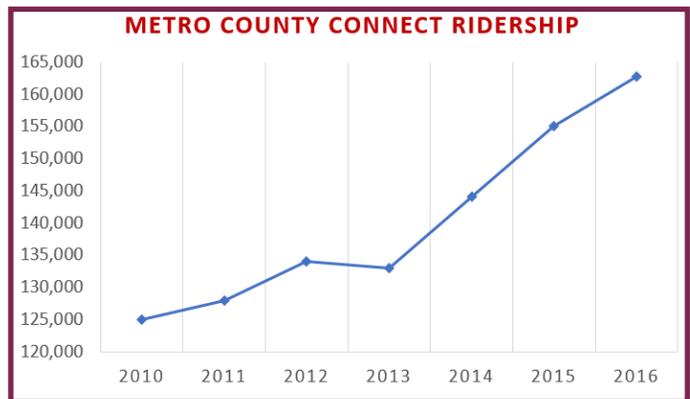
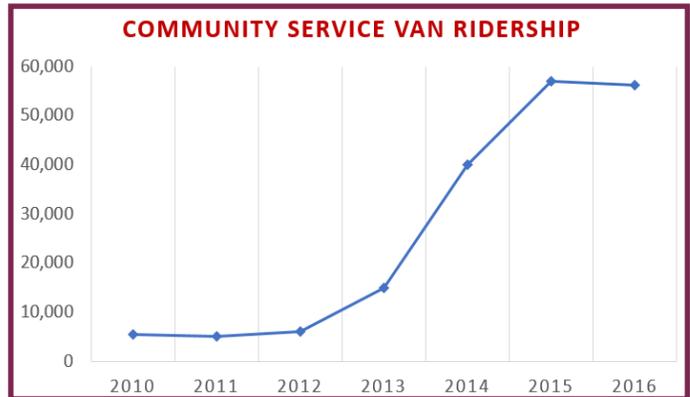
- Adding bicycle racks in 2000 to all buses to further increase travel options.
- Taking on the County's paratransit service, now known as Metro County Connect in 2005.
- Voters approved the first public transit millage to help support services in 1986.
- Opening the Kalamazoo Transportation Center as a true intermodal transportation center in 2006.
- Adding Sunday service in 2016.

Throughout the year there will be a variety of events and activities to celebrate 50 years of serving our community.

Community Services

Metro County Connect and Community Service Vans

The Metro County Connect program set records in 2016 by providing an all-time high number of passenger trips to people in our community. There were 162,647 passenger trips provided in 2016 for an increase of 5.13% above 2015. The Community Service Van program provided a total of 56,168 passenger trips throughout the year 2016.



2016 KCTA Board

- Linda Teeter, *Chairperson*
- Greg Rosine, *Vice Chair*
- Curtis Aardema
- Jeff Breneman
- Paul Eckland
- Martin Janssen
- JJ Meddaugh
- Saura Sahu
- Edie Trent



2016 CCTA Board

- Linda Teeter, *Chairperson*
- Greg Rosine, *Vice Chair*
- Rob Bricker
- Rob Britigan
- Pamela Brown-Goodacre
- Deb Everett
- Martin Janssen
- GarryLee McCormick
- Ann Nieuwenhuis
- Jim Pearson
- Terry Urban