



## Area Served

The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) operates public transit services in the urbanized area of Washtenaw County, including the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, and Pittsfield, Ypsilanti and Superior townships.

## Services

AATA operates fixed-route bus service, paratransit services for people with disabilities and senior citizens, Park & Ride bus service, subscription commuter service, regularly scheduled shuttles for Art Fair and University of Michigan home football games, and online carpool-vanpool matching to facilitate mobility throughout the communities it serves.

## Ridership

Annual ridership has been increasing since 1979 when ridership was 1.8 million and reached a record 6 million rides in 2008. Overall ridership has increased over 40% in the last five years and demand for paratransit services has increase more than 11.5% in the last three years.

## Funding

AATA is funded through a combination of federal, state and local revenues, as well as passenger fares. State funding has remained at the same level since 1997. As a result, AATA has implemented extensive measures to reduce costs. Looking ahead, expected decreases in local property tax revenues threaten our ability to meet current and future ridership demands. AATA is projecting significant reductions in revenue in future years due to a decrease in local property values and continued pressures on state operating assistance.

## Environmental Efforts

AATA strives to operate in an environmentally responsible way, with the use of ultra low sulfur biodiesel fuel and extensive recycling efforts. Twenty-seven of its 78 buses are hybrid electric vehicles, and plans include the purchase of additional hybrid electrics to replace the entire fleet as older buses reach their life expectancy. Operating hybrid electric vehicles has resulted in reducing our fuel consumption by 30% more than 100,000 gallons while reducing greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to global warming.

## Partnerships

AATA has strong, ongoing partnerships with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and local governments and businesses. These partnerships have contributed to the increased use and availability of affordable transportation options.

## Initiatives

AATA recently accepted the lead role for coordinating the Washtenaw and Livingston Line (WALLY) north-south commuter rail. Service on WALLY is expected to operate between the cities of Ann Arbor and Howell and serve communities along the rail line including Whitmore Lake, Hamburg, and Chilson.

AATA is currently exploring the viability of expanding coordinated public transportation services throughout Washtenaw County and the possibilities of connecting with transportation services in neighboring counties.

# AATA Public Transit Services

## Fixed Route Service

### Service Area and Frequency

The AATA operates bus service on twenty-seven routes with published schedules. An AATA route is within 1/4 mile of 91% of Ann Arbor residences. AATA local routes also serve the city of Ypsilanti and portions of Pittsfield, Superior, and Ypsilanti townships. Most routes operate with service at least every 30 minutes weekdays, with hourly service evenings and weekends. Six routes operate on major corridors with service every 15 minutes.

### Passenger Fares

The current base cash fare is \$1.25. No additional payment is required to transfer between buses to complete a trip. Passenger fares cover 21.5% of fixed route operating expenses and 12.8% of paratransit costs, or an average of 15% overall.

AATA has established partnerships with The University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, the Ann Arbor Public Schools and the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority to cover fares for eligible riders.

### Accessibility

All AATA buses are low-floor and are accessible to persons with disabilities. That is, there are no steps at the entrance. Buses are also equipped with a ramp for access for persons who use wheelchairs. The AATA makes a variety of other accommodations to permit persons with disabilities to use fixed-route bus service.

## Park & Ride

The AATA provides service from four park and ride lots in Ann Arbor. Parking is free and direct service is operated between the lots and downtown Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan campus. The existing four park and ride lots have a total combined capacity of 1,134 vehicles.

*AATA has plans to improve and expand Park & Ride facilities and is currently working with the City of Ann Arbor and MDOT on the development of a new Park & Ride lot at the Plymouth Rd. and US-23 intersection. This lot is expected to have a capacity of over 250 vehicles and will reduce the congestion leading into downtown Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan campus.*

## Commuter Express

A demonstration grant for subscription service has enabled AATA to introduce the first commuter subscription bus service in Michigan. In May 2008, AATA launched express service between Chelsea and Ann Arbor. Riders pay a monthly fee in advance to ride the A2-Chelsea Express. The University of Michigan pays half of the fare for eligible faculty and staff. Two trips are provided each in the morning and evening. Each trip can accommodate up to 56 riders. Daily ridership continues to increase and monthly pass sales have reached 45.

AATA is anticipating the start up of a second route in 2009. AATA has secured an agreement with Canton Township to provide free parking for commuters of this second express route. Grant funds and fares will cover the cost to operate the service for both pilot projects.

# AATA Public Transit Services

## ParaTransit Services

### A-Ride

AATA provides door-to-door service for persons who have a disability which makes them unable to use fixed-route buses. The service, which is required under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), is available within the City of Ann Arbor and outside of Ann Arbor within ¾ mile of any AATA fixed bus route. Limited service is also available throughout Pittsfield, Ypsilanti, and Superior Townships. This service is provided by a combination of small buses, accessible vans and taxicabs operated by Select Ride under contract to AATA.

The customer must obtain an A-Ride identification card issued by the AATA to use this service. The application requires professional certification of the effects of the disability.

A-Ride service operates when fixed route service is available. Advance trip requests can be made from two weeks to one day before the trip. The fare for A-Ride with an advance reservation is \$2.50. *Premium service, above and beyond ADA requirements (trips requested on the same day), is available within the City of Ann Arbor for \$3.50.*

### Senior Service (Good As Gold)

AATA provides extensive service for senior citizens ages 65 and older. Senior citizens 65 and older with an AATA issued identification card can take shared-ride trips anywhere within Ann Arbor and parts of Pittsfield Township. This service is operated by a local taxi provider under contract to AATA.

Advance trip requests can be made from two weeks to one day before the trip. The fare for Good as Gold with an advance trip request is \$2.50. *Premium service, trips requested on the same day, is available within the City of Ann Arbor and parts of Pittsfield Township for \$3.50.*

### Night Ride

AATA provides shared-ride taxi trips within the City of Ann Arbor for the general public during the night, when fixed-route bus service is not operating. Night Ride is operated by Blue Cab under contract to AATA. The fare is \$5.00 per person. The fare for persons with an A-Ride or Senior identification card from AATA is \$2.50. The average wait time for this service is 20-25 minutes and usually the taxicab is shared by others who are picked up or dropped off along the way. All trip requests must be made by telephone.

### Holiday Ride

AATA provides shared-ride taxi trips within the City of Ann Arbor for the general public on the holidays when AATA does not operate bus service: Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Eve and Day. Holiday Ride is operated by Blue Cab under contract to AATA. The fare is \$5.00 per person. The fare for persons with an A-Ride or Senior identification card from AATA is \$2.50. The average wait time for this service is 20-25 minutes and usually the taxicab is shared by others who are picked up or dropped off along the way. All trip requests must be made by telephone.

# AATA Public Transit Services

## Event Services

### Art Fair

AATA provides shuttle service to the annual Ann Arbor Art Fairs. The shuttle service is operated between parking lots at Briarwood Mall and Pioneer High School and the art fairs during the four-day event in July. The base fixed-route fare is charged.

### Football Ride

AATA provides direct scheduled service between area hotels and the Michigan Stadium on football Saturdays. The base fixed-route fare is charged.

### Senior Ride

AATA provides regularly-scheduled group trips for grocery shopping for senior citizens at selected senior citizen housing complexes. The base fixed-route fare is charged.

## Carpool/Vanpool

### Michigan RideShare – [www.MIRideshare.org](http://www.MIRideshare.org)

Michigan Rideshare is a free online carpool-vanpool matching service hosted jointly by AATA and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Commuters who work in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties have the ability to identify potential carpool and vanpool partners quickly and securely.

By forming carpools and vanpools, commuters save on the costs of parking, fuel and maintenance; reduce traffic congestion and environmental pollution and the stresses of driving alone.

AATA offers a Guaranteed Ride Home program for registered carpools and vanpools to receive reimbursement of the taxi fare or car rental fee in case of personal or family illness, unscheduled overtime or unscheduled departure of the carpool/vanpool driver.

## Commuter Rail

### Washtenaw and Livingston Line (WALLY) Commuter Rail

In October 2008, AATA accepted the lead role in coordinating the WALLY commuter rail project at the request of members of the coalition which had been working on the project for the previous two years. Designating AATA as the authorized authority for WALLY makes the project eligible for federal funding. The proposed commuter rail service is expected to operate between Ann Arbor and Howell along the Great Lakes Central Railroad lines.

In developing the WALLY commuter rail service, AATA is working with MDOT to ensure that equipment meets FTA accessibility guidelines and meets industry safety and mechanical standards, complete required environmental assessment activities, and plan rehabilitation of state-owned track.