

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is BEST: Gratiot Avenue?

Building Equitable Sustainable Transit (BEST): Gratiot Avenue is a planning initiative led by the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) to evaluate and determine the BEST public transit mode(s) to connect Macomb and Wayne county communities along the Gratiot Avenue corridor. The study area extends from downtown Detroit to M-59 north of downtown Mt. Clemens.

## What is the purpose of the BEST: Gratiot Avenue planning initiative?

It will:

- Evaluate a wide range of alternatives to connect Wayne and Macomb Counties with modern, efficient, and attractive public transit services
- Support the long-term transportation and land use vision of corridor communities, major institutional stakeholders, employers and transportation providers along Gratiot Avenue.
- Select the best transit solutions to develop as a Locally Preferred Transit Alternative (LPA) for inclusion in the RTA's Regional Master Transit Plan and in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) long range transportation plan that will include alignment, station locations, and cross sections.
- Analyze and identify potential locations along the corridor for a new transit center and park-and-ride facilities.

## Will the public have a say in the BEST: Gratiot Avenue planning initiative?

Yes, this planning initiative will be transparent and inclusive of the communities along the corridor. Planners are meeting with local leadership of the cities, counties, townships along the corridor, including state officials. Additionally, community meetings will be held throughout the planning process to obtain input from residents, businesses and major institutions. We also have digital tools at [www.rtamichigan.org](http://www.rtamichigan.org) where public input can be submitted. Community input will have a key role in shaping the study's recommendations.

# CONTACT US

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## Who is leading BEST: Gratiot Avenue?

The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA).

## How is BEST: Gratiot Avenue planning initiative being funded?

The study is funded through a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

## When will the BEST: Gratiot Avenue planning initiative be completed?

In spring of 2016 the study will result in an RTA recommendation for a transit alternative that meets the needs of corridor communities.

## Who will pay for any future public transit systems in the corridor and its maintenance?

A key component of the BEST: Gratiot Avenue planning initiative is to thoroughly review and evaluate all possible funding sources for funding future public transit service in the corridor.

## How will the community benefit from improved transit on Gratiot Avenue?

Improved transit will:

- Connect residents to the many jobs along the corridor.
- Link residents and visitors to job centers, neighborhoods and businesses.
- Create new housing, businesses and mixed-use development opportunities.
- Reduce congestion and improve quality-of-life.
- Provide alternative modes of transportation for those living near the corridor and those commuting to the corridor for work.
- Encourage a more sustainable environment.

# BUILDING EQUITABLE SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT: GRATIOT AVENUE

A PLANNING INITIATIVE TO EVALUATE AND DETERMINE THE BEST TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES TO CONNECT WAYNE AND MACOMB COUNTIES



MAY 2015 EDITION



OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

# BUILDING EQUITABLE SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT (BEST): GRATIOT AVENUE

IS A PLANNING INITIATIVE TO EVALUATE A WIDE RANGE OF TRANSIT OPTIONS TO CONNECT WAYNE AND MACOMB COUNTIES WITH SAFE, MODERN AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

BEST: Gratiot Avenue represents a crucial early step by the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) to develop reliable, higher quality transit between Detroit and Mt. Clemens, including the portion of Gratiot Avenue to M-59.

The BEST: Gratiot Avenue planning initiative will be accomplished using a transparent and inclusive public engagement process. We've also established a Policy and a Technical committee of local experts to advise us along the way.

The primary goals of BEST: Gratiot Avenue are to:

- Evaluate a wide range of alternatives to connect Wayne and Macomb counties with modern, efficient, and attractive public transit services.
- Support the long-term transportation and land use vision of communities, major institutional stakeholders, employers and transportation providers along Gratiot Avenue.
- Identify key economic opportunities along the corridor supported by transit.
- Identify the best transit solutions to develop as a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for inclusion in the RTA's Regional Master Transit Plan and in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) long range transportation plan.
- Prepare environmental analysis and request for federal funding with a local match.

## BEST: GRATIOT AVENUE IS OCCURRING SIMULTANEOUSLY

### WITH THREE OTHER RTA BEST INITIATIVES:

#### BEST: WOODWARD AVENUE

Environmental analysis for Woodward Avenue

#### BEST: MICHIGAN AVENUE

Alternatives & environmental analysis for Michigan Avenue

#### BEST: MASTER PLAN

Regional Master Transit Plan



**“It is vital that we provide the best transit service to connect residents to jobs and improve economic development along the Gratiot Avenue corridor as it is the key link between the City of Detroit and several vibrant Macomb County communities.”**

**MICHAEL FORD, CEO**  
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

### FACTS & STATISTICS

- Over 115,000 households within one mile of the corridor
- 12,000 current daily transit riders
- 72.6% of millennials “want better access to mass transit in Detroit Metro” per a recent Crain’s article.
- Key Destinations that include: Downtowns, Eastern Market, Ford Field /Comerica Park, Libraries, Medical Centers and Shopping Centers

### EXISTING TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

- Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- The Detroit People Mover
- Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART)
- Private Intercity Bus Services
- Private Airport Shuttles and Taxi Services

## BEST: GRATIOT AVENUE CORRIDOR PLANNING AREA

The BEST: Gratiot Avenue planning initiative extends about 23 miles between downtown Detroit and M-59, north of Mt. Clemens. The planning area will follow Gratiot Avenue (M-3) from downtown Detroit to downtown Mt. Clemens and extending to the M-59 interchange. The study area includes Gratiot Avenue, a 1-Mile buffer on both sides of the road and potential alignment options to downtown Detroit.

## 5 CITIES & TOWNSHIPS

- Detroit
- Eastpointe
- Roseville
- Clinton Township
- Mt. Clemens

## BEST: GRATIOT AVENUE

# TIMELINE

- Spring 2015 | Start Best: Gratiot Avenue
- ESTABLISH PLANNING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, TRANSIT NEEDS
  - Community Stakeholder Meetings
  - Incorporate Community & Technical Input
- IDENTIFY TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES
  - Community Stakeholder Meetings
  - Incorporate Community & Technical Input
- EVALUATE & SCREEN TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES
  - Community Stakeholder Meetings
  - Incorporate Community & Technical Input
- SELECTION OF LOCALLY PREFERRED TRANSIT ALTERNATIVE
- Spring 2016 | Complete BEST: Gratiot Avenue

