



Providers Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

1:00 p.m. EST

Summary

Attendees:

- RTA - Ben Stupka, Julia Roberts, Mshadoni Smith-Jackson, Kristin Caffray, Drue Bender, Corri Wofford, Rachel Schmul, Melanie Piana, Kameron Bloye
- DDOT - Robert Cramer, Stephanie Davis
- Detroit People Mover - Sarah Gryniewicz
- Oakland County Transit - Dominic Pavone
- SEMCOG - Adam Elghoul
- SMART - Jordan VonZynda
- TheRide - Raymond Hess

1:05 PM start time

1. Public Comment

- Brother Cunningham - advocated for making DDOT bus service free or significantly reduced, noting that the QLINE and People Mover are already free and suggesting DDOT could secure a sponsor to offset costs. He also proposed DDOT offering \$100 in bus tickets to distribute to riders, emphasizing that inflation has heavily impacted residents.
- Robert Pawlowski - expressed enthusiasm about recent state funding increases and progress being made, emphasizing his belief that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) would be willing to help advance the RTA agenda in any way possible.

2. Brief Presentations

- Regional Engagement Calendar - Drue Bender (RTA) presented on compiling all provider community events and meetings into one shared calendar.
- Access to Transit Program (ATP) - Kristin Caffray (RTA) introduced the final five (5) stop locations to be funded in the first year of ATP.
- Highway Express Bus Planning - Mshadoni Smith-Jackson (RTA) presented on the project kicking off with a consultants task order.
- Transit app Communications - Corri Wofford (RTA) noted since the Royale press launch, performance metrics show a 15% increase on downloads, a



- 22% increase in sessions (the number of times the app is opened), and 32,726 active users.
- Legislative Agenda - Melanie Piana (RTA) presented on report which is due to the legislature on March 31, 2026 and will go to the RTA Board of Directors this month for approval.
3. Coordination Priorities - Julia Roberts (RTA) discussed the top three coordination priorities agreed upon by the PAC providers. They are (1) Infrastructure, (2) Corridor Upgrades, and (3) Workforce Development.
 4. Federal Funds Programming – Julia Roberts (RTA) referenced the upcoming split spring letter for regional formula funding, which includes Sections 5307 (Large Urban operators), 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities), 5337 (Rail), and 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities), that will be presented to the RTA Board of Directors in April. The state applications will go to the Board in February and/or March.
 5. Provider & MPO Updates
 - DDOT - Robert Cramer shared Coolidge Terminal is set to open in April.
 - MoGo - not present.
 - People Mover - Sarah Gryniewicz mentioned ridership during the Auto Show was lower than usual due to cold weather.
 - SMART - Jordan VonZynda spoke to January SMARTer Mobility Program recommendations, including service and frequency improvements and new routes. Also, SMART's agency wide campaign improved on-time performance, now above 70 percent. After Dark shuttles are planned for Valentine's Day weekend.
 - TheRide - Raymond Hess reported on the current construction around the Blake Transit Center, progress on the new Ypsilanti Transit Center entering the design and land acquisition stage, and capacity challenges at its 40-year-old main garage.
 - RTA - Julia Roberts noted that construction in Ann Arbor will temporarily impact the D2A2 stop location this spring and summer. Rachel Schmul shared how QLINE prevailed through January storms with city coordination for snow removal along Woodward.