

January 8, 2018

Dear MPTA Members:

It is once again time to plan for the Legislative Conference to be held on March 15, 2018 this year. As last year, our conference will be a one-day event and we'll hold all meetings, starting with the Breakfast with Legislators at 8:30 in the Mackinac Room of the Anderson House Office Building. This year is a "continuation" Legislative Session which means all legislation introduced last year is continuing to be available for consideration by the House and/or Senate through this year. There are several items that we are tracking. This is also an election year for both the House and Senate, which means there will be many "open" seats where new legislators will be coming in next year, and still many others where we expect legislators will be reelected. Our concern needs to be on making sure that we have "friendly-to-transit" legislators ready to step up and replace several pro-transit legislators who are term-limited and will be leaving at year's end. The Legislative Breakfast is a key part of building those strong relationships that benefit us into the future. This is our opportunity strengthen our support by reminding current legislators who we are and what we do in their home districts.

Because we'll be kicking off the day with the breakfast, we will be providing you with the "talking points" documentation for your breakfast conversations by email in advance of March 15th. Funding, of course, is just one of the issues we will be discussing with our legislators. Many legislators do not yet fully understand our industry or how we are funded, so we must use the breakfast as an opportunity to help acquaint them with who we are.

Enclosed is a sample letter to be used in inviting your State Representative(s) and State Senator(s) to the Legislative Breakfast to be held on Thursday, March 15, from 8:15-9-30 a.m. in the Mackinac Room. Your presence at the Legislative Breakfast is very important. Your legislators need to hear from you - their constituent. This reinforces the message MPTA is continuously giving them here in Lansing. In addition to your letter of invitation, MPTA will also be sending a letter to each member of the Legislature inviting them to the breakfast. Please notify Cindy Zolkowski when you get a firm commitment from your legislators, as it helps us provide an accurate breakfast count to the caterer.

Also, please note the attached form and the room block we have reserved at the Fairfield Inn & Suites at Eastwood Towne Center, for the night of March 14. The downtown Radisson was unable to accommodate us this year. The room rate is \$125/night, however, the hotel will honor the \$75 state rate with proper identification. The following link is provided for reservations [Book your group rate for MI Public Transit Association](#) **The room block is only guaranteed until February 21, so you will want to reserve your hotel room immediately!**

Reminder to MPTA Board Members: The board will hold its March meeting on Wednesday, March 14th at 3 p.m. at the MPTA office in East Lansing. Board members will likely wish to reserve a hotel room rather than commute both days. We also expect that our friends from the Koerner Law Group will be holding their hospitality suite on the evening of March 14 near the hotel, details will follow on that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clark Harder".

Clark Harder, Executive Director
Michigan Public Transit Association
Encl.

****SAMPLE LETTER****

For Representatives:

The Honorable John/Jane Doe
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

For Senators:

The Honorable John/Jane Doe
Michigan State Senate
State Capitol
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative/Senator Doe:

On Thursday, March 15, 2018 the Michigan Public Transit Association will be holding its Mid-Year Legislative Meeting in the Mackinac Room of the Anderson House Office Building. In conjunction with this meeting, we will host a Legislative Breakfast from 8:30-9:45 a.m. that morning in the Mackinac Room.

As my [State Representative or State Senator], I cordially invite you to be my guest at this breakfast.

Please let me know if you will be able to attend so I can greet you personally upon arrival. RSVPs are appreciated no later than March 1, 2018.

I look forward to seeing you on the 15th.

Sincerely,

[your name and title]

MICHIGAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

2018 MID-YEAR LEGISLATIVE TRAINING CONFERENCE
THURSDAY MARCH 15, 2018
MACKINAC ROOM, ANDERSON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return this form to MPTA, 2875 Northwind Drive, Suite 120, East Lansing, MI 48823, or fax to 517/324-7034, by March 1, 2018. MPTA has a block of rooms reserved for the night of March 14 at the Fairfield Inn Eastwood Towne Center, 3320 Preyde Blvd, Lansing, 48912. Room reservations must be made individually by calling the hotel at 517-374-6500 (room block MI Public Transit Association) or using the following link [Book your group rate for MI Public Transit Association](#). The room rate is \$125/night, however the hotel will honor the state rate of \$75 with proper identification. Room block cut-off is February 21, 2018 . After this date, rooms and rates are subject to availability. Call Clark or Cindy with questions, 517/324-0858.

Indicate your name as you wish it to appear on your name badge.

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please list other registrants from your organization. Indicate names and titles as they should appear on their name badges.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

REGISTRATION FEES (per person)

MPTA Members \$125

Make checks payable to MPTA. Credit Card Payments can be made at www.mptaonline.org.

No refunds after March 1, 2018.

Michigan transit systems must be MPTA members to attend.

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES ENCLOSED _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT MADE VIA WWW.MPTAONLINE.ORG _____
(\$5 Handling Fee for Credit Card Charges)