

January 17, 2017

Dear MPTA Members:

It is once again time to plan for the February Legislative Conference to be held on March 9, 2017 this year. This represents a change from past years in that our conference will be a one-day event this year 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. It is a new Legislative Session following an election in which we saw tremendous turnover in House representation so we have a lot of new legislators who may not be familiar with public transportation. This is our opportunity to help them get started with a thorough understanding of who we are and what we do.

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 9th. Funding, of course, is just one of the issues we will be discussion with our legislators. It seems whenever we have substantial new numbers of legislators, we must, literally, start at the beginning in explaining to them how we are funded and why.

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 9, 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 Radisson Hotel, next door to the House Office Building. While we are not holding our meetings in the hotel as in the past, and only meeting for one day, there will still be a need for those of you traveling a distance to reserve a room likely for the night of March 8 and some may also wish to stay on March 9 as we will not be wrapping up our meetings until late afternoon on the 9th. **The room block is only guaranteed until February 6, so you will want to reserve your hotel room immediately!**

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Reminder to MPTA Board Members: The board will hold its March meeting on Wednesday, March 8th at 3 p.m. at the MPTA office in East Lansing. So 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 8 at the hotel, details will follow on that.

Sincerely,



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 9, 2017 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, 2017.

I look forward to seeing you on the 9th.

Sincerely,

[your name and title]