December 17, 2019

Dear MPTA Members:

It is once again time to plan for the Legislative Conference to be held on February 27, 2020. 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 to 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 February 27th. 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, February 27th, from 8:30-9:45 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 Lansing February 26th. The room rate is $129.95/night. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-333-3333 or using promotional code MPTA20 at the web address www.radisson.com/lansingmi. The room block is only guaranteed until January 31, so you will want to reserve your hotel room immediately!
Also, please note that, if you wish to charge your conference registration by credit card, for this conference only, you will need to contact Cindy by telephone with your card number and expiration date. Due to changes in our Quickbooks system, we are having to make modifications to our online credit card processor and the changes will not be in place in time for this conference.

Notice to MPTA Board Members: The majority of you have responded that you wish to hold the February monthly board meeting at the MPTA office on the afternoon before the Legislative Day conference, as you have in recent years. This means we will meet for the board meeting at 2 pm on Wednesday, February 26th. Please make a note of this on your calendars and, as always, our meetings are open to all members of the association should any non-board members wish to join us for the board meeting.

Sincerely,

Clark Harder, Executive Director
Michigan Public Transit Association
Encl.
Dear Representative/Senator Doe:

On Thursday, February 27, 2020 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 February 14, 2020.

I look forward to seeing you on the 27th.

Sincerely,

[your name and title]