



**Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA)  
August 24, 2014 Service Improvements**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What services will be improved on August 24, 2014?**

- Weekday service extended 1 hour later on most routes
- New service! Weekday evenings on routes 3, 13, 14 and 20
- Earlier and more frequent Saturday morning service on Route 4
- More frequent Saturday afternoon service on Route 8
- New! Saturday service added to Routes 13, 14 and 20
- Saturday evening service extended 1 hour later on most routes
- New route (Huron-Textile) added with hourly service seven days a week between Ypsilanti Transit Center and Ypsilanti District Library:
- ARide: Extended weekday service until 11:45 p.m., extended Saturday service until 7:45 p.m., and expanded service area to include the area within 3/4 mile of the new route #46.
- NightRide: Weekday and Saturday service starting 1 hour later due to later bus service

**2. Is this all of the service improvements we will see as a result of the May 6<sup>th</sup> millage?**

No. All of the new service improvements will be implemented over the next five years. The service improvements beginning August 24, 2014 is the first set of services to be implemented.

In August 2015 new services will include extended Saturday service on most existing routes until 10-11pm, Sunday service extended one hour on many routes and ARide service expanded to 10:45pm on Saturdays and 7:45pm on Sundays.

In May 2016 service improvements will include Ypsilanti local routes 10, 11 and 20 being replaced with six new routes, service frequency will be increased to every 30 minutes weekdays, every 60 minutes weekday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays. New Ann Arbor local routes begin operation to provide more direct service on the west side of the city and extended service is planned in Pittsfield and Scio Townships. Routes 9, 12, 15 and 18 will be replaced with seven new routes. (Service within Pittsfield and Scio Townships is dependent on funding agreements.) ARide service for seniors and people with disabilities will be expanded with the expansion of the fixed route service.

In August 2017 service improvements include the beginning of express service between Huron/I-94 in Ypsilanti Township and downtown Ann Arbor/U-M Medical Center with additional origin point near Belleville if funding is available and other minor service improvements.

For more information about planned services over the next five years, please visit [www.TheRideYourWay.org](http://www.TheRideYourWay.org).



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**3. Will there be service improvements in other communities that did not participate in the May 6<sup>th</sup> Transportation Improvement Millage?**

Yes. TheRide is working with our Purchase of Service Agreement (POSA) partners such as Pittsfield and Superior Townships to increase the level of service in those communities to make sure there is a coordinated level of service throughout TheRide's entire service area.

**4. Will AAATA be increasing fares for bus service?**

No. Currently AAATA has no plans to increase fares.

**5. What makes all these service improvements possible?**

Voters in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township approved a millage by 71% for a 0.7 mills tax increase over the next five years to fund transit improvements. Improvements include 44% more transit service and increased services to the elderly and disabled. These transportation improvements will help support economic activity in Washtenaw County's urban core.

**6. How much does the millage raise?**

In its first year, the millage will generate approximately \$4.3 million to pay for improved services: \$3.3 million from Ann Arbor, \$800,000 from Ypsilanti Township and \$200,000 from the city of Ypsilanti. Funds raised by the millage are leveraging dollars from the state and federal governments (every dollar of local funds generates approximately \$2 additional dollars from these sources). These funds, along with fares from passengers and funds received from purchase of service agreements (POSAS) from non-member local governments, will pay for the improved services.

**7. Is the millage increase distributed fairly among taxpayers in each municipality?**

Yes. The new additional service hours generated within each jurisdiction totals about 57,000 for Ann Arbor, nearly 8,500 more hours of service for Ypsilanti as well as at least 9,400 hours of new service in Ypsilanti Township. It's important to note that residents are not concerned with which municipality a destination is located within, they are simply concerned with access to everyday destinations needed to fully participate in the community. University of Michigan Hospital, Washtenaw Community College, Eastern Michigan University, St. Joseph Hospital, Briarwood Mall and other destinations are just some of the area-wide connections made each day by passengers using TheRide.



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**8. Do metrics exist that can demonstrate TheRide's efficiency?**

The federal government gathers data annually from all transit systems in the country and publishes that information in the National Transit Database (NTD).

The latest NTD shows that TheRide is more cost-efficient and carries more passengers per mile, per hour, and per bus than similarly sized transportation agencies across the country. As reported by the Ann Arbor Journal, the NTD show that the TheRide's cost per passenger is about 17 percent lower than the peer median and that the agency leads 20 peers in most other categories.

TheRide will continue to provide data regarding ridership and other performance metrics over the next five years as we implement new service.