

Scio Township Update

TheRide is currently in talks with Scio Township elected officials regarding the proposed expansion of bus service in that area. Topics of discussion have included the need for service, revisions to proposed service, coordinated service with the Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) and possible funding from Scio Township for operation of the service.

Background:

In the last decade, the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide) has received numerous requests for services in Scio Township. These requests came about during the countywide effort in 2010-2013. Countywide efforts turned into “Urban Core” transit efforts at the end of 2013 and Scio Township began participating in meetings with the Urban Core Working Group. During the Urban Core efforts, TheRide created the Five Year Transportation Improvement Program (5YTIP) and successfully passed a millage in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township to fund services in those communities. While some communities became members of the transportation authority and now participate in a unified millage in order to fund service, other communities obtain transit services using a purchase-of-service agreement (POSA) with AAATA.

In January, 2015 TheRide presented [proposed transportation services](#) to the Scio Township board of trustees and requested financial assistance from the Scio to do a formal study of transit needs. This information was required by Scio board members to confirm that a significant number of Scio residents would utilize the service and the proposed service is worthy of funding.

Dr. Hugh Clark of CJI Services was contracted to conduct the transit demand study from February 2015-May, 2015. Dr. Clark presented the study results at the Scio Township Board Meeting on June 9, 2015. The results of the study showed that at least 19% of people surveyed would use the service. It was noted that people under the age of 18, residents and customers of planned future developments and people in the Ann Arbor area would likely use the service, but were not included in the survey. See the results of the survey [here](#).

Next Steps:

Partners for Transit (P4T) is a group of organizations, businesses and residents who advocate for better transit options in Washtenaw County. P4T has played a role in raising awareness of TheRide’s proposed services and gathering input from interested parties in Scio Township. If you would like to learn more about Partners for Transit or provide your input, please visit PartnersForTransit.org or contact your local elected officials.

It is now the decision of Scio officials whether or not to fund transportation services in their township and how they will do that. If you have questions about proposed services, please contact Deb Freer, Community Outreach Coordinator at DFreer@TheRide.org or 734-794-1881. If you have questions regarding funding of services, please contact Scio Township at (734) 665-2123.