



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING'S TRANSPORTATION BONANZA

16



FEBRUARY 12&13, 2025

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Welcome | Opening Remarks

Andrea Brown, AICP, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Planning

Max Fulkerson, Director of Safe Routes to School

Mike Kapp, Michigan Department of Transportation

Dr. James Bell, III, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

9:20 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Keynote: The Right to Thrive | Cultivating Sustainable and Resilient Communities through Active Transportation

Our expert will weave a compelling narrative about how environmental challenges and community disinvestment disproportionately affect marginalized communities and why it is crucial to integrate equitable policies and sustainable practices. She will illustrate how active transportation can lead to healthier, more equitable communities. Attendees will be inspired to take actionable steps to break down systemic barriers and promote inclusive development.

Nina Idemudia, AICP, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Moderator: Paul Urbiel, AICP, McKenna

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Opportunities

TAP has changed. In this session, hear how LPI (Lean Process Improvement) has improved TAP. You'll learn how to receive Transportation Management Area (TMA) TAP funds administered by your MPO, as well as how to "tap" into Statewide TAP funds administered by MDOT. We will dive into leveraging your active transportation project with financing from the Michigan Health Fund. Spoiler Alert: This Health Fund can pay for all planning, design, and pre-engineering costs associated with pathways, trails, and parks. The aim of Health Fund's built environment initiative is to help organizations become eligible for construction funding from federal sources, such as MDOT's TAP and Safe Routes to School.

Caitlin Yost, Michigan Department of Transportation

Dr. Tayo Moss, Michigan Health Endowment Fund

Mike Smith, Michigan Department of Transportation

Moderator: Steve Stepek, AICP, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Right on Red - is it time to reconsider this blanket approach to traffic operations?

The premise of allowing right-turn-on-red (NTOR) was to save fuel when it was applied nationwide during the 1970s oil shortage. Is that premise accurate and is it an appropriate strategy in a safe systems culture? We will answer these questions and provide practical strategies to apply NTOR in a systemic manner during this session. We will discuss the challenges of making this change working within a motorist culture that has been trained to expect this "benefit." The discussion will also include a few examples of how communities are approaching this decision to help guide you when you are considering costs, outreach needs, process changes, and implementation strategies for your community.

Bill Schultheiss, PE, Toole Design

Mariel Colman, PE, AICP, Toole Design

Moderator: Adam Jenks, Safe Routes to School

Charlotte's city-wide and multi-district approach to Safe Route to School

Learn how the City of Charlotte delivered over a million-dollar city-wide and multi-district Safe Routes to School project. The project included preliminary design support obtained through a local anchor institution and unique features like a key crossing facility along a railway.

Ellen Dreps, ALIVE Health and Wellness

Kris Foondle, Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Rail

Alexis Louth, Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Rail

Mandy Stewart, Superintendent, Charlotte Public Schools

Presenter and Moderator: Colleen Synk, Safe Routes to School

Co-Moderator: Evan Stowell, Safe Routes to School

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Keynote: Killed by a Traffic Engineer

Nearly four million people have died since 1899 in road deaths. The numbers continue to worsen, yet we continue to accept these deaths as part of doing business. Until now, there has been no examination as to why we engineer roads that are killing us. Wes Marshall mines this phenomenon in his new book, Killed by a Traffic Engineer. Marshall is a civil engineering professor who has conducted extensive research on how little science there is behind the way that our streets are engineered, which leaves safety as an afterthought. Traffic engineers are not trying to cause deliberate harm to anyone, but he believes that they are guilty of creating a transportation system whose designs remain largely based on plausible, but unproven, conjecture. Marshall argues that change is plausible if we take seriously just how disconnected safety is from the ways we design our streets for those both inside and outside of cars.

Wes Marshall, PE, author, professor

Moderator: Michael Smith, Michigan Department of Transportation

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16



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 am

Keynote: Transportation Updates

Learn about what to expect on Capitol Hill regarding upcoming transportation policies and politics and the implications for good transportation planning and mobility in Michigan.

Jason Jordan, American Planning Association

Moderator: Christine Zuzga, Michigan Department of Transportation

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.

The Safe Systems Pyramid: A New Framework For Traffic Safety

The U.S. is embracing new paradigms of traffic safety (i.e., Vision Zero, Safe Systems), but it is often unclear how to prioritize safety countermeasures and programs within these new paradigms. What will be the most effective way to move the needle on roadway injuries and deaths? What projects and actions will most effectively reduce injuries and fatalities given limited resources? Informed by proven public health science, the Safe Systems Pyramid gives planners and engineers a framework that identifies which solutions are most effective to reduce population-level risk for all travelers.

Rachael Thompson Panik, AICP, PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology

Moderator: Erin Paskus, Safe Routes to School

Mobility Wallet Challenge

Learn about this successful initiative that gives veterans and low-income households in five Michigan counties the support they need to access local transportation. Funds are utilized through a mobile app, an online portal, or by calling the support center.

Valerie Lefler, executive director and founder of Feonix - Mobility Rising

Moderator: Laura Kreps, AICP, Carlisle | Wortman Associates, Inc.

Where do we go from here? The Future of Transit

Whether you take the bus or not, our community benefits from public transportation: fairer access, less traffic congestion, and cleaner air. Hear what's happening in the Detroit region as Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw counties are better aligned today to bring inclusive rapid services, equitable environments, and sustainable resources to tomorrow.

Julia Roberts, Regional Transit Authority

Khalil Davis, Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan

Kristin Caffray, Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan

Moderator: Krista Phillips, Michigan Department of Transportation

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

I-75 Corridor Plan Results

Michigan DOT conducted a Pilot Corridor Plan along I-75 (between Square Lake Road and US-23) in Oakland and Genesee Counties to establish a future multimodal vision of the I-75 corridor (and its surrounding areas), to identify future needs, and develop recommendations to better coordinate the future direction of I-75. This presentation will outline the methodology and findings from this plan, along with next steps to conduct future corridor plans in Michigan.

Jeffrey Bagdade, PE, P.Eng, PTOE, Atkins Realiss

Kyle Haller, Michigan Department of Transportation

Bradley Sharlow, AICP, Michigan Department of Transportation

Moderator: John Martin, Michigan Department of Transportation

Updating and Strengthening MAP's Transportation and Land Use Policy Platform

The Michigan Association of Planning formed a Transportation Land Use Leadership Task Force in mid-2024 to develop a framework for a MAP Transportation Land Use Policy Platform. The objective was to identify the top priorities for integrated transportation and land use planning in Michigan communities, and to create a platform to address them. The draft platform, or action agenda, was developed collaboratively among the Task Force members, and provides guidance for MAP and its planning membership to work with their partners and become stronger advocates and influencers of sound transportation planning and policy at all levels. This session will provide an overview of the platform, the engagement plan for outreach and potential actions for planners, and MAP's Transportation Land Use Goals going forward.

Jeromie Winsor, AICP, AECOM

Brad Strader, AICP, Cincar Consulting Group

Amy Lipset, AICP, Fishbeck

Suzann Flowers, City of Ann Arbor

Moderator: Andrea Brown, AICP, Michigan Association of Planning

Rural Readiness Program

The Rural Readiness Program is a multi-pronged approach to building capacity and readiness in Michigan's rural communities. Learn about the grant process and how your community can qualify.

Henry Wolf, Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity

Lisa Miller, Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity

Moderator: Max Fulkerson, Director of Safe Routes to School