

## MINUTES

### **HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON**

#### **Transportation**

**DATE: April 11, 2019**

Chairman Maddock called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Representatives Maddock, Yaroch, Miller, Brann, Bollin, and Love were present. Chair Maddock excused Representative Peterson from the meeting.

Rep. Yaroch moved to adopt the minutes of the March 21, 2019 subcommittee meeting. The motion was adopted by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Jean Ruestman, Administrator of the Michigan Department of Transportation's Office of Passenger Transportation. [Copies of Ms. Ruestman's presentation handout are included in the official House Fiscal Agency minutes.]

Among other things, Ms. Ruestman explained how the department administers federal transit grant funding. She indicated that some federal aid is apportioned, while other grants are awarded on a competitive application basis. Transit agencies in urbanized areas use federal aid for capital projects. The department consults with non-urban agencies to determine use of federal funds; currently, federal aid provides 18.5% of non-urban system eligible operating cost. Small urban systems may elect to use federal funds for either operating or capital. Ms. Ruestman indicated the different treatment of certain capital costs is one reason that cross agency comparisons may be misleading.

In response to a question from Representative Love, Ms. Ruestman identified potential uses for additional revenue for public transportation programs in the governor's proposed FY 2019-20 budget.

In response to a question from Chair Maddock, Ms. Ruestman discussed challenges to forcing local agencies to increase farebox recovery.

Discussion also touched on measures of efficiency, potential duplication of service with Medicaid transportation providers, the relationship between transit and employment, service initiatives, Ride-Share utilization, school transportation, intercity bus service, ridership reports, and whether public transportation providers are exempt from motor fuel and sales tax.

Chair Maddock adjourned the subcommittee, without objection, the time being 11:45 a.m.