

MAP Detroit Transit and Development Tour

June 18, 2025 | *Detroit* | 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Member Rate :\$80 Student Member: \$15 Nonmembers \$100

5.5 AICP CM | Guardian Building | TechTown

[Register here](#)



A multi-modal transportation system that includes all modes - walking, biking, buses and light rail - is integral to any thriving metro area. Regional systems beyond highways must be part of the equation, and Detroit has come a long way towards rebuilding since the streetcar system was dismantled in the middle of the last century. And that rebuilding is taking place now, along with a new vision for a connected region starting in the city of Detroit. *Event kicks off at the Guardian Building - and concludes at TechTown.*

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8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | **Registration**

Top Floor of the Guardian Building, 500 Griswold St, Detroit, MI 48226

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 | **Welcome, Opening Remarks, Overview**

Andrea Brown, AICP, Executive Director Michigan Association of Planning, Ben Stupka, Executive Director Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Robert Cramer, Chief Executive Officer, Detroit Transportation Corporation

9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | **Opening Session - Regional Transit**

The QLINE began as M-1 Rail, a nonprofit organization, in 2007 has been owned and operated by the RTA of Southeast Michigan since September 2024. Now a public entity, the 3.3 mile streetcar runs along Woodward Avenue with 12 stops connecting Downtown Detroit on the Southern end and culminating its route in the New Center. The QLINE was the first major investment in rail since the People Mover was established in 1987. Many consider these early investments in transit a teaser for a broader and critically needed regional transportation system for Southeast Michigan. Learn about the recent history of transit in Detroit, the economic impacts on transit investments, the positive social and equity implications, and the vision for what may come in the future.

Ben Stupka, Executive Director, Regional Transit Authority

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | **Downtown Detroit Partnership's Role and the Activation of the City Center**

Downtown Detroit Partnership (DDP) has played a critical role activating the public spaces in downtown Detroit by convening business, philanthropic, and government partners to create a vibrant urban core that rivals any in America. DDP has been central to this renaissance that attracts millions to the cultural, entertainment, and sports center of Michigan. Learn how an energetic strategy that includes engagement and infrastructure; programming and activation; and data has resulted in a reborn Detroit city center.

Joshua Long, Data Program Director, Downtown Detroit Partnership, Laura Dean, Director, Parks and Public Spaces, Downtown Detroit Partnership, Elise Fields, Senior Director, Urban Innovation

Moderator: **Brian Vosburg, AICP, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation**

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11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. | **Break**

11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. | **City of Detroit Master Plan Update - Planning and Transportation**

The City of Detroit planning department is managing the first major overhaul of the City's Master Plan of Policies in almost 20 years. The plan will examine the ways that transportation and land use policies can be better connected in Detroit, including transit priority corridors, non-motorized transportation and freight movement.

Julie Connochie, AICP, City Planner, City of Detroit

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | **Lunch and Networking**

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | **Travel via People Mover to Detroit People Mover Control Center**

1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. | **Detroit's Growing Transit Culture and Infrastructure - The Future of Transit**

From a bus system that spans the region to the People Mover that connects downtown landmarks and anchors, transit in Detroit is taking center stage and is part of the transformation of the City over the last several years. After languishing during the city's restructuring, new leadership with an expansive vision is taking transit to the next level. Demonstrated successes during the NFL Draft, the advent of the Ann Arbor to Detroit commuter buses, and new runs from Detroit Metro Airport to downtown put Detroit transit on par with any major metro area. The evolution of DDOT, the new People Mover Master Plan, and a vision for the future of a collaborative transit system will be covered in this session.

Robert Cramer, Chief Executive Officer, Detroit Transportation Corporation

Tony Vinson, Director of Service Operations and Development, Detroit Transportation Corporation

1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | **Detroit People Mover Control Center Tour**

The group will take a brief walk from the tour to the QLINE station stop where they will board at 2:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | **Travel via the QLINE to TechTown for remainder of event**

Program continues at TechTown, 440 Burroughs St, Detroit, MI 48202

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | **District D - Detroit's Sports District and Development Potential**

Located between downtown and Midtown, this neighborhood is home to Comerica Park, Ford Field, and the Little Caesar Arena. These venues were envisioned as economic development drivers in an area that experienced less investment than its southern and northern districts. What does the future hold for this area, and what it will take to make the venues catalysts for future investment.

Francis Grunow, Chinatown Vision Committee, Co-Chair

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | **Midtown Detroit**

Midtown Detroit is one of the City's most racially and economically diverse neighborhoods. Midtown Detroit, Inc. (MDI) is the result of a collaborative merger between the University Cultural Center Association (established in 1976) and the New Center Council (established in 1980). The organization's strategic community and economic development efforts established this area as a Detroit stronghold, and the addition of the QLINE reinforced its reputation as an investment ready neighborhood. MDI represents hundreds of area stakeholders, including Detroit's anchor educational, medical and cultural institutions, along with a handful of historic districts, scores of restaurants and pubs, and a wide variety of housing options. This session highlights strategic efforts to remain diverse; and highlights connections and access initiatives that unite the many neighborhoods through modes of transit and community urban planning and development initiatives.

Melanie A. Markowicz, Executive Director, Midtown Detroit, Inc.

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | **Wrap Up, Networking**

Make plans to get back to your car, or grab a bite or a drink with others. Board QLINE back to downtown where participants are parked. Enjoy downtown.