



MICHIGAN TRANSIT IMPACT AWARDS

2026 Michigan Transit Impact Awards:

- **Guidelines:**

- Any Michigan transit provider – including 5310/specialized services providers and regardless of association – may submit a nomination. Self-nominations are also encouraged!
- While nominations in multiple categories are encouraged, please limit nominations to one in each category and use a separate form for each.
- For this awards cycle, nominations may include individuals or projects from the past two years.
- It is recommended that candidate(s) attend the Michigan Public Transportation Conference, but it is not a prerequisite. Awardees will be announced and presented with an award during the conference's luncheon on Wednesday, August 19 at Crystal Mountain Resort.
- If appropriate, please upload supporting materials such as pictures, letters of support and other documentation. This is not necessary but can help judges evaluate the nominations.
- Submissions are welcome by Friday, July 10, but the sooner the better!

[Please click here to submit an online awards nomination.](#)

- **Michigan Transit Rising Star**

- This award may be given to any transit professional who is 35 years or under, or in the first 5 years of transit employment.
 - Please describe how this individual has contributed to the success of their organization, particularly in going beyond routine duties to innovate and deliver results.
 - Please highlight how this individual has collaborated both within their organization and in external partnerships or initiatives.
 - Please share about this individual's potential for future growth and leadership.
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- **Innovative Transit Project**

- Please describe the goals of this project and the work done to improve transit access, safety, efficiency, sustainability, ridership, etc.
 - Please highlight the results of this project, including any data/metrics, and describe how these practices could be used as a model for other transit providers.
 - Please also provide any general information about the budget for this project.
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- **Outstanding Communications Project**

- Please describe the goals of this communications or marketing project and how it was effective, innovative, or unique.
 - Provide some visual examples or materials from the project.
 - Please highlight the results of this project, including any data/metrics, and describe how these practices could be used as a model for other transit providers.
 - Please also provide any general information about the budget for this project.
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- **Friend of Michigan Transit**

- This award may be given to any individual who is not a transit employee, but who has gone above and beyond to support Michigan public transportation. Examples may be a local board member, an elected official, or any other stakeholder.
 - Describe how this individual has supported Michigan public transportation and their impacts made.
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- **Michigan Transit Photo Contest**

- We are seeking photos from any Michigan transit agencies that help to illustrate our role in the community - your vehicles, your staff, your facilities, your riders, and more!
- We plan to select 12-15 photos to be included in an annual calendar to be released later this year.
- [Please click here to share your photos!](#)

- Guidelines:

- Submission deadline of Friday, July 10, but the sooner the better!
- There is no limit to the number of photos that may be submitted, but we will attempt to select winners from a range of agencies.
- Judging criteria: photo quality, artistic design, human or community connections
- Please include your agency name in the photo title
- Submission indicates that you 1) have appropriate permission or license to share the photo for our non-commercial usage on the internet or in print, and 2) have appropriate permission from any individual(s) in the photo to share their image for our non-commercial usage