

# NEWS RELEASE



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
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## Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Passes Resolution in Support of ITP and Public Transportation

**GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN** – At its April 1, 2004, Board Meeting, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council unanimously approved a resolution in support of continued funding for ITP-The Rapid and Public Transportation.

The measure was taken as Michigan’s public transit faces possible funding cuts while legislators look for ways to balance the State’s budget. In taking the action, GVMC joins its many area partners in voicing support for maintaining and increasing funding for transit and transportation overall.

“Public transit provides essential services to the citizens of Michigan,” stated Jim Buck, Mayor of Grandville and Chairman of the Metro Council. “Many rely on public transit as their only form of transportation.”

“Public transportation is a key factor in the redevelopment of urban areas, and is essential in maintaining the overall economic vitality of the region. A strong public transit system is crucial in creating Cool Cities,” added Chairman Buck.

The resolution reads as follows:

### Resolution of Support for ITP and Public Transportation

**Whereas**, public transportation exists in some form in all 83 Michigan counties and in the majority of Michigan’s metropolitan areas, including Grand Rapids, and

**Whereas**, public transportation is funded by a combination of sources including federal, state and local financing and the historic level of state support has been declining as a percentage of overall support for the past seven years, and

**Whereas**, the administration of Governor Jennifer Granholm has proposed a budget for 2005 that continues funding support for public transportation at current levels and holds public transportation essentially harmless from further cuts, and

**Whereas,** the state’s Comprehensive Transportation Fund is recognized as a primary source of funding for public transportation and these funds are “restricted state funds” intended to be used solely for provision of public transportation services and state administrative support, and

**Whereas,** public transportation is a key economic development tool in the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area, providing essential transportation to work sites, training centers and education facilities, and

**Whereas,** public transportation is recognized and depended upon by countless residents in the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area as a vital source of transportation for medical purposes, grocery shopping, employment and consumer activities, and

**Whereas,** public transportation is an integral part of local and statewide economic activity through the wages and salaries of employees, contracting of services and equipment from local vendors, purchasing capital equipment including buses and vans from Michigan-based automotive manufacturers that promote the retention of manufacturing jobs in Michigan, and

**Whereas,** State funds in the Comprehensive Transportation Fund, in addition to funding public transportation, provide essential rail passenger and freight, intercity bus service, transportation planning and critical state match funds for significant federal grant funding, and

**Whereas,** in the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area, public transportation, provided by the Interurban Transportation Partnership, is recognized for its positive contributions not only to the economic vitality of this area, but also the quality of life for employers and employees, senior citizens, students, lower income citizens and the disabled, now

**Therefore, Be It Resolved,** the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council strongly supports the public transportation services provided by the Interurban Transportation Partnership and respectfully urges the members of the Michigan Legislature to fully fund existing positions in the Department of Transportation’s Multi-Modal Bureau and the state’s transportation services, and to expand state funding of all transportation services inasmuch as resources allow.

**GVMC Members – Please also distribute this news release to your elected officials.**

*The Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) is a regional organization dedicated to promoting cooperation and coordination among local governments in the metropolitan Grand Rapids area. Created in 1990, its membership now includes 32 local governments, representing nearly 665,000 people.*

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