

AATA urges support for transportation funding bills

The Michigan House has moved forward on supporting the Governor's budget recommendations for transit. This comes in response to the State Senate's recommendation two weeks ago which would cut the bus capital and bus operating line items even further, reducing CTF dollars to transit by approximately \$11.5 million.

It is more important than ever to contact our legislators. Please take a moment and try to speak with them and encourage them - both Senate and House members - to support the Governor's recommendation and the House version of the 2010 budget.

The target date for completing the 2010 budget is now September 1st, one month before the fiscal year begins.

The Michigan Senate voted to cut the Local Bus Operating program by \$4.28 million and the Amtrak rail passenger operating grant by \$2 million.

Fast, frequent and dependable trains, combined with local bus service, are important tools for dealing with our economic, environmental and energy crises. With more Michiganders unable to afford personal vehicles, Michigan should expand passenger rail and transit, not cut.

Please contact your member of the Michigan House of Representatives and urge them to restore the funding.

Contact information is available through this link: http://www.house.mi.gov/find_a_rep.asp.

- **Restore Local Bus Operating Funding.** The Michigan Senate on 6/11/2009 slashed Fiscal Year 2010 Local Bus Operating funds from the Governor's recommended \$166,624,000 to \$162,340,600 – a \$4.28 million cut. What this means in real life: Significant route cuts.

Focus action on Michigan House of Representatives: "Please restore Local Bus Operating funding to 2009 levels in this year's transportation budget."

- **Restore AMTRAK Funding.** The Michigan Senate on 6/11/2009 dramatically slashed Fiscal Year 2010 AMTRAK funds to the extent that two of the state's three train routes will cease to operate before this time next year.

Focus action on Michigan House of Representatives: "Please restore AMTRAK funding to 2009 (\$7.1 million) levels in this year's transportation budget."