

Manistee County
Transportation, Inc.

2026 Millage Request



What is on the ballot?

WHAT?

Millage proposal requesting support for an “additional new” millage not to exceed .075 mills, (increase of .25 from .5 mills

The new millage will **replace** the current millage when it expires Dec 2026

By the time the millage goes into effect (January 2027) the mill rate will have “rolled back” to approx .4797mills

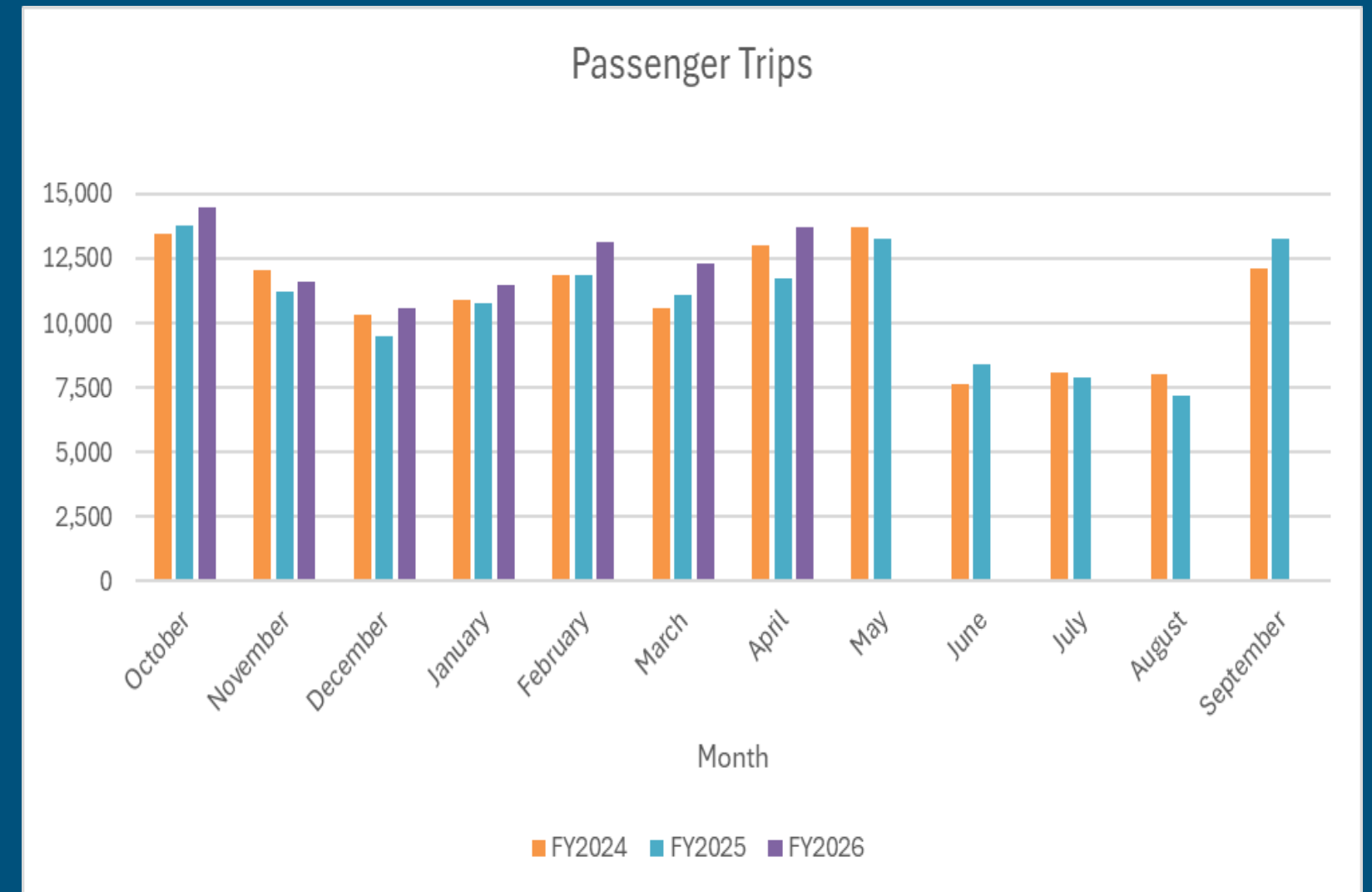


Actual early morning riders heading to work on the 5:45 AM bus. Two Meijer employees: one said they feel safer than walking along the highway, and another was thankful for the transportation to work while car insurance is so expensive. Jeff commented “Great Service. Reliable.”

Why are we asking for an *increase*?

Operating and capital costs have increased **26%** since 2019

October - April 2026 ridership is 9% higher than October - April 2025, putting Manistee County Transportation, Inc. in position for another record-breaking year.



Who are our passengers?



These passengers say they utilize Dial A Ride for shopping, work, medical appointments, and social engagements, including the pool for regular exercise. Dial A Ride allows for these passengers to remain independent.

How will the revenue from the millage be used?

Initially, the millage revenue will allow us to ***maintain our current level of service*** and add additional routes during our current service hours in order to keep up with demand

Add service to meet the current needs of our passengers

Weekday Service Expansion Phase 1 (2 routes, 10 hrs/day, 5 days/week)

Driver Hours: 2560

Dispatch hours: No additional hours required

Other Costs: 2 Expansion Buses

Implement Health Rides Service – Rides to Wellness Phase 1 (1 driver, 6 hrs a day, 3 days/wk)

Driver Hours: 936

Dispatch hours: No additional hours required

Other Costs: 1 Passenger Van with lift

Add/return MCTI closing time to 7:00 PM. Monday – Friday (3 routes, 1 hr/rte)

Driver Hours: 768

Dispatch hours: 256

Other Costs: None

How will the revenue from the millage be used?

Phase 2, We will expand hours according to the survey we have available for riders to take.

Survey – What are the needs of Manistee City and County Residents?

Is there a need for longer weekday hours, weekend hours, or additional rides to wellness?

Manistee County Transportation, Inc. is currently running a survey to determine the needs of our passengers. The survey can be found on Facebook @ Manistee Dial-a-Ride Account or at our website: <https://www.manisteecountytransportationinc.com>

How will the revenue from the millage be used?

Phase 3: Continue to Respond to passengers' requests

Act on the survey results: Expand service hours where they are most needed

Example 1

Weekday Service Expansion Phase 2

Extend evening hours to 8 PM or 10PM (1 - 3 hours per route, 3 routes/day)

Driver Hours: 768 - 2304

Dispatch hours: 256-768

Other Costs: None

Example 2

Expand hours to 10PM Saturdays (5 hrs per route, 3 routes)

Driver Hours: 780

Dispatch hours: 260

Other Costs: None

What if the millage request fails?



Should the millage request fail, operating hours will be reduced and services cut. The Board would then regroup and go out for a new millage request in 2027

Actual MCTI Bus Riders:

Lora said Dial-A-Ride allows her to continue working after losing her vehicle and being unable to afford repairs. She also shared that her sister, Tana, has relied on Dial-A-Ride since the 1970s to maintain her independence as a physically challenged person. Lora added that later service hours would help many riders whose work shifts extend beyond 5:00 p.m.

More workers using Dial A Ride first thing in the morning!



Three more early morning workers utilizing Dial A Ride to go to and from work. Austin stated how reliable the service was. Marva uses transit a lot and said “a lot of people need rides and longer hours would be an improvement”.

Connecting *people* to *community*

Pat Cybert, rider who says she enjoys taking Manistee Dial A Ride and appreciates the service. If Dial A Ride had service on Sundays, her workers, who also help her with transportation, could get a weekend off.



Questions?

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