

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North-South Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Community Meeting
March 4, 2015

The North-South Commuter Rail (WALLY) is a proposed 27-mile long commuter rail service that would connect Ann Arbor and Howell, with intermediate stops along the way. It is being evaluated as a way to improve mobility along US-23 and to promote economic development and job creation in the region.

A feasibility study is being undertaken by the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) to assess in detail the feasibility of the North-South Commuter Rail service. This federally-funded study will take about 15 months to complete and will consist of distinct phases and tasks that have been identified in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The results of this assessment, which includes in-depth public and stakeholder involvement, will be used to determine project costs, ridership, potential station locations, and the capacity and willingness of the affected communities to build, operate and help fund the project. If the project is found feasible, the study will help to prepare the project for future federal funding.

The first set of community meetings has been scheduled for the following dates and locations:

Thursday, March 12, 7:00-9:00 PM
Brighton Community Center
555 Brighton, MI 48116

Monday, March 16, 6:30-8:30 PM
Ann Arbor District Library – Downtown
343 S. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The intent of these meetings is to provide an update on the status of the North-South Commuter Rail (WALLY) project and an overview of the feasibility study. There will be a presentation at the beginning of the meeting followed by discussion to answer questions and obtain public input on the project and the process. The presentation and format will be the same for both meetings.

For additional information, please contact Michael Benham at AAATA at (734) 794-1851 or mhenham@theride.org.