



Grand Rapids Township - Public Transit Service - Potential Service Options

The potential options for public transit service outside of The Rapid's official service area depend on several factors, including: the availability of equipment (buses), the current contract rate for service (determined by The Rapid's funding sources and expenses), the size and scope of service desired, and the potential impact of new service on existing service.

For Grand Rapids Township, the following items are considered for potential service:

- The Rapid's current fleet of full size buses is fully utilized for regular, fixed-route service; The Rapid's fleet of cut-away vehicles (GO!Bus) has extra capacity
- The cost per hour for transit service for FY 2014 is \$71.01 (this is the "contract rate")*
- The potential service for Grand Rapids Township would be designed to connect the East Beltline corridor (from approximately Frederik Meijer Gardens to 3 Mile Road) to the rest of The Rapid system
- An extension service would negatively affect the schedule and timing of Route 15 (East Leonard), while a connector service would have no impact on existing service

Considering these factors, here is a basic service option:

- Connector service with a cut-away bus, Monday-Friday, 7:00am-6:00pm
- 8 hours of service per day, 255 weekdays per year
- **Cost = [\$71.01-contract rate] X [11 hours/day] X [255 days/year] = \$199,183/year**
 - This cost can be adjusted by increasing or decreasing the amount of service hours per day, however, there must be a minimum of 4 hours of service per day
 - This cost includes GO!Bus service within ¼ of a mile from the regular route during the regular route's operating hours

After an initial analysis, the basic route between 3 Mile Road and Frederik Meijer Gardens could be served every 30 minutes, and would be timed to connect with Route 15 (East Leonard) at Knapp Corners. The contracting party can provide preferred stops and routing.

**the contract rate is subject to changes due to the fact that Operational Funding from the State of Michigan is factored in to the rate, therefore changes in levels of state funding can impact the contract rate*



Grand Rapids Township – Background Information

At the present time, there is little to no transit service in Grand Rapids Township. The Rapid's Route 15 (East Leonard) currently provides service between Knapp Corners Meijer, Celebration Village, and downtown Grand Rapids.

The Rapid's policy with regards to GO!Bus service (demand response service for seniors and the disabled) states that GO!Bus service will be provided at least within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of any fixed routes that The Rapid operates. Therefore, because Frederik Meijer Gardens is within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Route 15 (East Leonard), it currently is served by GO!Bus.

Current Transit Usage Near Grand Rapids Township

For reference, the following statistics reflect ridership on Route 15 (East Leonard) near the border of the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Township:

Route 15 Ridership at Knapp Corners:

113 people get on per day at the Knapp Corners Meijer

120 people get off per day at the Knapp Corners Meijer

1.2 people get off per day at Celebration Village

The numbers are just a sample, but there are approximately 115-120 people getting off and on at the Meijer each day.

In an average month, there are generally between 200 and 250 GO!Bus trips to the area proposed to be served by the shuttle – East Beltline from Meijer Gardens to Celebration Village.

Funding Effort at the Advocates for Senior Issues & Disability Advocates

The Rapid was contacted by the Disability Advocates of Kent County and the Advocates for Senior Issues last year to discuss potential transit options in Grand Rapids Township. The following gentlemen are the appropriate contacts for each organization:

Stan Roth – Disability Advocates of Kent County - stanley.r@dakc.us

Tom Appel – Advocates for Senior Issues - tappel1864@aol.com



Grand Rapids Township – Current Routing





Grand Rapids Township – Potential Routing

