

# **Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority**

## **Annual Report 2008**

2008 was a year of preparation, planning and transition for the KCTA. All activities and accomplishments addressed one or more of those outcomes. In addition the Authority provided funding for service provision under contract with the City of Kalamazoo. The KCTA Board proceeded throughout 2008 to prepare itself and the community for administering public transportation, planning to take over that responsibility from the City of Kalamazoo. The defeat of the November millage proposal required the KCTA, the City, the County and the Transit Authority Board to review existing strategies and set a new course toward a successful countywide public transportation system.

### **The KCTA supported the following service provisions in 2008:**

- Care-A-Van service (regular and expanded hours) 65,956 trips provided throughout Kalamazoo County.
- During the expanded Care-A-Van hours (6:00-7:00 a.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m. M-F and Saturdays 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) 2,193 trips were provided. This additional service covered a period beginning in July and ending in December.
- Line haul routes in the City of Portage (68,105 rides provided Jan-Dec).
- The cost for line haul routes that extended into the following jurisdictions (City of Portage, City of Parchment, Townships of Kalamazoo, Oshtemo and Comstock, and KVCC).

The following is a summary of 2008 accomplishments for the KCTA:

### **ORGANIZATIONAL**

- Brought two new members onto the Authority.
- Hired a half time Administrative Assistant to help the Board and the Project Manager accomplish the growing demands of the KCTA.
- Reviewed and accepted the administrative organizational structure for the system.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Solicited and accepted bids for the marketing/re-branding of the system and for financial analysis/planning for the system.

- Awarded contracts to LKF Marketing and Plante Moran, CPA.
- Accepted the contract with Pride Care Ambulance from the City of Kalamazoo to provide Care-A-Van service.
- Contracted with EPIC-MRA to survey voters in preparation for the November millage.
- Changed the system's fiscal year from a calendar year to an October/September year to better align with the state and federal government.
- Approved the 2009 Transportation system budget.
- Successfully concluded an independent audit of the Authority for 2007 by BDO Seidman LLP.
- Contracted with BDO Seidman LLP for the 2008 audit (9 months).

## **PLANNING**

- Conducted numerous public input/education meetings with units of government throughout Kalamazoo County (Cities-Kalamazoo, Portage, Galesburg, Parchment; Villages-Schoolcraft, Richland, Climax, Vicksburg; Townships-Charleston, Texas, Brady, Prairie Ronde, Comstock, Richland, Oshtemo, Kalamazoo, Cooper, Ross, Pavilion, Schoolcraft, Wakeshma).
- The Board met with Peter Varga, CEO of "The Rapid" in Grand Rapids and his Board Chair to share Board development issues.
- Set the millage rate for the November election.
- Stakeholder meetings held with county leaders and decision makers to determine next steps in view of the millage defeat.
- The KCTA Board, the Transportation Authority Board for the City of Kalamazoo, and the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County Government mutually agreed to postpone the transfer of the system until such time as a sustainable local revenue source is achieved.

## **Additional System Data for 2008**

- Fuel Costs spiked during the first three quarters of 2008.
- Ridership showed a corresponding increase across all components of the system (Line Haul, Demand/Response).
- Each Line Haul vehicle in the system averaged 28.5 passengers per hour in 2008 (3<sup>rd</sup> Highest in the State).