



AECOM
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To:
Livingston County Board of
Commissioners
304 E. Grand River Ave.
Howell, MI 48843

Project name:
Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility

From:
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CC:
Greg Kellogg

Date:
March 27, 2023

Memo

Subject: FY23 5339b Grant Application for the Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility

What is the Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility?

The Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility is a proposed project coming out of the 2019 Transit Master Plan that would create a new combined operations center and passenger hub in the Brighton area that would supplement the current operations headquarters located west of Howell and serve as a transfer point between multiple different transit services operating in Livingston County.

What transportation challenges will the facility address? What benefits will it create?

The Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility will:

1. Decrease deadhead and emissions,
2. Enable speedier ride request fulfillment, and
3. Provide a permanent location for out-of-county transit services.

LETS is currently headquartered west of Howell, but the bulk of its pick-ups and drop-offs occur further east in the Grand River Avenue/I-96 corridor from Howell to Brighton (see the Background Data section of this memo). Approximately half of the LETS fleet is used for routes in Brighton, and drivers must travel 10 to 15 miles from the current operations center in Howell where buses are dispatched from to reach those who need to be picked up. This results in significant dead head mileage and emissions when there are no passengers in the vehicle.

LETS launched its new software platform Ecolane and the associated smartphone app last year to allow customers to book on-demand rides. With this technology in place, LETS can provide much more efficient transportation than the previous manual trip scheduling system. The Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility will capitalize on this technology investment by providing a second location to dispatch vehicles from to meet on-demand ride requests within Brighton, where many such requests occur due to the concentration of activity centers there.

In 2019, Indian Trails, provider of Michigan Flyer intercity bus service, began providing trips between Livingston County, Ann Arbor, and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport with a temporary pick-up and drop-off location at the Meijer grocery store parking lot in Brighton. The service meets a clear demand that was documented by the Livingston County Transit Master Plan and will continue to be an important service for county residents. However, without a permanent location within the next few years, Michigan Flyer service to and from Livingston County may be discontinued. The Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility will provide the permanent location that the Michigan Flyer needs to continue serving Livingston County.

Additional services that will greatly benefit from the Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility include People's Express (which currently operates commuter service from Brighton and Whitmore Lake in Livingston County to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor), the planned fixed-route bus route on Grand River Avenue, and potential future workforce transportation provided by Flint MTA and/or CATA. Having a central location for these services' buses and passengers would enable more efficient transfers and more effective transportation.

Why is grant funding needed?

The proposed Brighton Multimodal Transit Facility is a significant one-time capital investment beyond what can be reasonably funded from FTA formula program allocations and State and local resources. The vast majority of LETS' formula, State, and local funding is needed for preventative maintenance and operations, and it would take many years to build up the level of funding required for the facility without assistance. Therefore, LETS is seeking funding from the Federal 5339b Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program, which requires a State funding match of 20 percent (the application is due April 13, 2023).

Background Data

Figure 1: Passenger Origins and Destinations per Square Mile by Jurisdiction

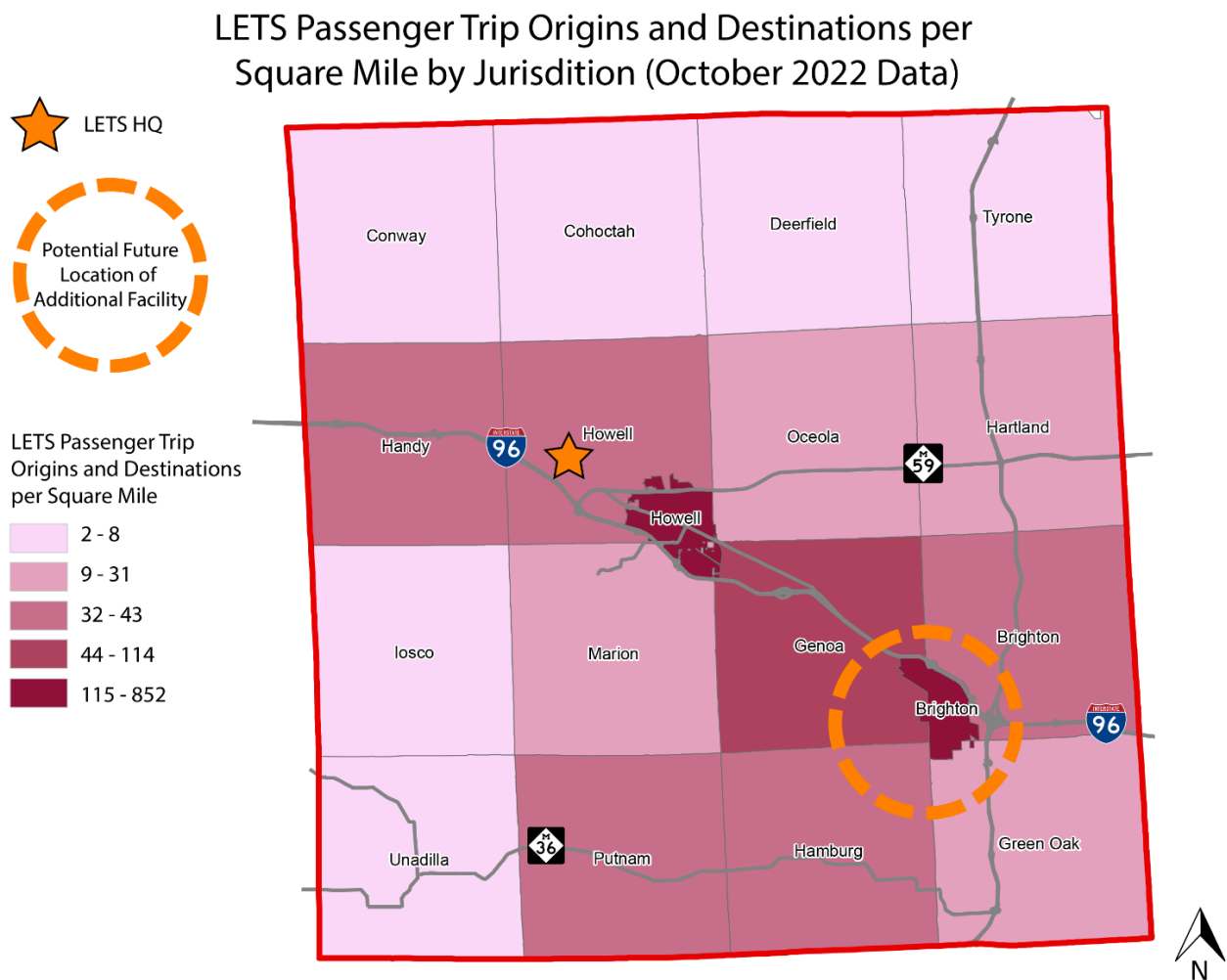


Table 1: Passenger Pickups Per Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Passenger Pickups	Percent of Total Passenger Pickups	Passenger Pickups per Square Mile
City of Howell	2,122	19%	414
Genoa Township	2,032	18%	56
City of Brighton	1,556	14%	425
Howell Township	705	6%	22
Brighton Township	698	6%	20
Putnam Township	671	6%	19
Hamburg Township	591	5%	16
Marion Township	556	5%	16
Handy Township	520	5%	15
Hartland Township	452	4%	12
Green Oak Township	418	4%	11
Oceola Township	330	3%	9
Outside Livingston County	238	2%	
Iosco Township	149	1%	4
Conway Township	91	1%	2
Deerfield Township	80	1%	2
Unadilla Township	52	0%	1
Cohoctah Township	51	0%	1
Tyrone Township	45	0%	1
Total	11,357	100%	

Source: LETS Origins (October 2022 Data)

Table 2: Passenger Drop-offs Per Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Passenger Drop-offs	Percent of Total Passenger Drop-offs	Passenger Drop-offs per Square Mile
City of Howell	2,093	18%	409
Genoa Township	2,074	18%	57
City of Brighton	1,563	14%	427
Howell Township	656	6%	20
Brighton Township	740	7%	21
Putnam Township	671	6%	19
Hamburg Township	648	6%	18
Marion Township	412	4%	11
Handy Township	588	5%	17
Hartland Township	524	5%	14
Green Oak Township	419	4%	11
Oceola Township	311	3%	8
Outside of Livingston County	226	2%	
Iosco Township	147	1%	4
Conway Township	72	1%	2
Deerfield Township	75	1%	2
Unadilla Township	47	0%	1
Cohoctah Township	51	0%	1
Tyrone Township	40	0%	1
TOTAL	11,357	100%	

Source: LETS Destinations (October 2022 Data)

Figure 2: Origin-Destination Density Map

