

# Detroit Transportation Corporation

Owner and Operator of the Detroit People Mover



Date: March 27, 2023

To: Mary Sheffield, President  
Detroit City Council

From: Ernest Latham, Deputy General Manager  
Detroit Transportation Corporation DPM

Subject: Budget Hearing Questions for Fiscal Year 23-24

---

Thank you for the opportunity to answer these questions, our team is ready to provide additional information or requests at any time.

**1) How many employees work for the DTC?**

The current DTC headcount is as follows

**DTC HEADCOUNT BUDGETED V. ACTUAL**

	<b>Est. Budgeted Headcount</b>	<b>Actual Headcount</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Administrative</b>	24	20	-4
<b>Maintenance</b>	27	24	-3
<b>Operations</b>	16	16	0
<b>Transit Police</b>	60	31	-29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>-36</b>

**Vacant Positions:**

1. Safety Advisor (interviewing Monday 3/27)
2. Accounting Manager (pending job description)
3. Accounting Clerk (department reviewing resumes)
4. HR Business Partner (hiring by end of April)
5. 2 Electronic Techs
6. 1 Utility Tech (maintenance's request to not fill at this time)
7. 29 MCOLES and PA 330 Officers
  - a. 3 MCOLES Officers scheduled to start on 4/3

**2) Did the DTC receive any ARPA dollars?**

DTC received the one-time allocation from ARPA. As an active and obligated FTA grant, the dollars can be utilized for operating expenses until exhausted. At DTC, these funds have continued to provide support for the additional costs related to COVID, which include: staffing, equipment, lost fare revenue, shut-down and restart costs (ongoing), lost local subsidy dollars in 2020 and 2021, adapting to and restoring awareness of the People Mover in the changed reality we all live in. These funds allow DTC to operate without increasing our City subsidy for the People Mover.



**3) How will the DTC allocate the \$6,500,000 proposed for FY23-24?**

All appropriated subsidy funds will be used to subsidize the continued operation of The Detroit People Mover. The strategy is to cover operational & maintenance costs, including but not limited to payroll, insurance, and facilities, equipment, & vehicle maintenance and repairs.

**4) How often are maintenance assessments conducted on the People Mover?**

The DPM has a defined Maintenance Plan that provides an organization-wide framework for the Detroit Transportation Corporation (DTC) to manage and perform maintenance of the Detroit People Mover (DPM) to uphold a state of good repair and support the delivery of transit service in Downtown Detroit. The execution of the plan is performed under the dual oversight auditing of MDOT and FTA as part of regulation 49 CFR. The subsystems are as follows

- Automatic Train Control (ATC)
- Communications
- Facilities
  - a. Passenger Stations (13)
  - b. Substations (2)
  - c. Maintenance and Control Facility (MCF)
- Guideway Rails
- Guideway Structure
- Power Distribution
- Security Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
- Vehicle

Below is a representative list of preventive maintenance activities from the plan:

**Facilities (by frequency)**

Monthly	Quarterly	Semi Annual	Annual
Fare Gates Fire Extinguishers	Facility Lamp Replacement Interior /Exterior Doors Communications	CCTV UPS System	Art lighting Platform Heaters Station Unit Heaters

**Vehicles (key components with preventive steps)**

Vehicle System / Component	
ATC	dDC/DC converter
Vehicle battery	Passenger doors
Vehicle battery monitor	End doors (emergency doors)
Disc brakes	Lighting
Track brakes	Propulsion system (LIM's)
Exterior carbody	PCU
Interior carbody	Power collectors
Communications	Vehicle trucks
Couplers	Wheels

**5) How many moving cars does the DTC have operating at one time?**

Current we are operating four cars paired in a 2 car configuration (two trains). There is one spare car for standby. The DPM maintenance plan is to add an addition car in late spring (which would allow three 2-car trains) and one early fall and two additional cars in late winter/early spring 2024 to support the NFL draft events (would allow four 2-car trains for peak service).



**a. How often are the moving cars replaced?**

The DPM cars are the original cars that were delivered in 1986 and put into service in 1987. The useful life design of these type of rail cars is minimum 35 years, which we are currently at. Refurbishment and overhaul activities can be implemented to extend the safe operating life for several years.

**6) When was the last study for expansion conducted for the People Mover?**

No official detailed study related to the expansion beyond the current guideway and stations has been conducted.

**a. Will the department be initiating a new study? What components will be involved?**

A key pillar of the People Mover system is adding value to the City and its residents. Currently no plans exist to conduct a detailed study, but DTC does plan to gather general estimates of the cost of expanding a system similar to the People Mover on a per-mile, per-station, and per-train level. This information could be helpful if opportunities arise where expansion could serve, support, or encourage economic development that would benefit the city and residents. Any expansion would need to include community input, a funding partnership, and a clear and measurable benefit.

**7) Where can people find accurate and up to date information about the People Mover?**

The public can find accurate and up-to-date information about the People Mover, its service changes and operating hours three ways:

1. The People Mover operates Twitter (<https://twitter.com/detpeoplemover>) and Facebook pages (<https://www.facebook.com/DetroitPeopleMoverTrain>)
2. Signage posted on station entry doors and inside train cars.
3. ThePeopleMover.com website

**a. Does the DTC have a mobile application?**

Yes, the Detroit People Mover app can be downloaded from the Google Play and Apple stores. App information shares content and key features from the website with the goal to promote wayfinding of downtown businesses, venues and landmarks from the People Mover. Users can also purchase passes and register to receive push notification messages regarding changes to service.





**8) How many community annual passes or seasonal passes are given out annually?**

The People Mover reviews requests for donations of passes or tokens throughout the year. Since the People Mover was free until October 31, 2022, only one request has been received. However, the People Mover offers free tours to K-12 schools from April through October and annual passes at a 90 percent discount (\$10/year) to any senior citizen age 65 and over who are residents of Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck. More than 800 invitation letters were mailed to seniors who were previous pass holders within Detroit communities.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at (313) 221-1246.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernest Latham Jr".

Ernest Latham Jr. Deputy General Manager

CC: City Council members

: R. Cramer