

David Whitaker, Esq.
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Executive Policy Manager
Marcell R. Todd, Jr.
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Commission
Janese Chapman
Director, Historic Designation
Advisory Board

John Alexander
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.
Paige Blessman
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP
Victory Corley
Lisa DiChiera
Eric Fazzini, AICP
Willene Green
Christopher Gulock, AICP

City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Marcel Hurt, Esq.
Sandra L. Jeffers
Kimani Jeffrey
Anthony W. L. Johnson
Phillip Keller, Esq.
Edward King
Kelsey Maas
Jamie Murphy
Dolores Perales
Analine Powers, Ph.D.
W. Akilah Redmond
Renee Short
Floyd Stanley
Thomas Stephens, Esq.
Timarie Szwed
Theresa Thomas
Janice Tillmon
Ian Tomashik
Emberly Vick
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff



DATE: July 25, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE ACCESSIBILI-D PROGRAM**

City Council President Mary Sheffield has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution urging our state and federal partners to provide funding that would allow the City to extend or relaunch the Accessibili-D service.

A Resolution by Council President Mary Sheffield

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE ACCESSIBILI-D PROGRAM

- WHEREAS** The Accessibili-D pilot program launched in June 2024 to close transportation gaps for seniors and disabled residents by providing a free shuttle service utilizing autonomous vehicles; and
- WHEREAS** The program was operated by May Mobility in partnership with the City of Detroit's Office of Mobility Innovation and the Michigan Mobility Collaborative; and
- WHEREAS** The free shuttle operated across 128 stops with an 11-square mile area of southeast Detroit with 3 vehicles, including two wheelchair-accessible vehicles, that helped participants reach healthcare facilities, shopping centers, workplaces, and social or recreational destinations; and
- WHEREAS** The pilot program ran through June 2025 and was a resounding success with over 4,000 rides provided, a 5.0 star rating across over 700 reviews, and an average wait time of only 10 minutes;¹ and
- WHEREAS** The program was supported by a \$2.4 million contract with additional grant funding, including a \$206,000 grant from the Delta Dental Foundation; and
- WHEREAS** According to the Detroit Office of Disability Affairs, Detroit has approximately 117,000 residents with disabilities, making up roughly 18% of the population; and
- WHEREAS** The Office of Mobility Innovation has stated its intention to issue a Request for Proposals in the coming months and have a long-term contract in place by the end of the year, while also working with the Detroit Department of Transportation to provide gap services; and
- WHEREAS** Programs like Accessibili-D provide disabled residents with additional freedom and independence by making it free and convenient to travel; and
- WHEREAS** Given the popularity and success of the program, its renewal and expansion should be a priority, as Detroit could become a model for accessible, tech-enabled mobility; and
- WHEREAS** The continuation of the Accessibili-D program would reaffirm the City's commitment to inclusive transit solutions that improve independence, dignity, and opportunity for all residents; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**
- RESOLVED** The Detroit City Council hereby urges our state and federal partners to provide the funding necessary to relaunch and potentially extend the Accessibili-D service; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to AECOM, the American Center of Mobility, Urbanite by Ford Motor Company, Deloitte, the Knight Foundation, Mcity at the University of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the US Department of Transportation, the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, and Wayne State University.

¹ <https://detroitmi.gov/news/accessibili-d-av-mobility-shuttle-nears-end-successful-1-year-trial-city-explore-long-term-service>

