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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DON'T LET REGIONAL BICKERING KILL TRANSIT PROGRESS

A press conference to educate and call attention to the need for Metro Detroit to adopt a regional transportation plan and a Regional Transit Authority

When

- Monday, March 28, 2011 at 9:00am

Where

- Rosa Parks Transit Center, Michigan Ave. and Cass Ave.
Outside, weather depending,

Who

- Invited elected officials including but not limited to Representatives John Conyers, Candice Miller, Hansen Clarke; Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow; Mayor Bing, Mayor O'Reilly of Dearborn.
- Clergy including Pastor Pat Thompson of Erin Presbyterian, Reverend Dr. Kevin Turman of Second Baptist Church, Reverend Ed Rowe of Central United Methodist.
- Transit Advocates Megan Owens of Transit Riders United (TRU), Cece Grant of Transportation For America (T4A)
- MOSES leaders, MOSES Transportation Task Force and MOSES Transit Advocates

What

- MOSES Transportation Task Force and MOSES leaders will ride DDOT and SMART buses into the city and hand out informational flyers on a Regional Transit Authority, what it is, and why it is important for Transit Progress. It will serve to educate riders on the regional transit plan that has already been approved in principal by the "Big Four" and will serve as a template for future regional transit progress in Metro Detroit.
- At 9:00am MOSES will host a press conference where elected officials listed above will speak about the need for Metro Detroit to adopt a Regional Transit Authority and finalize a Regional Transit Plan.

Why

- Metro Detroiters have suffered too long without a unified, organized regional mass transportation system. DDOT Buses and SMART Busses are not effectively coordinated. There lacks a funding structure for the Woodward Light Rail's future. We need to begin thinking regionally like other great metropolitan areas in the country.
- The Metro region needs to stop leaving millions of federal tax dollars that we pay in Washington simply because our region does not have a Regional Transit Authority to receive federal transportation dollars that are sent to other urban areas that have an RTA. Last year, Metro Detroit could have received \$22 million from the federal government for mass transit projects.
- Metro Detroit needs jobs and people need transportation access to jobs. Improving mass transit will not only create good jobs but will act as an economic stimulus for the region.
- The transportation system in Metro Detroit is unjust and ineffective. The people who need transit the most do not receive it and find it increasingly difficult to connect to jobs, education and health care. Detroit needs a Regional Transit Authority.