

2. PURPOSE AND NEED

2.1 Purpose and Need

Local and regional authorities in southeast Michigan recognize a need to enhance the region's transportation system by providing a variety of transportation options. The DTOGS project examined how transit enhancements can be implemented to address three primary issues within study area, given the existing financial constraints:

- **High concentrations of transit-dependent populations** – A third of residents of the DTOGS project area (over 300,000 people) are transit-dependent. The introduction of rapid transit into the area would have a dramatic effect on the quality of life for these persons by providing them with greater access to employment, education, medical care, retail, and other destinations.
- **Continued and growing dependence on the personal automobile, increasing congestion and the environmental impacts of auto dependence** – The Detroit region is consistently ranked as having among the worst congestion in the country. Traffic forecasts show that congestion will continue to worsen in the region unless people are provided alternatives to the personal automobile. Continued dependence on automobiles and petroleum has a profound impact on the environment. The Detroit-Ann Arbor region is a non-attainment area for eight-hour ozone. Automobile use has been linked to ozone emission and diesel powered trucks and buses to production of particulate matter. Rapid transit in the Detroit area will provide residents and visitors with greater mobility while reducing reliance on personal automobiles, vehicle miles traveled within the region, petroleum consumption, and vehicle emissions that contribute to air pollution.
- **Lagging economic reinvestment in the urban core** – In recent decades, the DTOGS project area has experienced depopulation and loss of employment, a troubling trend that is predicted to continue through 2030 despite predicted growth of the metropolitan region. Rapid transit is one tool that can be used to invest in the economic revitalization in the Detroit area.

The introduction of rapid transit into the DTOGS project area has the potential to address all three of these issues. These purpose and need statements relate to the transportation deficiencies and goals and objectives identified in Section 1.

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