

UTC Project Information	
Project Title	Detroit Regional Transit Study: A Study of Factors that Enable and Inhibit Effective Regional Transit (Former title: A Study of Factors that Inhibit and Enable Effective Development of Sustainable Regional Transit Systems in Southeastern Michigan)
University	University of Detroit Mercy Mineta National Transit Research Consortium
Principal Investigator	Leo E. Hanifin, Ph.D.
PI Contact Information	University of Detroit Mercy Department of Engineering 4001 W. McNichols Rd. Detroit, MI 48221-3038 hanifinl@udmercy.edu 313-578-0408
Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	Research and Innovative Technology Administration University Transportation Centers Program (\$200,000) University of Detroit Mercy (\$109,073) Michigan Department of Transportation (\$100,000)
Total Project Cost	\$409,073
Agency ID or Contract Number	DTRT12-G-UTC21
Start and End Dates	June 2012 – March 2014
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>An interdisciplinary team of six faculty members and six students at the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) conducted a comprehensive study of the factors enabling or inhibiting development of effective regional transit. Focusing on Metro Detroit and four peer regions—Atlanta, Cleveland, Denver, and St. Louis—investigators examined six key variables in transit success: 1) leadership and politics, 2) governance and law, 3) finance, 4) transit-oriented development (TOD), 5) equity and access, and 6) media and public opinion. These elements were studied in the context of Detroit transit history with respect to lessons learned, recent developments in Metro Detroit, and comparisons and recommendations.</p> <p>The team employed a nontraditional research methodology driven not by numbers but by the narrative of firsthand experience. They conducted in-depth interviews with more than 60 leaders in transit advocacy, development, and operation from five regions across the country, seeking the type of insight acquired almost exclusively through personal experience.</p>

	<p>The interviewees included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current or previous CEOs of four regional transit authorities (RTAs) and more than 25 key staff members of RTAs • Six RTA board members, including three board presidents • Five MPO leaders of transit development in their regions • A wide variety of stakeholders/advocates, including leading figures in business, education, labor, campaign consulting, and media • Government leaders, including legislators, mayors and mayors' offices <p>The team then undertook the task of curating, organizing and assembling this accumulation of wisdom into cogent analyses that form the foundation of this report. This document provides an overview and summaries of key findings in all six areas of focus. Six separate reports explore each area in greater depth.</p>
<p>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)</p>	<p>Hanifin, Leo. "Lessons in Leadership and Politics from Four Peer Regions." Presentation at the Detroit Regional Transit Workshop, Detroit, MI, May 18, 2013.</p> <p>Hanifin, Leo. "Transit Planning, Advocacy, and Funding." Presentation at the Moving our Metro: A Day of Regional Thinking, Planning, and Doing, Dearborn, MI, November 18, 2013.</p> <p>Hanifin, Leo. "Transit Leadership and Politics – Lessons Learned from Other Regions." Presentation at the Moving our Metro: A Day of Regional Thinking, Planning, and Doing, Dearborn, MI, November 18, 2013.</p> <p>Anderson, Scott. "M-1 Rail Public-Private Partnership: Success in Context of Historic Failures of Transit Initiatives in Metro Detroit, Michigan." Presentation at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, January 14, 2014.</p> <p>Hanifin, Leo. "Lessons Learned from Recent Transit Research at the University of Detroit Mercy." Presentation at the organizational meeting of Educators for Transit (a gathering of university presidents and leaders from eighteen universities in SE Michigan and the Regional Transit Authority leadership), University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI, April 10, 2015.</p> <p>Hanifin, Leo. "Understanding Transit in Our Region in the Context of Our Nation's Transit." Formation meeting of Students</p>

	<p>for Transit (a student based transit advocacy organization with representatives from twelve universities in Southeast Michigan), Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, May 20, 2015.</p> <p>Articles/Interviews: “Moving Forward with Transit in Southeast Michigan,” 2013, a pamphlet/brochure for quick dissemination of recommendations.</p> <p>Next City, article “What Detroit’s New Transit Authority Can Learn From Atlanta”, by Rachel Dovey, November 12, 2015 https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/detroit-new-transit-authority-lessons-atlanta</p>
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Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	<p>Increased stakeholder understanding of critical factors regarding the development of effective regional transit</p> <p>In addition to distribution and presentations of final reports, the brochure “Moving Forward With Transit in Southeast Michigan” (printed in December, 2013) continues to be provided to transit leaders, advisors and stakeholders in SE Michigan. Over 500 copies have been provided to key individuals and transit/community organizations. This report is also available on the UDM website.</p>
Web Links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports 	Final report (MNTRC Website): http://transweb.sjsu.edu/project/1136.html

- Project Website

Final report (TRB Website):
<http://trid.trb.org/view/2014/M/1304837>