

Testimony of Michael Sedlak, Green Oak Charter Township Clerk
Chairperson of SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments)
September 27, 2012

- Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.
- My name is Michael Sedlak, I am Clerk of Green Oak Charter Township, which is located in Livingston County.
- I also serve as chairperson of SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.
- I speak on behalf of nearly 160 local government members in Southeast Michigan.
- As a long-time supporter of an RTA, SEMCOG wishes to express our strong support for House Bill 5309, the Regional Transit Authority Legislation.
- A vote in support of an RTA is a vote in support of our region, and our state.
- An RTA establishes a framework to encourage cooperation and coordination among all existing transit service providers in Southeast Michigan.
- It also provides the ability to generate local funds to match federal capital funds and to operate ongoing transit service.
- When I venture to other cities and ride on well-developed transit systems I look around at the redevelopment and think what I'm riding on is a part of why that happens. Reliable, functional transit means growth and opportunity.
- Transit plays an essential role in this region's redevelopment. It brings workers to the work, and people to our cities.
- For too long, we have missed out on opportunities to compete for federal funds. Transportation Secretary LaHood has expressed his support of forming a RTA in Southeastern Michigan. Deputy Secretary John Porcari said at a recent meeting at SEMCOG that "you must have a RTA to be in the game to receive funding for your region". Secretary Porcari also told us that while Detroit is the 12th largest metropolitan region in the country it ranks 109th in transit service.
- We acknowledge that there are many issues still to be worked out – but this legislation puts a framework in place so those at the table can make the needed decisions.
- We must enact this legislation in order to move transit forward in our region.
- An RTA is essential for the projects like M-1 and Bus Rapid Transit.
- Whether by choice or by necessity, public transit is the critical link for many people traveling to work and school in Southeast Michigan.
- We urge your prompt action to pass House Bill 5309, and we stand ready to do our part to move transit forward once the legislation is enacted.

- Thank you.