COMTO
MICHIGAN

2026 TRANSPORTATION BRAINTRUST BREAKFAST

A LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM





We are grateful for COMTO's commitment to excellence and creating opportunities for historically underutilized businesses and for all professionals in transportation.

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Dear Attendees,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Michigan Chapter, to welcome you to our Annual Braintrust Breakfast on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**.

This year's theme, "**Public Transit on the Move**," reflects an important moment for transportation in Michigan, and across our nation. Public transit is more than a means of getting from one destination to another—it is a critical connection to opportunity, education, employment, healthcare, economic development, and stronger communities.

As our communities continue to grow and evolve, we must remain committed to advancing transportation systems that are accessible, innovative, reliable, and responsive to the people they serve. This requires collaboration among transit agencies, government leaders, businesses, transportation professionals, community stakeholders, and the residents who depend on these systems every day.

COMTO Michigan remains committed to creating opportunities for transportation professionals and businesses, strengthening our industry through education and advocacy, and ensuring that diverse voices are represented in conversations shaping the future of mobility.

Today's Braintrust Breakfast provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, explore emerging opportunities, and have meaningful conversations about where public transit is headed—and how we can help move it forward.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our speakers, sponsors, members, partners, and guests for your continued commitment to COMTO Michigan and to the advancement of transportation throughout our state.

Together, let's keep public transit moving—and ensure that no community is left behind.



With appreciation,

Beverly J. Watts
President, COMTO Michigan
CEO & Founder, BME Consulting, LLC.

2026 TRANSPORTATION BRAINTRUST BREAKFAST

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PUBLIC TRANSIT ON THE MOVE

October 21, 2026
Detroit Athletic Club

Welcome

Beverly J. Watts
President, COMTO Michigan

Introductions

Kay Adefeso
Vice President, COMTO Michigan
Director of Landside Infrastructure, Wayne County Airport Authority

Opening Remarks

Ms. Tiffany J. Gunter
CEO and General Manager
SMART

Alicia Moten Roberts
Deputy Director, DDOT
Mayor's Office, City of Detroit

Terri D. Slaughter
Chief Strategic Impact Officer
MDOT

Main Presentation

Beverly J. Watts
President, COMTO Michigan

Moderator

Lloyd Jackson
Co-host, 'JR Morning
WJR 760 AM

Keynote Speaker

Lisa Nuszkowski
Chief of Staff
Bedrock Detroit

Panel Discussion | Q&A

Honorable James E. Tate Jr.
President, Detroit City Council
City of Detroit

Ben Stupka
Executive Director,
Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

Honorable Alisha Bell
Chairwoman
Wayne County Commission

Closing Remarks

Beverly J. Watts
President, COMTO Michigan

Program Concludes



Lisa Nuszkowski | Chief of Staff, Bedrock Detroit

Lisa Nuszkowski ensures strategic alignment across Bedrock. As Chief of Staff , she facilitates effective decision-making, identifies and removes roadblocks and helps advance Bedrock's mission of creating places and spaces which drive urban growth across Detroit and Cleveland.

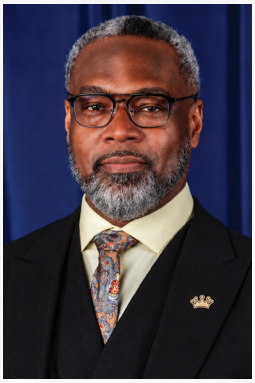
Lisa is no stranger to mobility. A long-time Detroit resident, Lisa was previously President and Chief Operating Officer of M-1 RAIL, the non-profit streetcar system in downtown Detroit known as the QLINE. She also served as the Founder and Executive Director of MoGo, Metro Detroit's nonprofit bike share system, and led Open Streets Detroit, an annual program that opened major roads for pedestrians to enjoy.



Lloyd Jackson | Co-host, 'JR Morning, WJR 760 AM

Lloyd Jackson is an award-winning journalist and co-host of "'JR in the Morning" with Chris Renwick and Jamie Edmonds, airing weekdays from 6-9AM on 760 AM.

He is the recipient of numerous accolades, including honors from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, Associated Press and the Society of Professional Journalists. With a legendary career spanning over 35 years, Lloyd has covered city politics and led communications for Wayne County Government, served as Assistant News Director at WJR and is a past Michigan Chronicle Man of Excellence. As the official Voice of the Detroit People Mover, Lloyd currently welcomes millions to downtown, proudly representing the city he loves.



Hon. James E. Tate Jr. | President, Detroit City Council

City Council President James E. Tate Jr. remains deeply invested in opportunities for all Detroiters.

As a City Council Member for over 16 years, Council President Tate's Initiatives include DI$COVER D1, Detroit's first district-wide online business directory, leader for the Task Force on Black Male Engagement, and NextVoice, a monthly meet-up providing Detroiters ages 18-40 an opportunity to address top priorities through community dialogue and actionable policies. Council President Tate is also the Michigan Chronicle's "2026 Men of Excellence Man of the Year", recognized for his long-standing public service, community advocacy, and leadership on the "Protect Your Crown" mental health initiative for residents and students.



Hon. Alisha Bell | Chairwoman, Wayne County Commission

In 2002, Wayne County Commission Chair Alisha Bell became the youngest African American woman in the country to serve on a county commission. Chair Bell is now in her 12th term, which includes the 7th District on Detroit's far west side where she grew up.

Chair Bell was recently elected First Vice President of the National Association of Counties and is positioned to become as the third African American woman in their 90-year history to serve as its President in 2027. Commissioner Alisha Bell leads this county through committed stewardship which safeguards and improves the quality of life for her constituents.



Ben Stupka | Executive Director, RTA

As Executive Director of the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA), Ben Stupka is a recognized leader in regional public transportation and mobility, bringing more than 20 years of experience in transportation planning across the public and private sectors and four counties.

Under his leadership, the RTA has become an innovative force in regional mobility, advancing services such as the Detroit to Ann Arbor Express (D2A2), Detroit to Airport Express (DAX) and MyRide2, while assuming ownership of Detroit's QLINE streetcar by strengthening connectivity and expanding transportation throughout Southeast Michigan.



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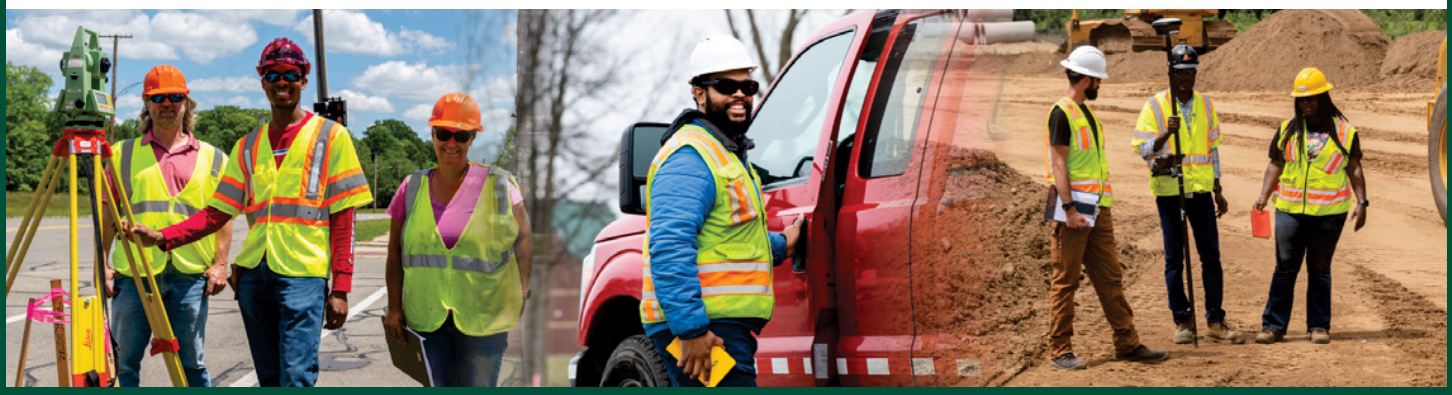


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rta
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The RTA leads communities and transit providers on the mission of enhancing life across this region, **bringing the people of Southeast Michigan closer together.**

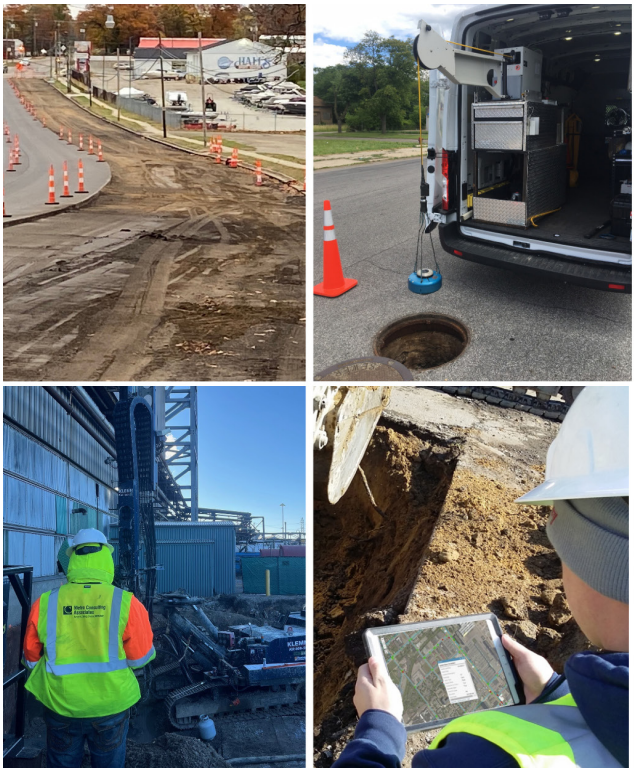






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We value our partnership with COMTO and their commitment to connecting industry with community. We believe in and support infrastructure that connects and creates social value for neighboring communities to ensure equity and shared economic benefit for all. Through our expertise, we deliver transformational projects that solve our clients' most complex problems and enhance the social well-being and economic resilience of our communities.

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Special Thanks to the Committee, Members, and all of our Volunteers who made this event possible!



Beverly Watts

COMTO Michigan
President

BME Consulting LLC



Olukayode (Kay) Adefeso

COMTO Michigan
Vice President

Wayne County Airport Authority
(WCAA)



Joshua Salazar, P.E.

COMTO Michigan
Treasurer

HDR



Kesha McKinney

COMTO Michigan Secretary

Suburban Mobility Authority
for Regional Transportation
(SMART)

COMTO Chapter Board

Jason Lukasik, WSP
Corri Wofford, Regional Transit Authority (RTA)
Bernard Parker III, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART)
Dee Parker, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Bryant Moorman, Ajax Paving

2026 Transportation Braintrust Breakfast Committee

Beverly Watts, COMTO Michigan
Kesha McKinney, SMART
Ericka Alexander, DPM
Joshua Salazar, HDR
Khalil Davis, WSP
Cathy Nedd, NeddSites
Natiera Farrington, Somat Engineering

COMTO Chapter Committees

Communications Committee Co-Chairs:
Ericka Alexander, DTC and **English Reed-Jones**, WSP

Historically Underutilized Businesses Chairperson:
Terrence Hicks, Metro Strategies

Scholarship Committee Co-chairs:
Dee Parker, MDOT and **Joshua Salazar,** HDR

Golf Chairperson:
Jason Lukasik, WSP

Legislative Committee Chairperson:
Bernard Parker III, SMART

Membership Chairperson:
Oluwaseun Adegbaju, P.E., City of Detroit

Youth Outreach Chairperson:
Kimberly Webb, HNTB

Transportation Braintrust Breakfast Chairperson:
Beverly Watts, BME

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ABOUT COMTO

Founded in 1971, the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) was created to provide a forum for minority professionals in the transportation industry. Our mission is to ensure opportunities and maximum participation in the industry for minority individuals, businesses and communities of color, through advocacy, training, and professional development.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to ensure opportunities and maximize participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses, and communities of color, through advocacy, information sharing, training, education, and professional development in the State of Michigan.

OUR VISION

COMTO Michigan will serve as an advocate for an effective and efficient multi-modal transportation network for all in Michigan.

THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

COMTO Michigan strives to enhance the quality of life for our members and local communities by providing:

A network of transportation business opportunities

Strong national and local political advocacy

Access to career enhancmeent opportunities

Training and educational programs that qualify for continuing education units

(CEUS, PDHS, ETC.) and industry certifications
Mentoring from executive level transportation officials

Scholarship opportunities for high school, college, and graduate students interested in transportation careers.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

COMTO Michigan membership includes individuals; groups; transportation agencies; private-sector corporations including transportation consultants and construction and construction contractors; non-profit organizations; disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) and small businesses.

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Plese contact the COMTO Michigan membership committee chair,
or visit www.comtonational.org and click on “Membership”


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