



For Immediate Release

Aug. 22, 2019

Michigan Flyer Launches Brighton Service, Adds More Runs in East Lansing & Ann Arbor

In partnership with Livingston County, Michigan Flyer—a division of Indian Trails, Inc.—plans to extend its deluxe airport shuttle service to Brighton on October 1, offering frequent daily motorcoach runs to and from Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW).

The proposed new Michigan Flyer stop will be located at the Meijer store at 8650 W. Grand River Ave., just off highway I-96 near U.S. 23. Michigan Flyer will pick up and drop off passengers at the [south side of the Meijer parking lot, near Cross St.](#) When its motorcoaches arrive at DTW, passengers will be picked up and dropped off at the doors of the McNamara Terminal or at the North Terminal's Ground Transportation Center, depending on the airline they use.

"The new airport service was identified as the highest priority in Livingston County's recently completed [Transit Master Plan](#)," said Greg Kellogg, director of the Livingston Essential Transportation Service (LETS). "Our goal is to offer citizens more transportation options."

The Livingston County Board of Commissioners approved the award of a three-year airport service contract to Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer on August 12, along with an option to renew for two more years.

"We're very grateful to Livingston County and LETS for entrusting us with the job of bringing inter-city bus service back to the area after an absence of decades," said President Chad Cushman of Indian Trails. "Similar to the innovative public-private partnership through which we've operated the [AirRide](#) service for the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority since 2012, this will give residents a convenient, comfortable, and affordable option for getting to and from the Detroit airport."

"We owe [Meijer](#) a big thank-you, too, for stepping up to provide the community with a great test location for Michigan Flyer, including space for our passengers who want to leave their cars in low-cost, long-term parking while flying to destinations outside of Michigan," said Cushman. "We expect that our passengers will consider it a real plus to be able to shop at Meijer before or after their trips, since the store is open 24/7 for 364 days a year."

Plans are in the works for the bus company to establish a small ticket office/passenger waiting area in a temporary building at the Meijer site.

Funding for the new Brighton-DTW service is expected to come from passenger fares, a large investment by Indian Trails in operations and equipment, and Michigan's Local Bus Operating Assistance Program, whose grants are administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The adult fare to ride Michigan Flyer between Brighton and DTW will be \$22 one way or \$40 roundtrip. Per-person fares are even lower for couples or family members traveling together. Tickets are now available for advance purchase online at www.MichiganFlyer.com.

More East Lansing and Ann Arbor Service

Along with the launch of Brighton service on October 1, Michigan Flyer will add more daily roundtrips between the East Lansing Marriott and Detroit Metro Airport, as well as between Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center and DTW.

As a result, passengers will enjoy more frequent service to and from the airport, starting earlier in the morning and ending later at night than now. Michigan Flyer's schedules are designed to maximize connections with departing and arriving flights at DTW.

Its new Monday-Friday weekday schedule starting Oct. 1, 2019 offers 14 daily roundtrips each from East Lansing, Brighton, and Ann Arbor. Its weekend schedules for Saturday and Sunday include 12-14 roundtrips, depending on location. [View the new schedules online here.](#)

Another advantage is that the new schedules will make it possible for more people to commute between the cities served by Michigan Flyer. Similar to how its current daily runs enable 30,000 people a year to commute between East Lansing and Ann Arbor, the new schedule will connect both East Lansing and Ann Arbor with Brighton.

Monday through Friday, for example, commuters will have the choice of 11 daily roundtrips between East Lansing and Brighton, eight between East Lansing and Ann Arbor, and six between Ann Arbor and Brighton.

This service may be especially useful to the 7,300 Livingston County residents who commute to Ann Arbor each month, mostly to visit or work at the University of Michigan Hospital. From Michigan Flyer's stop at Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center, for instance, it's about a 17-minute ride to the hospital on the [AAATA's bus #23](#).

The standard fares for travel between Brighton and either East Lansing or Ann Arbor will be \$15 one way or \$30 roundtrip. It's worth noting that Michigan Flyer offers discounts for commuters who make multiple roundtrips each week. Tickets are now available for advance purchase online at www.MichiganFlyer.com.

About Michigan Flyer's Motorcoaches

Michigan Flyer's full-size coaches are all newer model Prevost H3-45s that can each carry up to 56 passengers (who help ease traffic congestion by leaving their personal cars at home). The deluxe buses exceed EPA standards with engine technology that reduces exhaust pollutants to near zero while achieving 240 passenger miles per gallon.

The coaches have comfort features similar to a commercial airline's business class—reclining seats with ample leg room, headrests and footrests, individual overhead climate controls and reading lamps, outlets for charging mobile devices, free WiFi internet access, an on-board lavatory, overhead storage racks, and ample storage for luggage below deck.

Safety features include antilock brakes, automatic traction control to aid drivers and protect passengers in poor weather conditions, GPS tracking, three-point seatbelts for each passenger, an engine fire-

suppression system, and a front-kneeling suspension that lowers the coach to help passengers get on or off.

#####

Michigan Flyer, LLC—a division of Indian Trails—offers frequent, daily motorcoach connections between East Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metro Airport. Since its launch in 2006, Michigan Flyer has carried more than 2 million passengers and achieved an extraordinary 98 percent rate of on-time arrivals and departures. On the web at www.MichiganFlyer.com.

Indian Trails, Inc.—which has served as Michigan’s premier, family-owned, inter-city motorcoach carrier for 109 years, and is based in Owosso, Mich.—operates one of the largest and newest fleets of deluxe motorcoaches in Michigan. In addition to its daily scheduled routes throughout Michigan and into Chicago, Duluth and Milwaukee, its services include charters, tours, shuttles, casino runs, and airport transfers. On the web at www.IndianTrails.com.

#####

News media contacts:
Mark Holoweiko or Anne Harcus
Stony Point Communications
517-339-0123