



MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION  
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,  
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



# e-news

JANUARY 2024



## Michigan Flyer to Operate Detroit-DTW Express Bus Service

The [Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan](#) (RTA)—in partnership with Michigan Flyer and its parent company, [Indian Trails, Inc.](#)—is launching an express bus pilot program to connect Downtown Detroit with Detroit Metro Airport (DTW).

The new express bus service will operate up to 16 roundtrips each day between approximately 3:30 a.m.

and 11 p.m.—mostly traveling on I-94—starting as early as the end of March. A one-way trip is expected to take about 30 minutes, and cost up to \$15 per passenger, though discounts will be available.

The pick-up and drop-off location in downtown Detroit could be near Washington Boulevard and State Street, or at Park Avenue and Bagley Street, next to Grand Circus Park.

At the airport, the new express buses will serve both the McNamara and Evans Terminals. Among other benefits, this will enable Michigan Flyer passengers from the East Lansing, Brighton, and Ann Arbor areas to easily connect with downtown Detroit from the airport.

“We are excited about the proposed Detroit to Airport Express Service pilot and the benefits it will provide our community,” said Ben Stupka, executive director of the RTA. “This service will give tourists, visitors and people working at DTW an additional transit option to choose from when traveling between the airport and downtown Detroit.”

Chad Cushman, president of Indian Trails, said, “We’re also excited to once again partner with the RTA on a new airport service between Detroit and DTW. Riders can expect the same high quality of service we’ve been providing to date with the D2A2 and Michigan Flyer-AirRide services.”

D2A2 is an express bus service connecting downtown Detroit and downtown Ann Arbor. Michigan Flyer-AirRide (as most E-News readers know) makes frequent daily roundtrips between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and DTW.

The RTA secured a \$2.5 million federal grant to fund at least one year of the new service, which will operate as a pilot project to help determine demand and possible future expansion. The funding comes from the Federal Highway Administration’s Carbon Reduction Program, administered by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and distributed through the Federal Transit Administration.



## Meet Keith Cork, Michigan Flyer’s New General Manager

There’s a fresh face among our Michigan Flyer staff. Keith “Casey” Cork started his new position this week as our general manager. He joins the Flyer team that includes Vice President Ody Norkin, office manager Diane Moore, and Rachel Norkin.

A native of Sault Ste Marie, Mich., Casey served for 20 years as both an Indian Trails and Greyhound Bus ticket agent in the mid-Michigan market. Indian Trails is the parent company of Michigan Flyer.

“Casey brings decades of intercity bus experience to the Flyer,” says Indian Trails President Chad Cushman. “That, combined with his expertise in new forms of technology, will bring a valuable perspective to our ever-growing Michigan Flyer business.”

Before starting in the transportation business in 2003, Casey had been contemplating switching colleges from Lake Superior State University to Michigan State University, with potential majors ranging from engineering to business. Then his life took a detour.

“I started a job as a ticket agent working with Indian Trails and Greyhound and just kept the ball rolling,” he says, adding that he worked in a ticketing call center for Flint, Pontiac, and Detroit.

### Customer Service—Just the Ticket

Casey says he’s excited to be part of the company’s commitment to providing great customer service: “I knew nothing about intercity transportation when I started. I found I love the customer service aspect and dealing with multiple ethnicities and people from around the globe.”

When Casey, who lives in Grand Ledge, Mich., started ticketing directly for Indian Trails in 2015, he was impressed with both the company’s history (founded in 1910) and its reputation for quality in management, staff, and services.

And that includes the Michigan Flyer, launched in 2006. “The Flyer is a high-quality service that filled a great need in this area. People depend on it and that includes me, my family, and friends. There’s also a wonderful staff here.”

## His Role at the Flyer

As general manager, Casey's duties include administration, ticket sales, customer service, and pitching in to ensure everything stays on schedule. "The Flyer has an on-time accuracy of about 98 percent and I think nearly anyone who experiences the safety, comfort and cost-effectiveness of the Flyer for the first time is ready to ride with us again."

Casey, who uses the Flyer to head to Detroit Metro and to his favorite vacation spots south of the border, says his top goal is to "make sure our customers get to where they're going on time and with a smile on their face. I want to continue the legacy that's long been established here. If we find new and innovative ways to improve on that, then we can make it even better."



## Travel Alerts

### ✍️ **Reminder: We Now Have New Office Hours**

The Michigan Flyer office at the East Lansing Marriott is now staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays, there is no in-person service at the office. Still, not to worry.

Passengers can buy tickets 24/7 through our website at [www.MichiganFlyer.com](http://www.MichiganFlyer.com). And while tickets are non-refundable once purchased, two changes per

reservation are allowed before a scheduled departure. [You can easily change reservations online here.](#)

### ✍️ **Reminder #2: No More Discount Parking in Ann Arbor**

If you're a Michigan Flyer-AirRide passenger who liked parking a car in the structure at the corner of 4th Ave. and William St. downtown, then you should know that the discount parking rate of **\$2 per day** has been discontinued. While you can still park there, the rate is **\$1.20 per hour** Monday through Saturday. The [Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority](#) (DDA), which manages the structure for the city, no longer offers discount parking rates for our passengers. If you have questions or comments about this change, you may contact the DDA by phone at (734) 994-6697 or email at [dda@a2dda.org](mailto:dda@a2dda.org).

PLEASE NOTE: Michigan Flyer's Lansing-area passengers still enjoy discounted, covered parking at the rate of \$2.50 a day on the fourth floor of the ramp across from the East Lansing Marriott—perfect for avoiding winter weather while getting to or from your bus.

### ✍️ **Our "Hytech" Door-to-Door Service Ends on Feb. 9**

Up until Feb. 9, Michigan Flyer passengers can still reserve a Hytech-branded minivan to connect with their bus at the East Lansing Marriott, right from—or to—the door of their home, workplace, or another location in the Hytech service area. After that, the Hytech pilot project will be temporarily suspended until or unless future funding can be obtained.

### ✍️ **Plan Ahead for Flight Delays and Cancellations**

Winter storms, Arctic cold, and the [grounding of Boeing 737 Max 9](#) airplanes have together led to the ongoing disruption of thousands of flights nationwide—including hundreds at DTW. To minimize the chances of a flight delay or cancellation spoiling your travel plans, consider booking an earlier departure than usual, as well as taking an earlier Michigan Flyer motorcoach to or from the airport. Also, remember that you can [change your Flyer reservations online](#).

### ✍️ **Book NOW for Travel in Late February & Early March!**

If you're planning a spring break trip, please remember that it's a peak demand period for Michigan Flyer

because students at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan are traveling, too. Spring break for both MSU and U-M students runs from Feb. 26 to March 1 this year. So, we're expecting sold-out buses between Feb. 22 and March 4. To guarantee that we have a seat for you, make reservations without delay at [MichiganFlyer.com](http://MichiganFlyer.com).

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Ody and friends with portable x-ray machine

## More on Ody's Mission to Ease Pain in Ukraine

Michigan Flyer VP Ody Norkin is heading back to Eastern Europe this month to continue his humanitarian mission. This time around, he'll be going to Bucharest to await what he calls "our most significant contribution to Ukraine to date," a digital X-ray machine from Block Imaging Company of Holt, Mich., at Bucharest air cargo. "Though this involves a significant logistical challenge," he says, "this X-ray unit will be a game changer for the hospital in Dnipro, Ukraine."

When Russia began its brutal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Ody was appalled, as you may recall from prior reports in our E-News for [May](#), [June](#) and [December](#) 2022. In fact, he took it personally because his paternal grandparents had been murdered in the Odesa (Ukraine) Massacre of 1941. Now, millions of innocent civilians were again being devastated by bombs and bullets.

Through the Jewish Federation of Greater Lansing, Ody learned that Ukrainians desperately needed ambulances to transport elderly and infirm refugees out of harm's way. So, in March 2022, he made it his personal mission to buy, refurbish, and deliver an ambulance to Odessa with his own funds. But folks in his community had bigger ideas. As word of his humanitarian mission spread, hundreds of people, businesses, health systems and other nonprofit organizations—locally, as well as overseas—began contributing. The 15 Rotary Clubs of Michigan's District 6360 stepped up big time, as did Rotary Clubs in Suceava, Romania, and Dnipro, Ukraine.

As a result, four trauma-ready ambulances have been delivered directly to war-torn Ukraine, along with a transit van and whole shipping container loaded with medical supplies. "These contributions are intended to help people of any faith or no faith at all," he adds. "They are there to help our fellow human beings." Amid the massive, ongoing humanitarian crisis, even small donations can make a world of difference. If you'd like to pitch in, you can do so here: <https://bit.ly/3YzIPsQ> or here: <https://bit.ly/4b2fEDB>.

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## Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

### East Lansing

#### [Funny Girl](#)

Welcome to Musical Comedy Heaven! Featuring one of the greatest musical scores of all time, including "Don't Rain On My Parade," "I'm the Greatest Star," and "People," this love letter to the theatre is the story of the indomitable Fanny Brice, a girl from the Lower East Side who dreamed of a life on the stage. Everyone told her she'd never be a star, but then something funny happened—she became one of the most beloved Broadway performers in history. Catch one of eight performances Feb. 6-11, times vary, at the Wharton Center for





Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. [Tickets \\$39-\\$120 plus fee.](#)



### [Mid-Michigan Women's Expo](#)

Explore a variety of main stage presentations, exhibits, and activities during this entertainment, education and shopping event for women and their families. Includes fashion boutiques, hair styling, vacation and travel, jewelry and accessories, food sampling, spa services, health and wellness, home décor, skincare and cosmetics, weight loss, cookware, finance, door prizes and more. It's all at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave. in downtown Lansing from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday Feb. 9 and 10, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11. [Tickets: \\$12 per adult, \\$6 per child, online or at the door; age two and under free.](#)

NOTE: A Capital Area Transportation Authority bus can get you from our location at the East Lansing Marriott to the Women's Expo in about 30 minutes for \$1.25. Find [CATA's Trip Planner here](#). Folks from the Brighton and Ann Arbor areas who are going to the Women's Expo should know that our last eastbound run of the day leaves East Lansing at 5:30 p.m.

Check out more local coming events with the Choose Lansing™ events calendar: <http://www.lansing.org/events>.



### **Ann Arbor**

#### [Ann Arbor Restaurant Week 2024](#)

This annual celebration of local food features fine dining lunch and dinner course menus, family meals to go, virtual demonstrations, and chef highlights. There will be many vegan and vegetarian options available. Dine in or order takeout from award-winning Ann Arbor restaurants. Jan. 21-26 is your opportunity to try as many [great Ann Arbor restaurants](#) as your schedule allows for low fixed prices, and with many restaurants

offering 2-for-1 deals. Simply make reservations at the restaurant of your choice, and enjoy!



#### [47th Ann Arbor Folk Festival](#)

This Folk Fest is the largest annual fundraising effort for The Ark, Ann Arbor's non-profit home for folk, roots, and acoustic music. With a blend of renowned and up-and-coming performers on both nights—and actor Jeff Daniels as master of ceremonies—the program at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26, features Old Crow Medicine Show, Devon Gilfillian, Bailen, Darren Kiely, and Sons of Mystro. At 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, performers will include Emmylou Harris, Michigan Rattlers, Steve Poltz, Lizzie No, and The Sea The Sea. It's happening

at U-M Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann

Arbor. [Tickets \\$47.50-\\$250 plus fee.](#)

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: <https://www.annarbor.org/events/>.

## Brighton

Like other communities in Livingston County, Brighton offers a multitude of events to delight visitors of all ages. Explore them with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar: <https://visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/>.



## Detroit

### WICKED the Musical

WICKED, the Broadway sensation, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz from a different angle. Long before Dorothy arrives, a young woman there is born with emerald-green skin. She's smart, fiery, misunderstood, and has an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikely of friendships ... until the world decides to call one "good" and the other "wicked."

From the first electrifying note to the final breathtaking moment, the wildly inventive story of the Witches of Oz transfixes audiences in what USA Today calls "a complete triumph! An original musical that will make you laugh, cry, and think." Catch one of 32 performances between Wednesday, Jan. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. [Tickets \\$129-\\$349, plus fee.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: The D2A2 Express Bus from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area residents to and from this event. The Opera House is within a five-minute walk of D2A2's stop in Detroit (at 1508 Park Ave. in Grand Circus Park).



### Disney On Ice - Magic In The Stars

This all-new production brings the brightest Disney stars to life through cutting-edge figure skating, high-flying acrobatics, unexpected stunts, innovative lighting, thrilling special effects, eye-catching costumes, and stunning set designs. Magic In The Stars includes Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, Donald, Daisy, Jiminy Cricket, Tiana from The Princess and the Frog, Aladdin, Cinderella, Snow White, Belle, Rapunzel and more. Catch these timeless favorites at one of nine performances between Thursday, Feb. 15, and Sunday,

Feb. 18, at Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [Tickets \\$20-\\$120+.](#)

NOTE: [The D2A2 Express Bus](#) from Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center (BTC) to Detroit's Grand Circus Park can get Ann Arbor-area riders to and from these events. Little Caesars Arena is about a half-mile walk from D2A2's stop at 1508 Park Ave., Detroit.

To learn more about what's happening in Detroit, check out the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: <https://visitdetroit.com/events/>.



## Airfares for Spring Escapes to Warm Places

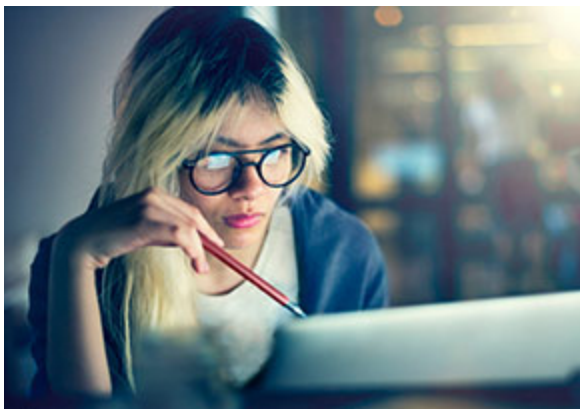
Ready for a change of scenery after the latest blizzard and Arctic freeze? We went scouting for nonstop roundtrips to warmer places using [Skyscanner.com](https://www.skyscanner.com) and spot-checked airfares originating at DTW for the sample dates of Saturday, Feb. 24, to Sunday, March 3. Among the search criteria we used: Flights had to be direct to the destination both ways, and the return flight had to arrive at DTW in time for you to catch our last run at 9:45 or 10 p.m. to Ann Arbor, Brighton and East

Lansing.

You can easily find lower prices—and a greater selection of destinations—if you're willing to change planes on your outbound or inbound trip or both. Ditto if you're flexible about the dates of travel. Note that these economy roundtrip fares include taxes but not necessarily baggage or other "extras":

Atlanta, GA (ATL) Spirit **\$74**  
Orlando, FL (MCO) Spirit **\$79**  
Dallas, TX (DFW) Spirit **\$107**  
Tampa, FL (TPA) Spirit **\$141**  
Houston, TX (IAH) Spirit **\$142**  
Miami, FL (MIA) Spirit **\$158**  
Fort Myers, FL (RSW) Spirit **\$180**  
Los Angeles, CA (LAX) Spirit **\$194**  
Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL) Spirit **\$211**  
Las Vegas, NV (LAS) Delta **\$217**  
Phoenix, AZ (PHX) Delta **\$237**  
Charlotte, NC (CLT) American **\$267**  
Austin, TX (AUS) Delta **\$297**

Seattle, WA (SEA) Alaska **\$330**  
San Antonio, TX (SAT) Delta **\$377**  
Cancun, MX (CUN) Frontier **\$410**  
San Francisco, CA (SFO) Delta **\$547**  
San Diego, CA (SAN) Delta **\$567**  
Myrtle Beach, NC (MYR) Delta **\$577**  
West Palm Beach, FL (PBI) Delta **\$637**  
Frankfurt, DE (FRA) Lufthansa **\$788**  
Paris, FR (CDG) Delta **\$848**  
Amsterdam, NL (AMS) Delta **\$854**  
San Juan, PR (SJU) Delta **\$1,028**  
London, GB (LHR) Delta/Virgin Atlantic **\$1,306**  
Honolulu, HI (HNL) Delta **\$1,466**



## Tips for Smarter Travel

- ✍ [Easily Change Your Own MI Flyer Reservations at this Link](#)
- ✍ [Where's Your Bus? Find Out with Our Real-Time Tracker](#)
- ✍ [Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)

## Professional Drivers Wanted

Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is accepting applications for full-time motorcoach drivers. These positions pay a **starting** hourly rate of \$22.28, provide a 6-week PAID training





program leading to a Commercial Driver's License, and operate Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches. Full-time drivers also receive:

- ✓ Two weeks of paid time off in the first year
- ✓ Medical, dental, vision and life insurance
- ✓ 401(k) retirement program with employer match
- ✓ Annual safety bonus

Also important, Indian Trails truly appreciates the hard work of its staff members—it's a 114-year-old, family-run company with old-fashioned values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence.

If you're a safe driver, we encourage you to apply, even with no commercial driving experience. It takes a

special person to become a professional bus driver. To us and to our passengers, they're truly heroes of the road. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

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### Please, Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Kindly take a moment to help others understand how our service might improve their travels. Simply visit one of the websites below to write a brief review about your experience with Michigan Flyer. Thank you!

facebook



tripadvisor®



### Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents Day!

Roses are red, violets are blue, for great airport connections, we're here just for you! Happy Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, from all of us at Michigan Flyer! We love serving you all year long. Wishing you and your sweeties all the best and safe travels always!

Presidents Day falls on the third Monday of each February, and that's the 19th in 2024. This federal holiday not only honors George Washington (the first president of the United States, born February 22) and

Abraham Lincoln (the 16th president, born February 12), but all the presidents who have served our nation. Hail to the chiefs!



Why Drive?

Booking is easy, [click here](#) to view schedules on



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