



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



e-news

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Returning Soon: The Detroit-to-Ann Arbor Express

After a long pandemic pause, daily commuter express bus service is about to resume between Detroit and Ann Arbor.

Known as "D2A2," the service was created by the [Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan](#) in partnership with the [Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority](#) and is operated by Michigan Flyer.

On weekdays, it offers 16 roundtrips between Detroit's Grand Circus Park and Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center, plus four roundtrips on weekends. [See the schedule here](#).

The base one-way fare is only \$8, or \$6 if purchased in advance online. Seniors and people with disabilities pay just \$4 each way, and commuters \$5 each when they buy a book of 10 tickets for \$50.

Online reservations to ride D2A2 will open September 28. Then, on October 18, the daily nonstop trips between Detroit and Ann Arbor begin again. [Visit the D2A2 website](#) for more information, and see the [news release here](#).



On the Way: New Door-to-Door Service by Michigan Flyer

Throughout Michigan Flyer's nearly 15-year history, most people have had just two ways to get to our buses in East Lansing and Ann Arbor: Bum a ride from a family member or friend, or drive their own car and park at a discount nearby. Now, we're working to make it easier for everyone to connect with us.

Later this year, Michigan Flyer will use innovative technology in a pilot project to coordinate multiple

transportation systems and seamlessly carry passengers from their homes or offices to various personal destinations across metropolitan regions.

Our pilot project is made possible by a \$65,000 grant from the Michigan Mobility Funding Platform, as [announced by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer](#) on September 15.

The biggest barrier to providing door-to-door service for individual passengers has been that each transportation company uses a separate, stand-alone reservation system. So, Michigan Flyer—along with parent company Indian Trails, Inc., and technology partners VIA RIDE and Turnit Reservations—is developing an API (application programming interface) that enables the reservation systems of different transportation providers to exchange data and coordinate with one another.



As a result, passengers will be able to reserve and pay for end-to-end trips using multiple carriers on a single e-ticket (for example, local transit bus, paratransit shuttle, ride-share service, and inter-city bus.)

Phase I of our project will focus on providing cross-regional connections for people in the Greater Lansing and Ann Arbor metropolitan areas. In particular, it aims to help seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities to access jobs and critical services that may be hard to reach due to gaps between transportation services.

The Michigan Mobility Funding Platform was created by the [Office of Future Mobility and Electrification](#), Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Michigan Department of Transportation to provide

grants to mobility and electrification companies looking to deploy technology solutions in Michigan.

"Michigan Flyer is uniquely positioned to lead the development of an integrated, multi-modal system that finally goes the full distance for passengers," says Chad Cushman, president of Indian Trails. "It has longstanding public-private partnerships with the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority and Livingston Essential Transportation Services to operate daily service between their regions and Detroit Metro Airport. Since 2016 it has been testing multi-provider arrangements through which door-to-door transport services can be offered. And it has the support of folks representing several organizations of people with disabilities, including veterans, who will serve as a user testing group for the integrated system."

"Indian Trails brings 111 years of transportation coordinating experience to the project," Cushman adds. "We operate daily scheduled bus routes throughout Michigan and into Duluth and Milwaukee. These are

coordinated with the Greyhound and Amtrak national networks. Plus, we have agreements with more than 40 regional bus companies nationwide. All of which makes it possible for our passengers to travel throughout North America by motorcoach and rail.”



Mary Harding

Announcing “Great Connections” Contest Winner #2!

More than 200 passengers entered our “Great Connections” essay contest in early 2020, submitting 250 short stories explaining how Michigan Flyer helped to connect them with a special person, place, or adventure. We announced the first of five runner-up award winners [last month](#). Over the next few issues of the E-News, we’ll share the other winning entries with you, saving our top award winner for last.

This time, we spotlight Mary Harding of Lansing, Mich., whose story focuses on how we helped her disabled husband reconnect with his mother, whom he had not seen in many years. While Mary is a frequent flyer

herself—who’s been to all 50 states, throughout Europe, and most recently to Greece and Israel—her husband, Paul, hadn’t traveled much, and never by himself. Moreover, the idea of venturing out had become more daunting for him after a stroke that limited his mobility.

So it was a relief for Mary when she contacted us to see what arrangements could be made to meet Paul’s special needs on a trip from Michigan to Texas. “He was thrilled afterward that it all went so smoothly,” she says.

Mary shared part of her \$100 gift card with her family, and used the rest to buy a new inner tube for her bike. Here’s her story:

Helping a Man with Disabilities to Visit His Mom

By Mary Harding

“My husband is disabled and needs 24/7 attention. I work part-time from home, as he is not supposed to be left alone for extended periods of time. I arranged a trip for him to visit his mother in Texas whom he had not seen in 10 years, but talked to frequently on the phone. The trip was planned on a busy work week with Michigan Flyer being the transportation to Detroit Metro. My husband was a nervous wreck leading up to his trip. Later I found out it was because he had never flown by himself.

“Michigan Flyer got him in contact with the Prospect Airport Services at Detroit Metro. The Prospect service is a free service to disabled individuals that meets them with a wheelchair, helps check the individual’s luggage, takes them through TSA Security check to their boarding gate and on the plane! They contacted the Dallas Airport, and their service met him when the plane landed, took him to claim his luggage and made sure he was picked up.

“My husband really enjoyed the time with his mother. I asked him how things went at the airports. He said, ‘It was great. I did not have to think about anything.’ He is looking forward to going back to Texas to visit his mom

in the next few months. Thank you Michigan Flyer for making me aware of Prospect Services and connecting my husband with them. I will gladly leave the Detroit Metro driving to you!"



Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!

East Lansing

Drawing Marathon

All skill levels and ages are welcome at this drawing extravaganza sponsored by the Michigan State University's Broad Museum, MSU's Department of Art, Art History, and Design, and the City of East Lansing. It includes drawing stations, guided and collaborative drawing, costumed models, and live, performance-inspired drawing prompts. The marathon will be held

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on September 30 at MSU's Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Dr., East Lansing. While the admission is free, [registration is required](#). Note that you can also tour the museum's galleries free of charge during the event.

NOTE: Out-of-town passengers should know that MSU's Broad Museum is about 0.3 miles (or an easy 7-minute walk for most folks) from our location at the East Lansing Marriott.



[Nitro Circus - You Got This Tour](#)

This adrenaline-charged spectacle happens on Friday, October 1, at Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., downtown Lansing. It features world-class athletes, including several medalists in FMX and BMX (freestyle and bicycle motocross), skate, scooter, and more. Prepare to be amazed as they attempt record-breaking feats and spectacular stunts in an action-packed show for fans of all ages. Includes the Giganta ramp that launches riders five stories high while the FMX riders fly 75 feet from take-off to landing. [Tickets \\$29-\\$84](#). VIP

doors open at 4:30 p.m. General doors open at 6 p.m. Showtime is at 7 p.m.

NOTE: Michigan Flyer passengers from Ann Arbor or Brighton can get to Jackson Field for \$1.25 on the CATA #1 Bus (Downtown Lansing-Meridian Mall), which stops near the corner of Grand River Ave. and M.A.C., about two blocks from our location at the East Lansing Marriott.

The mid-Michigan region offers a multitude of events to delight residents and visitors of all ages. Explore the possibilities with the calendars of coming events for [Greater Lansing](#), [Ann Arbor](#), and [Brighton](#).

Travel Alerts

Find Out Your Risk of Flying to Another Country

If you're thinking about international travel, you should know that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers valuable, country-by-country advice on the types of precautions you should consider. See the CDC's COVID-19 Travel Recommendations here: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/noticescovid19>. Note



that specific advice is offered for both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers. In addition, the CDC offers important [advice for domestic air travelers](#), too.



Blake Transit Center Bypassed on U-M Football Saturdays

On each Saturday when the Wolverines football team plays at home at the Big House, several of our scheduled runs will NOT stop at the Blake Transit Center in downtown Ann Arbor. This will affect some runs before, during, and after the following U-M home games:

- Sept. 25: Rutgers, 3:30 p.m. (homecoming)
- Oct. 23: Northwestern, TBA
- Nov. 6: Indiana, TBA
- Nov. 27: Ohio State, noon

Please note that some Michigan Flyer-AirRide runs will continue to stop at the BTC on these days. It's easy to find out which ones. Just use the "Book a Trip" feature on our website.



Drivers Wanted—and at Higher Pay Rates

Interested in a career as a motorcoach driver? If so, you should know that Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is hiring. And it's now paying higher hourly rates on top of a \$3,000 sign-on bonus.

Specifically, Indian Trails is paying a starting hourly rate of \$20.40 an hour, as well as \$18 an hour during the driver training period! So, you can earn a living while training for the job, plus get free expert help in obtaining a Commercial Driver's License.

Drivers are responsible for ensuring that passengers experience top-notch customer service while getting to their destinations safely and on time. In return for this important work, Indian Trails—a 111-year-old, family-owned company based in Owosso, Mich.—prides itself on providing an employee-friendly atmosphere along with a host of benefits, such as:

- ✍ Two weeks of paid time off during the first year
- ✍ Medical, dental, vision and life insurance
- ✍ 401(k) retirement program with employer match
- ✍ Annual safety bonus
- ✍ Paid hotel and meal allowances on multi-day trips
- ✍ Michigan's newest and largest fleet of motorcoaches

We encourage anyone, including those with no commercial driving experience, to apply. Also, as a Certified Veteran-Friendly Employer, we welcome all veterans. [Click here](#) to find out more.



Catch a Bus to ArtPrize® in Grand Rapids

Indian Trails makes it easy to plan an “art immersion weekend” at [ArtPrize®](#), which takes place between Sept. 16 and Oct. 3 this year. Back after being COVID-cancelled in 2020, it’s a fabulous international art competition featuring about 900 of works of art at venues throughout downtown Grand Rapids—museums, bars, parks, restaurants, theaters, hotels, bridges, storefronts, office spaces and more.

Artists from across the U.S. and around the globe are showing their work and competing for more than \$450,000 in prizes—and the event is totally free to the public!

Getting there in style: With Indian Trails’ daily, scheduled routes, it’s a relaxing, affordable motorcoach ride from towns all across Michigan. For instance, for just \$28 roundtrip, you could leave from East Lansing at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 1, arriving in Grand Rapids at 3:05 p.m. After several hours of art exploration that afternoon and the next morning, you could then catch a return coach on Saturday at 3:05 p.m., arriving back in East Lansing at 4:45 p.m. [Check Indian Trails ticket prices and schedules here.](#)

ArtPrize can help you [plan your visit](#) in great detail, including transportation around town. Also, [Experience Grand Rapids](#) can assist in finding just the right overnight accommodations.



Tips for Smarter Travel

- ✍ [Know How to Find us at DTW's McNamara Terminal.](#)
- ✍ [Download Our Free Smartphone App to Track Your Bus in Real Time.](#)
- ✍ [Change Your Own Reservations Online.](#)

Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Please use the review sites below to let others know about your Michigan Flyer-AirRide experience and help

them to understand how our service might improve their travels.



Happy Autumn!

Astronomically speaking, today—Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021—is the autumnal equinox or first day of fall in Earth's Northern Hemisphere (North America, Europe, most of Asia, northern Africa). After this, the Sun begins to rise later and set sooner. Summer is gone and winter is slowly but surely coming on, though it won't arrive until the Winter Solstice on December 21.

Why Drive?

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



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