Southeast Michigan Commuter Rail Service

MiTrain will serve the Ann Arbor to Detroit and Howell to Ann Arbor corridors.
Why Howell to Ann Arbor?

The 26-mile route between Ann Arbor and Howell will connect the largest concentration of employment in Washtenaw County (including U of M, U of M hospital and downtown Ann Arbor) to the residential and commercial areas to the north. Nearly 12,000 people daily drive from Livingston County into Washtenaw County. If you ever drive U.S. 23 in rush hour, you know it is frequently congested, and yet there is really no alternative way to get to Ann Arbor. Not only do the riders enjoy a premium service, but all other travelers benefit by fewer cars on the road and less downtown land consumed by parking.

Visit http://www.theride.org/wally.asp

Why Ann Arbor to Detroit?

This 38-mile route traverses Wayne and Washtenaw Counties and 14 communities with stops in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Dearborn, and Detroit. It will serve Michigan’s largest metropolitan area and city (Detroit), one of the nation’s largest tourist attractions (The Henry Ford), two of Michigan’s largest employers (Ford Motor Company, General Motors headquarters), some of Michigan’s largest universities (U of M, Eastern Michigan, U of M Dearborn, and Wayne State), three of Michigan’s largest medical centers (U of M Hospital, Detroit’s Henry Ford Hospital, and Detroit Medical Center), and one of the busiest airports in the world.

In addition, think of all the other things along this route – restaurants, cultural institutions, sports venues, and special events. This service is perfect for your daily commute, family fun outings to events around town, trips to the airport, and many other travel needs.

Visit http://www.semcog.org/AADD.aspx
Key features of the cars:

- The cab cars and coaches are bi-level gallery cars formerly used in Chicago and built by Budd Company in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s.
- Cab cars have controls so the engineer can run the train from either end of the train.
- The 23 cars (6 cabs and 17 coaches) were refurbished by the Great Lakes Central Railroad (GLC).
- The seats were designed for these cars and manufactured by American Seating Company in Grand Rapids.
- Efforts were made to use Michigan-based companies to the extent possible resulting in GLC hiring 21 additional employees and creating a new Passenger Car division.
- Ride quality is very smooth: the wheel assemblies for all cars have been stripped down, retooled, and reassembled.
- All exterior window panes have been replaced with new glass tinted green to reduce glare.
- Each car has storage capacity for multiple bicycles.
- All cars are ADA accessible.
- ADA accessible restrooms are being installed in all coaches.
Commuter rail service coming to Southeast Michigan

Behind-the-scenes SEMCOG, MDOT and the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority continue to work on bringing commuter rail service to Southeast Michigan in two corridors, Ann Arbor to Detroit and Howell to Ann Arbor.

Walk, bike, bus, or drive to the station. Bikes can be taken on the train for use at your destination. Feeder service from the station will be available to destinations like the airport.

Train cars have been fully refurbished, have modern amenities, and are cleared for use. The double deck cars seat up to 140 passengers.

While we conduct all the additional work needed for daily service, we want to put the cars to use. SEMCOG and MDOT are making the train available for special event services and stationary displays. Watch for details in the media and on SEMCOG’s Web site – www.semcog.org.

The project is managed via a partnership between SEMCOG and MDOT with additional support from the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority and AMTRAK.

Visit semcog.org/AADD.aspx for more information