

LETTER — Support MAX Transit millage

By **Jonathan Kagey**
Reader contributor

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Holland, MI — Four years ago when I first moved to Holland as a Hope College freshman, I had never heard of MAX Transit. I would occasionally spot a MAX bus around town but I didn't ever think much of it. I didn't ride it so why should I care?

This all changed when I began to work for the Lakeshore Friends of Transit, a coalition of Holland residents with a vested interest in public transportation. I now advocate MAX Transit daily. There is no shortage of reasons not to. MAX Transit connects the citizens of Holland with their community. It provides an environmentally friendly alternative to single passenger car trips. With gas prices continuing to climb, it is actually cheaper to ride the MAX than to put just one gallon of gas into a car. Riding the MAX helps preserve the environment and saves you money.

Of the near 340,000 riders in the past year, there is a large variety of people riding the MAX. Employees rely on MAX to get to work each day; seniors use MAX to get to medical appointments; students depend on MAX to get to school. In the past six months I've heard numerous stories and testaments of MAX riders and the message is always the same — they wouldn't be able to do all that they do without MAX Transit.

In order to continue the high level of service that MAX Transit provides, the transit authority is seeking a millage renewal next month. Back in 2006 the original millage was passed and it allowed MAX Transit to make many improvements such as add more routes, expand service hours and reduce fares. The millage renewal would ensure that these improvements remain intact and perhaps allow for further expansion in the future.

I believe public transportation is a valuable resource and amenity to the city of Holland. I encourage all Holland residents to show their support of MAX Transit with a "yes" vote on May 3.

Jonathan Kagey

Holland

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The millage is too high. They need to do a better job of cutting cost instead of asking for us to pay for their folly.

The vote should be No. Try again with some reality MAX!