

Indian Trails Makes Big Improvements in Michigan's Transportation System

Just in the past few months, Indian Trails and its Michigan Flyer division have made several major enhancements in the bus transportation system for passengers in Michigan and beyond.

In February, Indian Trails, Inc., which operates one of the largest fleets of deluxe motorcoaches in Michigan, launched a new national bus-ticketing system developed by Transcor Data Services. This enabled Indian Trails to expand interline connections with 80 independent bus companies nationwide.

Interlining gives travelers the ability to buy a single ticket for a trip that includes two or more carriers in the national transportation network, including Amtrak.

"We're excited about growing our network of interlining carriers in order to give our customers comfortable, affordable and eco-friendly access to destinations all across North America," said Chad Cushman, president of Indian Trails.

In March, Indian Trails formed an interlining partnership with Megabus, which provides city-to-city express service to more than 300 communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

That same month, Indian Trails expanded its own daily routes to include three roundtrips a day between Detroit and Chicago, each of which connect with its daily Michigan routes north of I-94.

And in April, Indian Trails and Trailways of New York also formed an interlining partnership that offers twice daily international service between Detroit and Toronto, with stops in Windsor, Chatham, London and Paris, Ontario.

Michigan Flyer on the Move

Michigan Flyer, LLC, whose frequent, daily motorcoach connections between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metro Airport have carried more than 2.3 million passengers since 2006, is also driving progress for passengers.

In May, it launched a new door-to-door service called "Hytch" that enables passengers to connect with their bus at the East Lansing Marriott, right from, or to, the door of their home, workplace, or anywhere else in the Hytch service area.



Hytch is already popular with residents and out-of-town visitors as an alternative to driving a car, getting a ride from family or friends, calling a taxi, etc.

"Hytch serves all business and residential addresses within a roughly 4-mile radius of our East Lansing location," says Michigan Flyer VP Ody Norkin. "So, Hytch rides are available to or from Downtown Lansing, the MSU campus, parts of Meridian Township, and more."

Hytch Details:

- Hytch tickets cost \$10 per person one way and are available only to Michigan Flyer passengers when booking their bus trips online.
- Hytch vehicles, all with experienced drivers, are new-model, 5-passenger, ride-share vans, one of which is wheelchair accessible.
- Hytch rides are available Sunday through Friday from 3 a.m. to 11 p.m., but not on Saturday.

"We're especially happy that Hytch can help senior citizens, veterans, and people with disabilities to access Michigan Flyer, and then connect with early-morning, low-fare flights out of Detroit. It's a big bonus that Hytch helps out-of-town visitors to reach family and friends, plus a host of business, education, healthcare, and entertainment venues, in our area." ●