



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RONNIE PETERSON

P.O. BOX 30014

LANSING, MI 48909-7514



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Please Join
STATE REPRESENTATIVE RONNIE PETERSON
and his special guests
CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE DINGELL
and
YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR BRENDA STUMBO

for a town hall meeting to learn more about

The American Center For Mobility

featuring

American Center for Mobility President and CEO

John Maddox

and American Center for Mobility COO

Laurel Champion

MONDAY • JUNE 4 • 6:30–8 P.M.

MARRIOTT HOTEL

1275 S. Huron St. • Ypsilanti

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **RONNIE PETERSON**

TOLL-FREE: (855) 347-8054 | EMAIL: RONNIEPETERSON@HOUSE.MI.GOV | WEB: PETERSON.HOUSEDEMS.COM

RONNIE PETERSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**AMERICAN CENTER
FOR MOBILITY UPDATE**

2018

Dear Friends,

You may have recently received my previous newsletter which focused on a few of the many exciting development projects popping up around the 54th House District. For this publication, I will focus on the biggest project of them all — the redevelopment of the historic Willow Run site in Ypsilanti Township into the new American Center for Mobility (ACM).

Why two consecutive newsletters focused on economic development? Because new construction and redevelopment signals growth, opportunity, preservation, efficiency, sustainability and jobs — lots of good-paying jobs.

Some people worry that the continuing growth in our area could lead to gentrification or the squeezing out of long-time residents through the influx of more affluent residents. This is a legitimate concern that must be addressed through proper zoning and aggressive community benefits programs. Developers who profit off of attracting wealthy patrons must be compelled to also provide space for middle- and low-income residents. With proper planning, we can create a more vibrant, diverse and integrated community — a place we may all be proud to call home.

Please read on to learn more about the American Center for Mobility. Discover exactly what they are doing at the massive facility and what the ACM can do for all of us. When you are through, give my office a call and let me know what you think.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Peterson, State Representative

WILLOW RUN: A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

B-24 Bombers once rolled out of the Willow Run site — what could be rolling out next?

In the spring of 1941 local workers began clearing the trees from hundreds of acres just outside the Ypsilanti city limits. Before the year's end, Willow Run, Henry Ford's vision for the world's largest factory under a single roof, was in full production. The factory churned out B-24 bombers in support of the Allied efforts in World War II and helped Michigan earn the moniker as the "Arsenal of Democracy."

The demand for workers at the massive factory reshaped the culture as well as the landscape of the surrounding area. Southern laborers were recruited to Ypsilanti, and the mixed-race population was housed in newly constructed, segregated housing units. Despite the influx of new workers, the plant still languished with labor shortages. Out of sheer necessity, women were allowed to take on assembly line jobs, which is how Ypsilanti became the home of Rosie the Riveter.

Following World War II, after Willow Run had produced more than 8,600 B-24s, the factory turned to producing automobiles, first for independent carmaker Kaiser-Frazer and then for General Motors. From 1953 to 2010, Willow Run made transmissions for millions of cars. At its peak, the iconic factory covered more than 5 million square feet on 335 acres and employed nearly 14,000 total hourly and salaried workers.

For more than 75 years, for better or for worse, Willow Run fueled Ypsilanti's culture and economy. Now, as the home of the American Center for Mobility, Willow Run is poised to make a comeback as a leader in automotive technology and innovation. Autonomous vehicles are almost certainly the future of the global auto industry, and Ypsilanti is once again in the driver's seat.



WHAT IS THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY?

The American Center for Mobility (ACM) is a testing and product development facility for connected and automated vehicle technology located at the historic, 500-acre Willow Run site in Ypsilanti Township. The ACM will allow automotive industry and government agencies to test vehicles, roads, infrastructure and integrated communication systems in a variety of physical and weather environments. The facility offers unique real-world features such as a mock urban environment, a 700-foot curved tunnel, two double overpasses, intersections and roundabouts, and a highway test loop where vehicles can travel at highway speeds.

This nonprofit facility is a collaborative effort with the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the University of Michigan, Business Leaders for Michigan, and Ann Arbor SPARK. ACM also offers an opportunity for larger-scale research, development, and testing due to both the size of the facility and more diverse infrastructure. This test site has been named one of only 10 national proving grounds by the US Department of Transportation.

Construction on phase one of the project began in May 2017 and the official grand opening took place in April 2018. The second phase of construction is already under way and when completed will feature an urban driving environment, the ACM headquarters and a technology park. ACM has the potential to be the last stop for testing before autonomous vehicles are sent out onto the road to join us.



WHAT WILL THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY DO FOR US?

- The ACM is converting an abandoned industrial site into a state of the art autonomous vehicle testing facility.
- The ACM partners with automakers, research universities and technology companies from around the world to ensure that our region remains a major player in the automotive technology industry.
- The ACM's planned technology park will be an incubator attracting new high-tech firms and venture capital to eastern Washtenaw County.
- The ACM will bring new firms to our area and create jobs, including construction jobs, permanent jobs, tech jobs and subsidiary jobs.

