



Greater Region Mobility Alliance

March 2025

Agenda

Introduction	10:00 a.m.	Serena Anderson, MVRPC
Welcome/Introductions	10:05 a.m.	ALL
Catholic Social Services RideConnect	10:20 a.m.	Heather Robison, CSS
TAC Industries	10:35 a.m.	Kevin Spriggs, TAC
Break	10:50 a.m.	ALL
Regional Transit Internship	11:00 a.m.	Elijah Vernagus, MVRPC
MVRPC Updates	11:10 a.m.	Serena Anderson, MVRPC
Networking (optional)	11:30 a.m.	ALL

Greater Region Mobility Initiative Vision

Promote regional mobility by identifying and addressing transportation barriers.



Greater Region Mobility Initiative Mission

Aim to improve transportation services for those experiencing transportation barriers in an eight-county region through expanded outreach, shared resources, enhanced services, and improved coordination.



Greater Region Mobility Alliance

Bring together public, private, not-for-profit transportation, human service providers and transportation users to advance the mission and vision of the Greater Region Mobility Initiative.



GRMI Transportation Coordination Plan

The plan enables access to funding under the [Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities \(Section 5310\) Program](#), which funds projects that meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation services are unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting needs.



www.mvrpc.org/mobility

Welcome & Introductions

**HELLO
AND
WELCOME**





**Catholic
Social Services**
OF THE MIAMI VALLEY

**RIDECONNECT VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM
INFORMATION SESSION**

GENERAL OVERVIEW



- CSSMV has served the Greater Dayton region since **1921**
- Varying services are provided in Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties
- Approximately 21,000 people are served annually
- CSSMV has 100+ employees based in three offices, in Dayton & Sidney

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

- CSSMV MOBILITY MANAGER SERVES AS THE MOBILITY MANAGER FOR CHAMPAIGN, DARKE, AND SHELBY COUNTIES
- RIDELINK CALL CENTER
- RIDECONNECT VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM IN 11 COUNTIES



Michelle Caserta-Bixler
Mobility Manager



Heather Robison
Transportation Community
Liaison

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT - TRANSPORTATION



Mobility Management program started 8 years ago



RideLink Program – Transportation Resource Call Line



Human Services Transportation Coalition meetings held quarterly in communities to discuss transportation challenges, resources and used as networking resource



Participates in Regional Coordinated Transportation Plans



RideConnect Volunteer Driver Program, started in July 2021

RIDECONNECT – VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM

- THE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED IN COLLABORATION WITH CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE MIAMI VALLEY, AREA AGENCY ON AGING 3 AND RTC SERVICES
- PURPOSE IS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO NEED TRANSPORTATION OUTSIDE OF TRADITIONAL TRANSIT HOURS, SERVICE AREA OR WHERE TRANSPORTATION IS NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH ANY OTHER SOURCE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE
- IT WILL ALSO ALLOW ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE HIGH COST OF PRIVATE PROVIDERS (EX: \$1.00+ PER MILE TRIPS)

RIDECONNECT – VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM

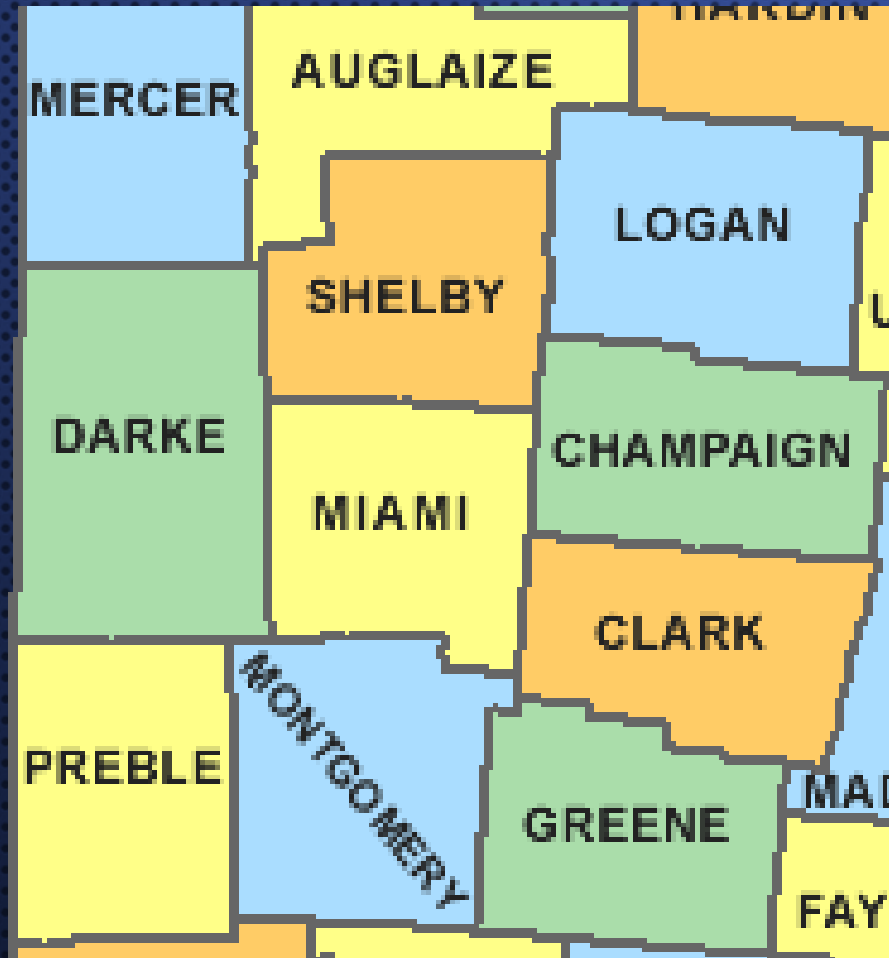
- PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
- RESIDENTS OF PREBLE, DARKE, SHELBY, CHAMPAIGN, LOGAN, AUGLAIZE, MERCER, MIAMI, MONTGOMERY, GREENE & CLARK COUNTIES
- PRIORITY GIVEN TO OLDER ADULTS AND THOSE WITH DISABILITIES AS WELL AS LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS
- PROGRAM SERVES INDIVIDUALS WHO NEED TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL AND NON-MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND TO EMPLOYMENT





<https://youtu.be/2uojlJj9kY>

CURRENT DATA



Volunteers: Currently have 28 Volunteers

- Auglaize County (1)
- Mercer County (1)
- Darke County (3)
- Preble County (2)
- Montgomery County (8)
- Greene County (2)
- Clark County (0)
- Miami County (4)
- Champaign County (1) – located in Madison
- Logan County (3)
- Shelby County (3)

2024 Data (January 1 – December 31, 2024)

- Trips: 976
- Miles: 37,095
- Volunteer Hours: 1573 hours: 30 Minutes

Program Data (July 2021 – February 2025)

- Trips: 3,448
- Miles: 108,674
- Volunteer Hours: 5,018 Hours: 30 Minutes

TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES



- INDIVIDUALS MAY NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A VEHICLE
- FAMILY MEMBERS/FRIENDS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF WORK FOR APPOINTMENTS
- INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS MAY NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT, TRANSIT THAT CROSSES COUNTY LINES OR AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION
- THE APPOINTMENT TIMEFRAME MAY BE OUTSIDE OF OPERATING TIMES OF TRANSIT AGENCIES
- AARP DATA REPORTS THAT OFTEN THE LAST 7-10 YEARS OF LIFE OF SENIOR INDIVIDUALS ARE UNABLE TO SAFELY DRIVE

HOW WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Medical: Many RideConnect requests are for Medical related appointments. In one particular case we had an individual who had medical benefits for transportation, however the specialist was outside of the mileage criteria. Our volunteers were able to help assist getting them to Columbus for a specialist. The individual could not drive and did not have any family or friends to help assist.

Non-Medical: We have assisted individuals in various ways with transportation. From taking individuals to a grocery store or food pantry, to taking a mom and her children to drop off and pick up at school, to child visitations. Our program is dependent on volunteers and their availability, so more volunteers are needed, but we try to accommodate the requests and needs of the community.

Employment: An individual in Miami County needed transportation assistance to help get them to work on a Saturday morning, they utilized transit for the return trip but was struggling to get to work. RideConnect was able to help assist.



WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY

“My mother and brother lived in another city so my brother would take off from work to take her to all her medical appointments. Now that they have both passed, driving others through CSS RideConnect is my way to honor his generous care of my mom.” Janet (Montgomery County)

“Everyone I come in contact with has something they want to share. Their family history, what they did for a living, their health concerns and many other things. But mostly they just need someone to talk to. Being a good listener makes for a good driver. I really like what I do.”
Dan (Auglaize County)

“I get as much enjoyment and fulfillment out of driving our clients as they do by using the Catholic Social Services RideConnect program.” Larry (Miami County)

“I enjoy meeting new people and helping to provide services to them.”
Glynda (Darke County)

“RideConnect fits into my lifestyle and my idea of paying it forward. By helping others I grow as an individual.” Carol (Montgomery County)

DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS



- DRIVERS MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD AND/OR AT LEAST 5 YEARS OF DRIVING EXPERIENCE
- OWN A SAFE & RELIABLE VEHICLE
DRIVERS WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR MILEAGE FOR APPROVED RIDES
- DRIVERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER A MINIMUM OF 2 ROUND TRIPS PER MONTH
- DRIVERS MUST COMPLETE REQUIRED TRAININGS AND PRELIMINARY SCREENINGS (PAID FOR BY AGENCY)

RECORDS REQUIRED

- VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE & INSURANCE CARD
- COMPLETE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK
- DRUG & ALCOHOL SCREENING
- NON-DOT PHYSICAL (TO BE COMPLETED WITH DRUG & ALCOHOL SCREENING AT HOMETOWN URGENT CARE)



TRAININGS REQUIRED

- SAFE PARISH TRAINING
- ASSISTED RIDES SOFTWARE TRAINING
- INCIDENT MANAGEMENT & REPORTING EXPECTATIONS
- PASSENGER ASSISTANCE TRAINING (SCHEDULED WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF DRIVING)
- CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING (OPTIONAL)



HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

TO BECOME A DRIVER

- COMPLETE THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE MIAMI VALLEY VOLUNTEER APPLICATION (PROGRAM: RIDECONNECT)
[HTTPS://WWW.VOLGISTICS.COM/EX/PORTAL.DLL/AP?AP=517672622](https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=517672622)
- COMPLETE TRAININGS & RECORDS REQUIREMENTS
- START DRIVING INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

TO HELP PROMOTE THE PROGRAM

- SHARE THE PROGRAM'S NEED FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS –
 - *IT IS A FLEXIBLE DRIVING OPPORTUNITY, DEPENDENT ON A VOLUNTEER'S AVAILABILITY – WE LOVE INDIVIDUALS LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF TIME EACH MONTH*
- SUGGEST COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT RIDECONNECT ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA OR WITHIN YOUR NETWORK





**Catholic
Social Services**
OF THE MIAMI VALLEY

100 South Main Avenue, Suite 101

Sidney OH 45365

Contact us: 937-498-4593 or 937-575-7111

To learn more about our programs, visit

www.cssmv.org

HEATHER ROBISON

HROBISON@CSSMV-SIDNEY.ORG

937.575.7128

MICHELLE CASERTA-BIXLER

MCASERTA@CSSMV-SIDNEY.ORG

937.575.7115

WWW.CSSMV-SIDNEY.ORG/RIDECONNECT



FROM CHALLENGES TO PROGRESS:
HOW THE ABILITIES CONNECTION
IS DRIVING CHANGE

March 18, 2025

WHO ARE WE?

Our Vision

A world where disabilities are not barriers.

Our Mission

The Abilities Connection empowers people with disabilities and other barriers to achieve their full potential.

2018 – dropped “developmental”

2020 – added “barriers”



Our History

1952 – Town & Country Day School

1966 – Town & Country Adult Day Services

1982 – TAC began to grow in complexity and services

Present – Located in Springfield, Ohio

Serving 468 individuals throughout 6 counties

Our Services

- Adult Day Array of Services
- Vocational Habilitation
- High School Transition
- Supportive Employment Services
- Transportation
- Workforce Development & Skill Building

THE ISSUES: TRANSPORTATION



- Transportation available 5 days a week from 7 am to 3 pm
- Began placing individuals in jobs with non-traditional hours, it became clear that transportation was a major barrier.
- Without reliable transportation, the individuals we support are set up for failure.

TRANSFORMATION: TRANSPORTATION

2020 Transportation Metrics

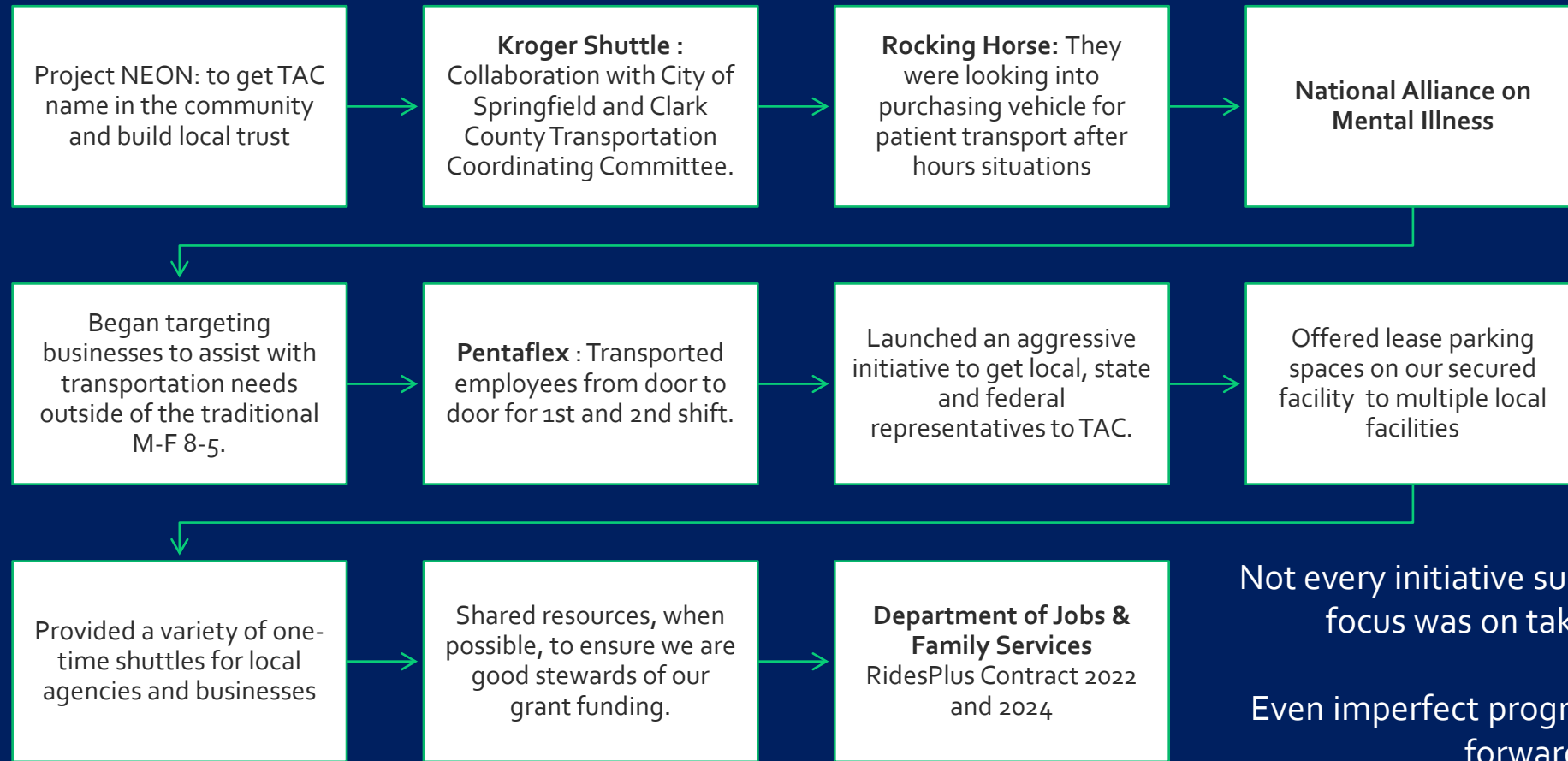
Number of Vehicles	16
Number of Riders	159
Miles Driven	203,280
Trips Taken	39,238

Bias for Action

- We proactively engaged with local businesses, other nonprofits, and agencies to address the transportation challenges.
- Rather than presenting ourselves as having all the answers, we emphasized our commitment to finding solutions together.
- By participating and leading follow-up efforts, we reinforced our commitment to solving unmet transportation needs and positioned ourselves as a reliable, responsive partner.

TRANSFORMATION: TRANSPORTATION 2020-2024

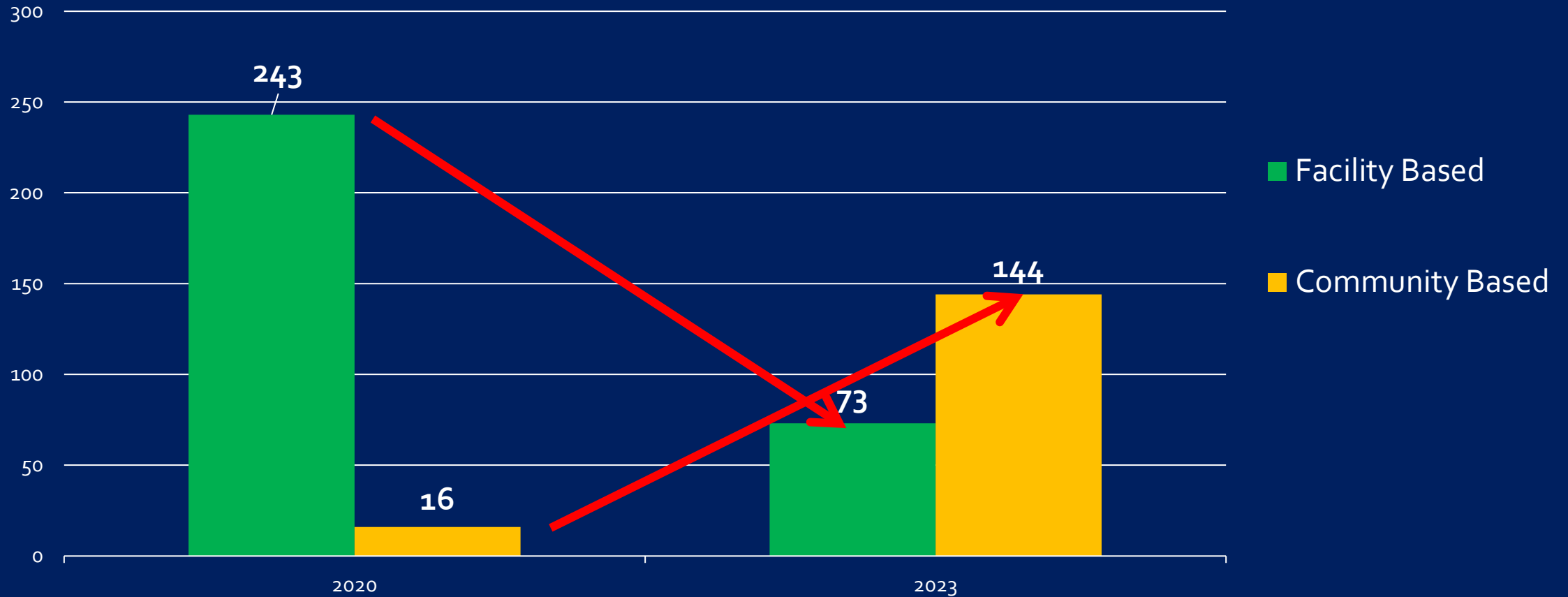
Goal: to position TAC as a local solution for any unmet transportation needs in the community.



Not every initiative succeeded, but the focus was on taking action.

Even imperfect progress is still a step forward.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABILITY: IMPACT ON COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS



TRANSPORTATION: TODAY AT A GLANCE

42 Vehicles in Transportation Fleet

444 Riders using Transportation Services

60,800 Trips Provided in 2024

441,000 Miles Driven in 2024

Operating Hours: 5:00 am – 12:00 midnight, Monday - Saturday



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

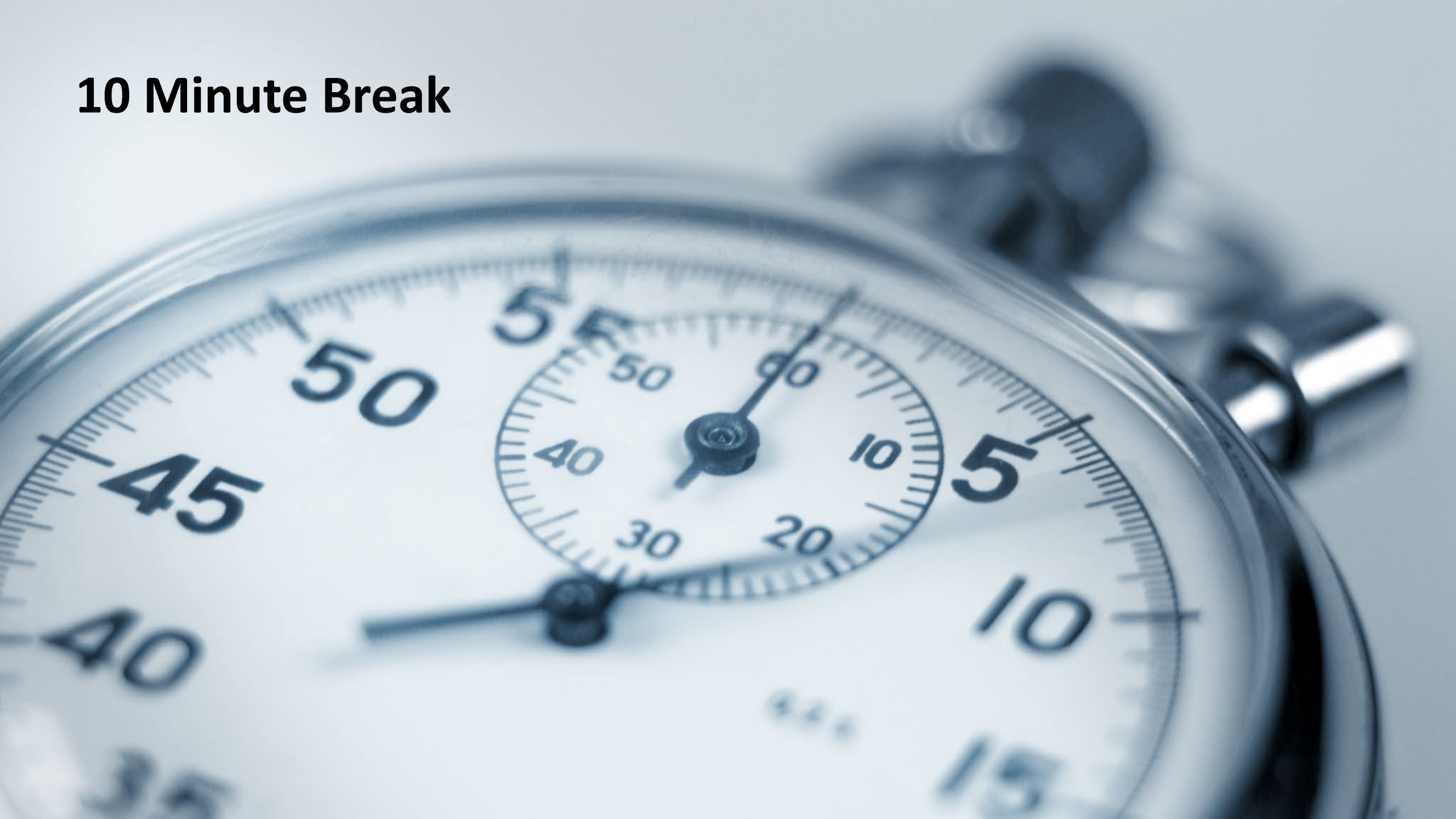
For the first time in TAC's long history, we are serving more in the community than in our facilities.

Our work isn't done yet.

**IMPERFECT
ACTION IS BETTER
THAN PERFECT
INACTION.**

Harry S. Truman

10 Minute Break



REGIONAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS INTERN

Elijah Vernagus



BACKGROUND

- 19 Years Old. Turn 20 tomorrow!
- From Lake Orion, MI
- Went to Lake Orion High School
- Extracurriculars (Theater, Choir, Band, Cross Country, Swim, etc)



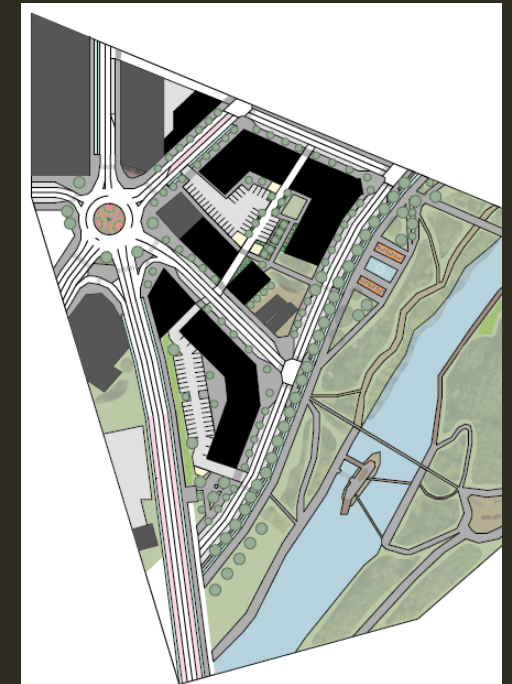
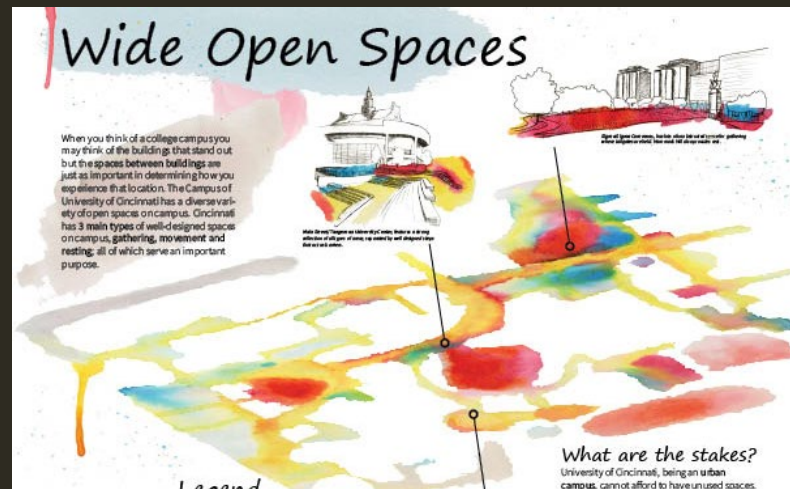
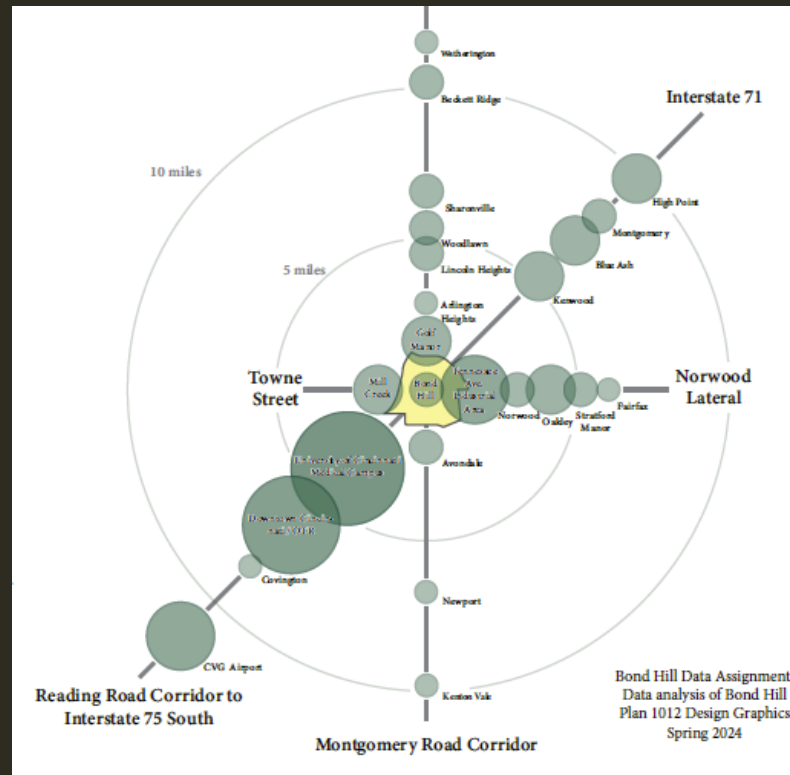
EDUCATION

- I am a 2nd year urban planning major at the University of Cincinnati Through the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning's School of Planning.
- Interest in geography.
- Always knew I wanted to be an urban planner.
- I chose UC because of the Co-op Program.



CLASS WORK

- Thematic Campus Study
- Neighborhood Analysis
- Site Plan

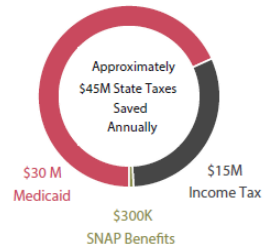



Public Transportation


investments lead to improved economic & social outcomes


\$1 to \$25 ROI

In 2025, for every \$1 the State invested in transit, there was an approximate \$25 in tax and benefits savings in Southwest Ohio




 **Lives Saved**
45 individuals had a lower chance of dying prematurely

 **Able to Age-in-Place**
1K older adults on Medicaid avoided assisted living

 **Improved Health**
1K Medicaid recipients were able to access critical doctors appointments

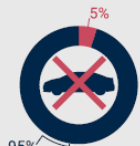
 **Reduced Social Isolation**
1K Medicaid recipients avoided social isolation, reducing health risks

 **Able to Obtain Employment**
16K households avoided unemployment

 **Reduced Food Insecurity**
4K food insecure individuals had access to fresh foods

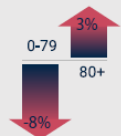
- Based on study done by OMEGA region on the other side of the state.
- Transit provides a return on investment for state dollars.
- Presented to legislatures in Columbus on Ohio Loves Transit Day.
- Storymap that goes more in depth.

40K adults do not drive



making it difficult to acquire basic needs

3% growth in older adult populations 80+



which is expected to grow faster than any other population

17% rural trips travel cross county lines



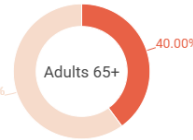
limiting non-driving populations ability to access essential services

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

COMMUNITY FACT SHEETS

- Summarizes demographics and last year's GRMI survey.
- Highlight unique statistics for each county.
- Current flaws in transit systems.
- Quotes from the community.

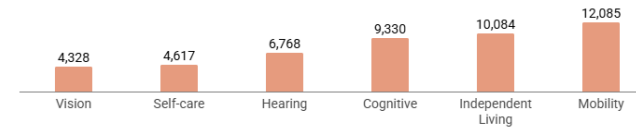
1 in 5 people in Clark County have a disability



"Having any type of public transportation at all in my town (Enon) would be a good start. It must be accessible for people with various types of disabilities."



Populations by Disability Type



Greatest Obstacles with Current Transit Systems

- 39% of respondents indicated limited hours as one of the greatest shortfalls.
- 31% of respondents cited transit not being on time as an issue with current transportation systems.
- 30% of respondents said they were unable to schedule transportation on demand.

28% of respondents report being unable to participate in society.

30% of respondents are unable to live independently due to minimal transit.

28% of respondents have had difficulty visiting friends or family.



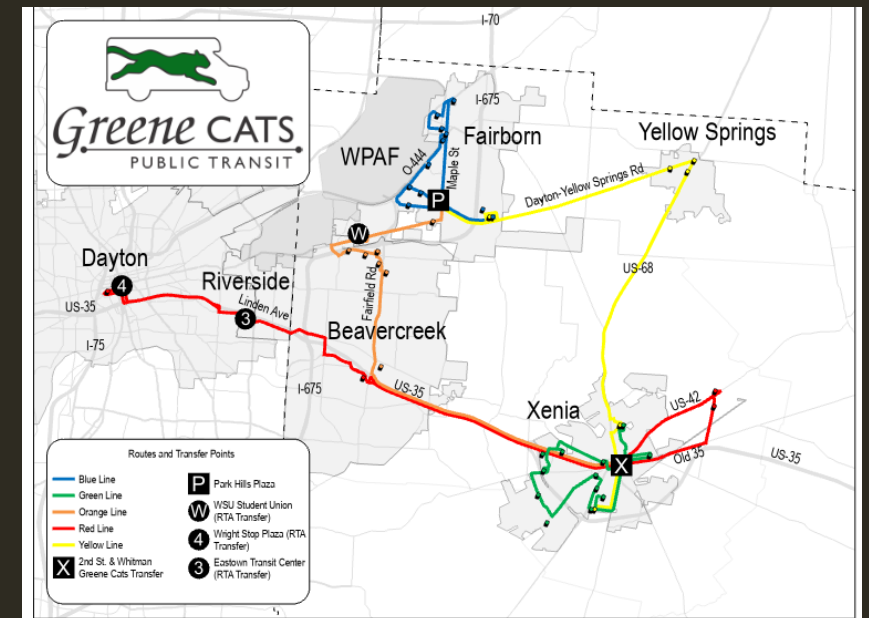
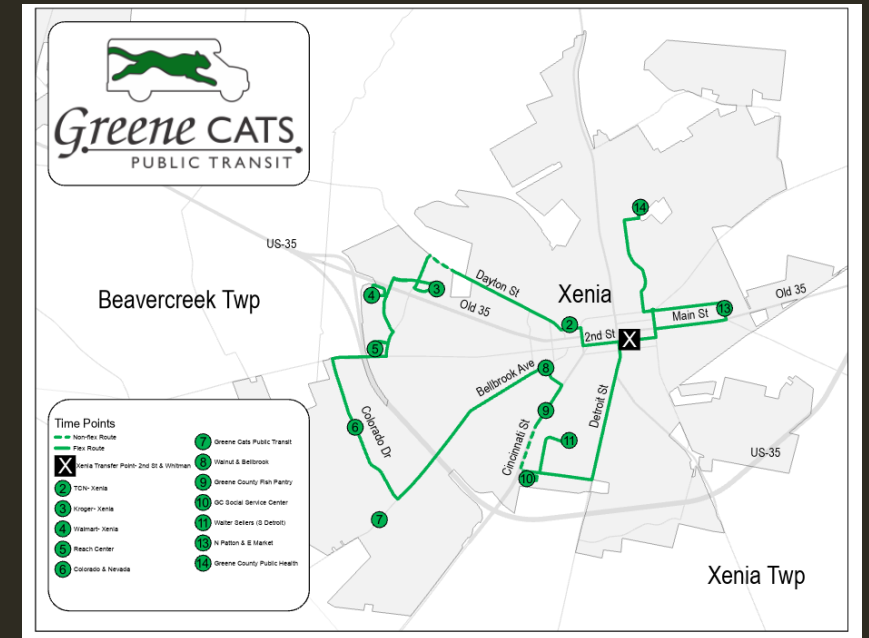
Most People Outlive their ability to drive by **7-10** Years.

32% of adults over the age of 65 have a disability.



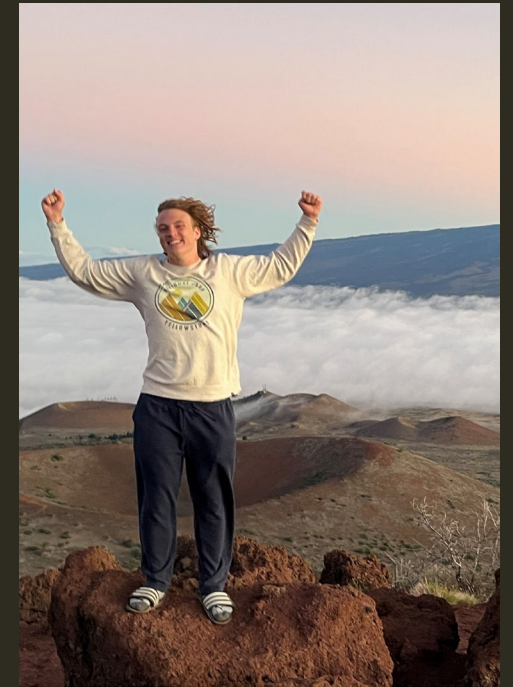
GREENE CATS MAP

- Printable map that is easy to navigate.
- Shows how the different lines interact with each other
- Can help train people to use the Greene Cats bus system



FUTURE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

- Complete my degree and other 4 co-ops.
- My current plan is to join the Peace Corps post-graduation.
- Get my master's degree abroad.
- I want to help many communities across the globe.



Goal & Strategy Progress



Goal 1) Awareness of Services

1.2) Advocacy & Outreach

- ✓ Ohio Loves Transit Legislative Day
- ✓ Presentations, community events, conferences



Goal 1) Awareness of Services

1.4) Expand Education

- [Miami Valley Ride Finder](#)
- [Gohio Mobility](#)
- Community Fact Sheets/Return on Investment Sheet

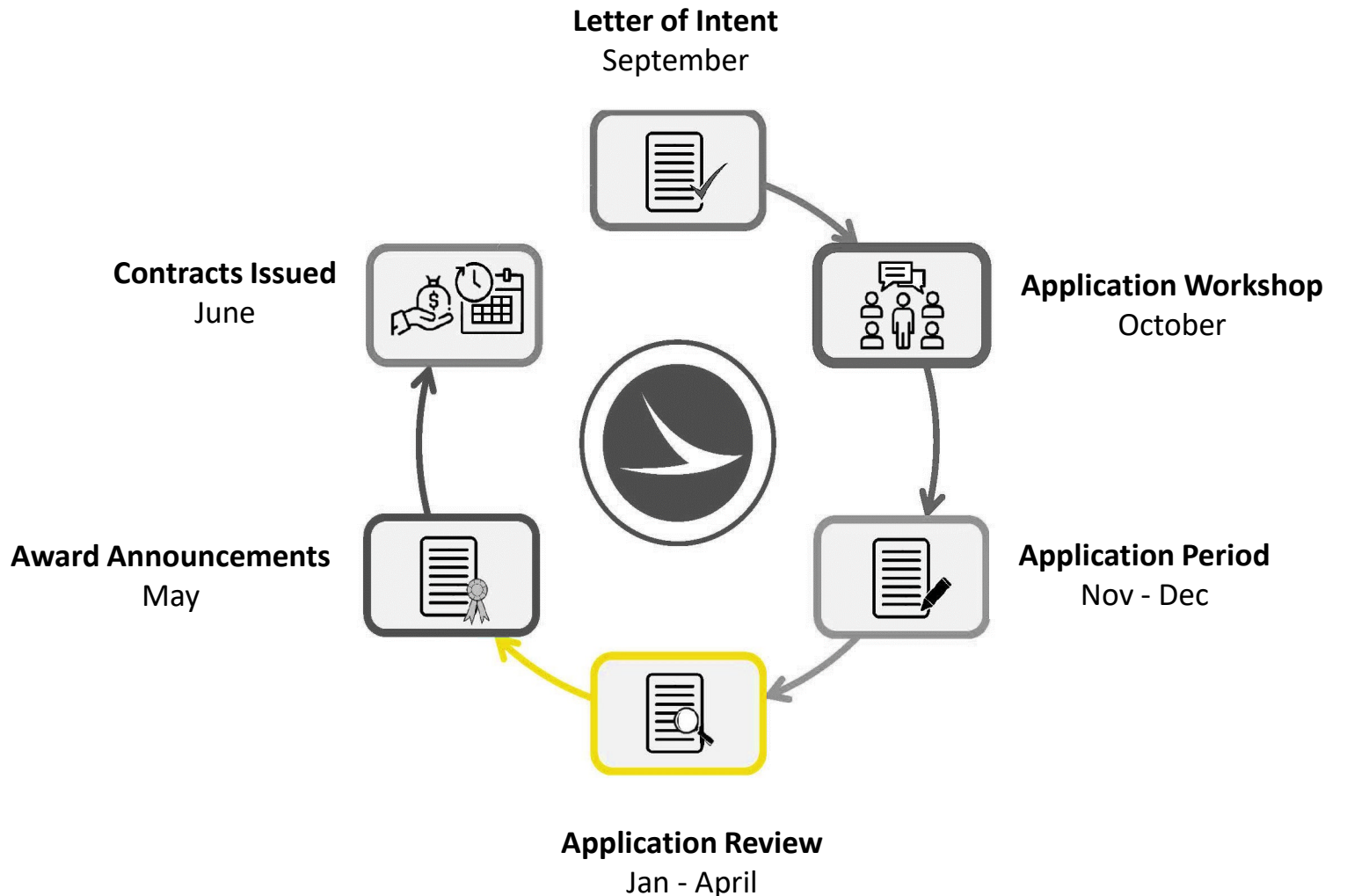


MiamiValleyRideFinder.org

Goal 2) Maintain & Expand Services

2.1) Technical Support

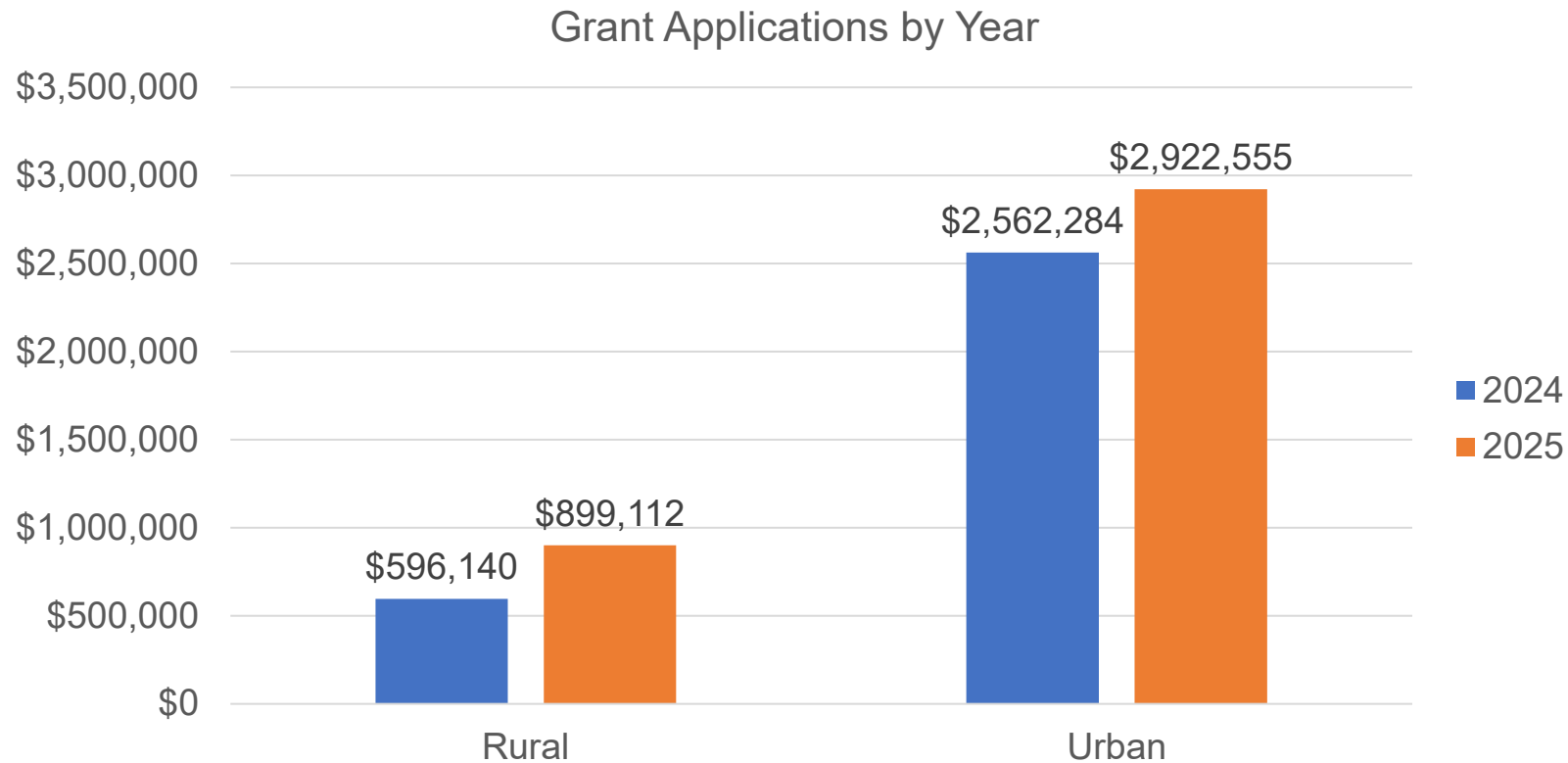
- ✓ Data & dashboards
 - [Demographics](#)
 - [Survey](#)
 - [Biannual Reports](#)
- ✓ Grant support
 - [Open office hours](#)
 - Annual workshop
- ✓ Individualized support



Goal 2) Maintain & Expand Services

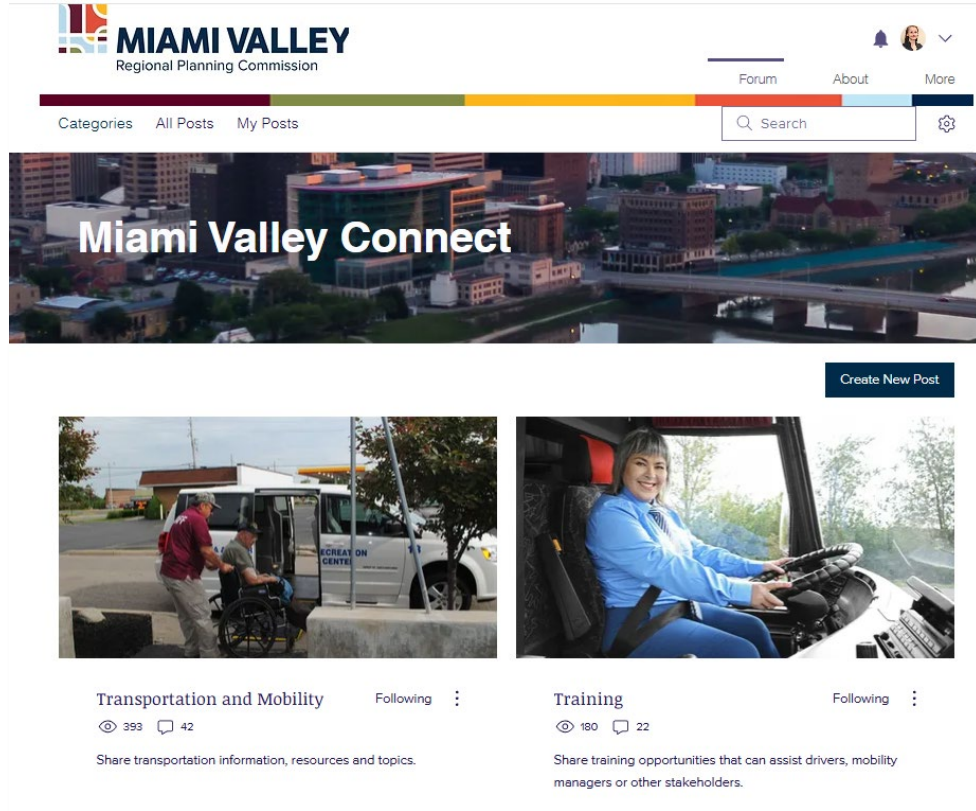
2.2 & 2.3) Section 5310 grants

- ✓ Grant applications on the rise! (21% increase)



Goal 3) Coordination of Services

- ✓ GRMI Advisory Committee
- ✓ Miami Valley Connect
- ✓ Emails, meetings, advisory groups, studies, etc.

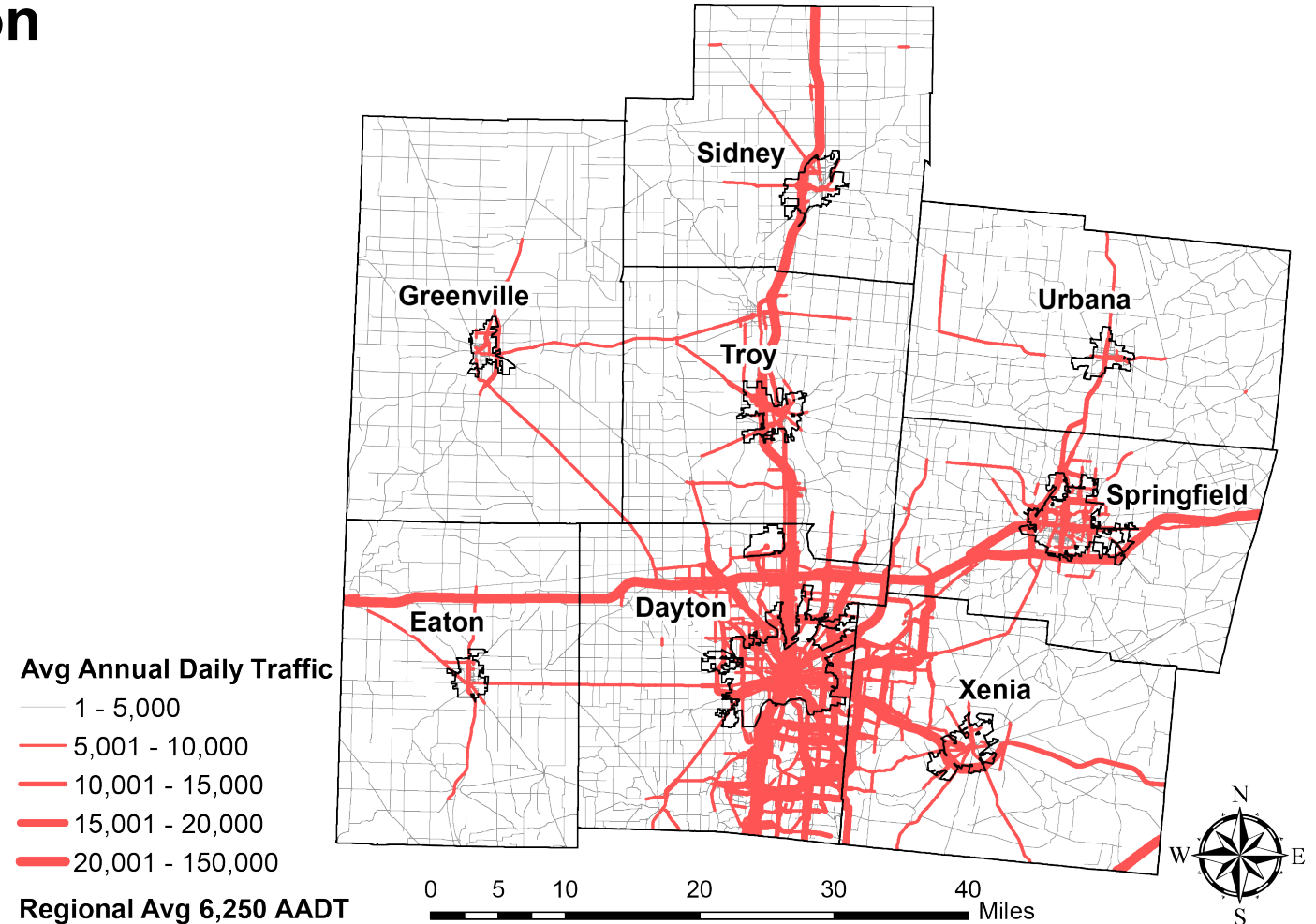


www.discussion.mvrpc.org

Goal 3) Coordination of Services

3.3) Cross-County Coordination

- ❑ Transfer points, trip refusals, denials, and other key travel patterns



Goal 3) Coordination of Services

3.4) Driver Training & Maintenance

- ✓ CarFit resources
- Driver training & maintenance resources
- Retired vehicle resources

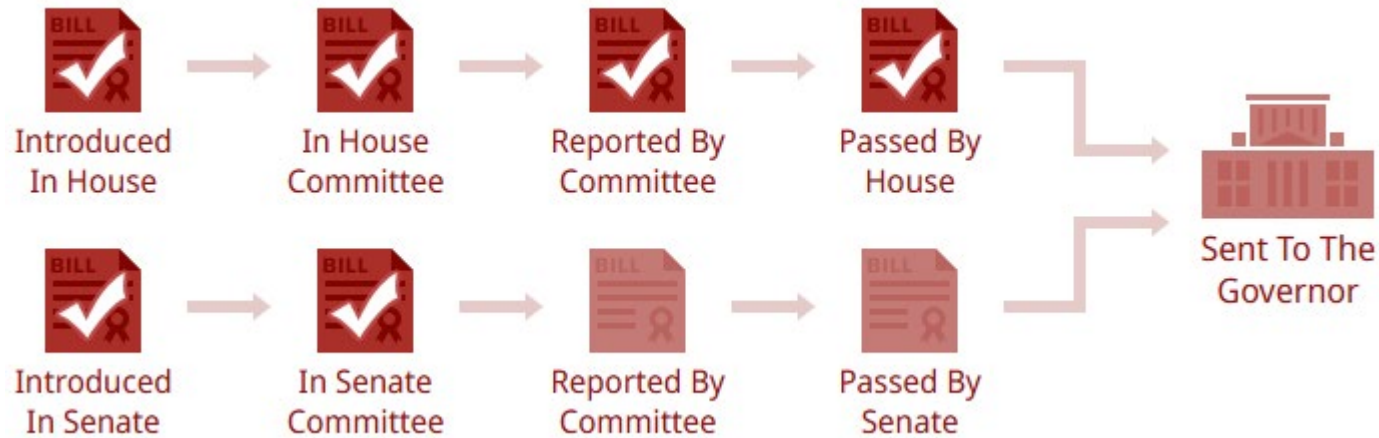


<https://mvrpc.formstack.com/forms/carfittoolkit>

State Updates



Biennium Budget



Total proposed budget up **5%** from last biennium

- \$104M budgeted annually for [Public & Specialized Transportation](#)
- \$15M budgeted annually for [Workforce Mobility Partnership](#)
- \$1M budgeted annually for Private Transit Voucher Pilot Program



Biennium Budget

Workforce Mobility Partnership Program: \$15M annually

The program will continue to provide grants to transit agencies to support workforce initiatives.

Private Transit Voucher Pilot Program: \$1M annually

Pilot program designed to distribute private transit vouchers to low-income individuals to see if it is a cost-effective option for eliminating public transit routes with low ridership.

Intercity Bus

- [GoBus](#) Ohio's rural bus service travels to 40+ destinations throughout the state, including Columbus, Cincinnati & Cleveland
- [2024 Intercity Bus Assessment](#)
Cincinnati-Toledo route via US-68 prioritized for future expansion
- Potential stops: Urbana, Springfield, Yellow Springs, Xenia, & Dayton
- Primarily for long-distance overnight travel, not daily work trips, long-distance medical trips, etc.



Passenger Rail

✓ Step 1: Corridor Development:

Develop a scope, schedule, and cost estimate for preparing, completing, or documenting its service development plan

☐ Step 2: Service Development Plan

Detailed plan to implement corridor, including defining the service, analyzing alternatives, identifying capital costs, and establishing a governance structure

☐ Step 3: Project Development

Preliminary engineering, environmental reviews, other necessary documentation, identification of 20% cost share by sponsor before moving to project implementation



Passenger Rail

Corridor ID Selected Route

3C&D Corridor

Connects Ohio's major cities and the communities in between: Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Cleveland. 3C&D brings Bengals and Browns fans closer together following along highways 75, 70, and 71 - but no driving needed.

Sponsor: Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC)

Industry Partner: HDR, INC

*Some stops have not yet been defined





THANK YOU!