2019 Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan

Last Updated: 11/29/2018

MOVE Lorain County
For more information about this plan please contact Sharon Pearson, MOVE Lorain County Consultant, at 440-707-6477 or moveloraincounty@gmail.com
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Executive Summary

This plan is the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Lorain County. This year is the first year Lorain County has developed its own plan which will replace the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) plan that covered Lorain County in the past. Since we are a small urban and rural county, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) encouraged Counties with our makeup to create their own plans for increasing awareness and access to transportation options for Lorain County residents. The plan will seek to accomplish this by: (a) increasing understanding and awareness of transportation needs; (b) coordinating transportation options to meet needs; and (c) building sustainable and healthy communities.

This plan fulfills the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, signed into law as a reauthorization of surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2020. According to requirements of the FAST Act, locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans must be updated to reflect the changes established by the FAST Act legislation. The FAST Act applies new programs and rules for all Fiscal Year 2016 funds and authorizes transit programs for five (5) years.

Transportation is a critical component of the communities in Lorain County. Transportation provides access to jobs, education, health care, human services and allows all community members, including older adults and people with disabilities, to live independently and engage in community life. It is the purpose of this plan for local stakeholders to work collaboratively to do the following activities:

1. Identify all community resources including
    - Senior Transportation
    - Private Transportation
    - Non-Profit Transportation
    - Paratransit
    - Active Transportation i.e. biking, walking
    - Ridesharing
    - Carsharing
    - Carpooling
    - Northeast Ohio Area Coordinated Agency (NOACA)
    - Lorain County Transit

2. Identify and Prioritize community transportation needs
    - Increase Awareness of Transportation options
    - Develop and Implement a Mobility Management Program
    - Explore Data Collection & Planning Synergies
    - Coordinate Educational Training Programs
    - Explore Transportation Pilot Projects

3. Establish a clear plan for achieving shared goals

To achieve the goals and needs listed in the Coordinated Transportation Plan, Lorain County will continue to reach out to transportation service providers, health and human service providers, non-profit organizations, private organizations, education centers, and medical facilities for coordination of mobility services with all interested transportation providers. Through partnerships and shared priorities, the county, cities, villages, residents, businesses, social service agencies, and transportation providers will work together to achieve the goals stated in this document.

Fundamental to the Coordinated Transportation Plan process is the active and meaningful involvement of stakeholders. For projects selected for funding under the Section 5310 program, participation in planning activities must include participation and/or representation of the following, at minimum:

- Seniors
- Individuals with disabilities
- People with low incomes
- Public, private and non-profit transportation providers
- Human services providers
- The General Public
- Social Service Providers
- Medical Facilities
- Employers
- Regional Planning Organizations
- Government Entities

In order to ensure participation from the above groups the following stakeholder involvement activities were performed:

(1). COMMITTEE FORMATION. The Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Planning committee involving the following organizations:

- Carlisle Township Trustees
- City of Avon
- City of Elyria
- City of Lorain
- City of North Ridgeville
- City of Oberlin
- City of Sheffield Village
- Community Foundation of Lorain County
- Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Office
- El Centro
- Elyria City Schools
- Enterprise Rideshare
- Facilitator
- Flat Rock Homes
- Green Circle Growers
- Kendal at Oberlin

- LifeCare Ambulance
- Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential Inc. (LEAP)
- Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services Inc. (LCADA)
- Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Lorain County Board of Mental Health
- Lorain County Chamber
- Lorain County Commissioners
- Lorain County Community Action Agency
- Lorain County Community College
- Lorain County Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Lorain County Office on Aging
- Lorain County Public Health
- Lorain County Urban League
- Lorain County Veterans Services
- Lucy Idol Center
- Mercy Hospitals
- MOVE Lorain County Board
- Murray Ridge Production Center
- NOACA
- Oberlin Center for the Arts
- Oberlin College
- Ohio Business College
- Pegasus Transit, Inc.
- Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
- The Nord Center
- United Way of Greater Lorain County
- Wesleyan Village

(2.) PUBLIC NEEDS SURVEYS. The following organizations were instrumental in assisting us with obtaining nearly 700 general public surveys from throughout the County. The specific organizations and businesses that assisted with distributing both paper and electronic general public transportation surveys are as follows:

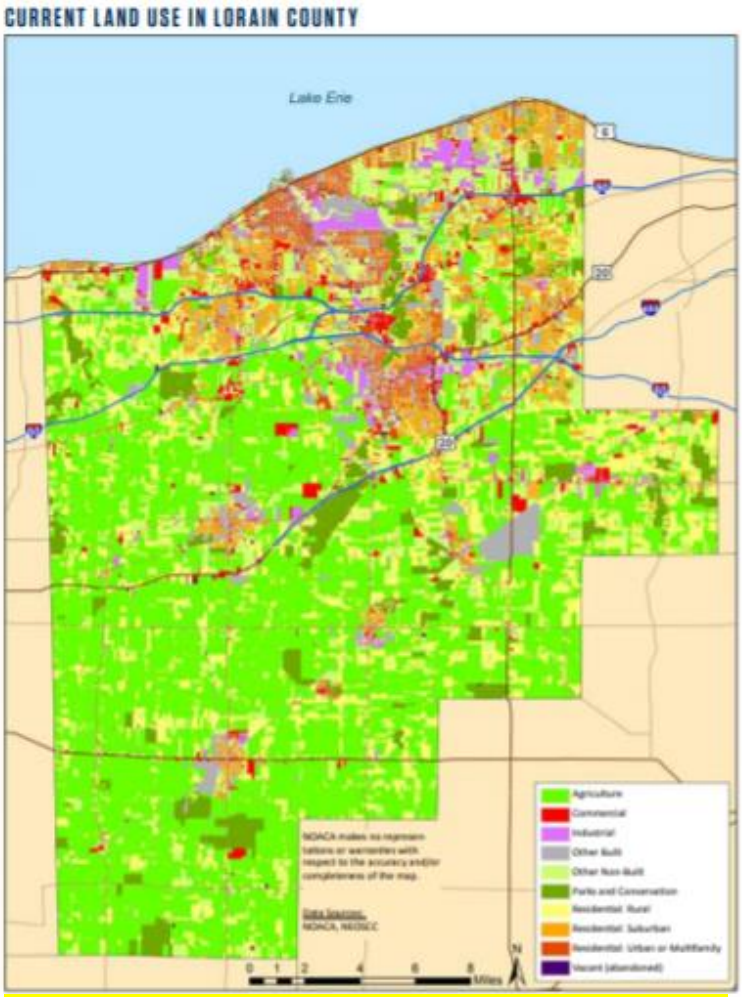
- El Centro (for translating surveys into Spanish)
- Green Circle Growers
- Kendal at Oberlin
- Lorain County Board of Mental Health
- Lorain County Chamber of Commerce
- Lorain County Community College
- Lorain County Urban League
- Neighborhood Alliance
- Oberlin Community Services
- Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
- The Chronicle Telegram
- The Lorain Morning Journal
- WEOL
- WOBL/WDLW

(3). COUNTY-WIDE MEETINGS. Transportation Needs Round Table Sessions were held throughout the County:

- August 1, 2018 – Wellington Campus of Lorain County Community College (Rural area)
- August 21, 2018 – United Way of Greater Lorain County (City of Lorain)
- September 6, 2018 – Ohio Business College (City of Sheffield)
- September 10, 2018 – First Church of Oberlin UCC (Oberlin)
- September 13, 2018 - Avon Public Library (Avon).

I Geographic Area

Map 1: Basic map of geographical area covered by the plan



MAP1: 2015 NORTHEAST OHIO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES CONSORTIUM (NEOSCC) PLAN LORAIN COUNTY LAND USE MAP

MAP 1: LEGEND

Land Use/Land Cover	Percent
Developed, Lower Intensity	23.54%
Developed, Higher Intensity	4.47%
Barren (strip mines, gravel pits, etc.)	0.20%
Forest	19.99%
Shrub/Scrub and Grasslands	0.75%
Pasture/Hay	12.64%
Cultivated Crops	29.84%
Wetlands	7.80%
Open Water	0.78%

Largest Places	Est. 2017	Census 2010
Lorain city	63,841	64,097
Elyria city	53,883	54,533
North Ridgeville city	33,436	29,465
Avon Lake city	24,184	22,581
Avon city	23,054	21,193
Amherst city	12,088	12,021
Sheffield Lake city	8,976	9,137
Oberlin city	8,278	8,286
Carlisle twp	7,428	7,500
Columbia twp	7,303	7,040

DATA ABOVE IS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO OFFICE OF RESEARCH DATA (2010 DATA)

There are 88 Counties in Ohio and by population, Lorain County is the 9th most populated county. As of 2017, the population was estimated to be 307,924, with 116,274 households, and 80,077 families residing in the county. The population density is 613.6 inhabitants per square mile. There are 127,036 housing units at an average density of 258.7 per square mile.

Lorain County has a total area of 923 square miles, of which 492 square miles is land and 432 square miles is water (mostly Lake Erie). The total incorporated area makes Lorain County the fourth-largest county in Ohio. Lorain County borders Ashland County, Cuyahoga County, Erie County, Huron County, and Medina County.

The median income for a household is $52,066 and the median income for a family is $62,082. Males have a median income of $49,146 versus $35,334 for females. The per capita income for the county is $25,002. About 10.3% of families and 13.1% of the population are living below the poverty line,

including 20.5% of those under age 18 and 8.0% of those aged 65 and over. The median property value in Lorain County, OH is $146,400, and the homeownership rate is 71.5%.

There are three major cities in Lorain County – Elyria, Lorain, and Oberlin, with three other communities growing at a rapid pace bordering Cuyahoga County which are Avon, Avon Lake, and North Ridgeville. Most of the commercial and retail activities as well as the suburban population are concentrated in the north and north-east corner of the County. The remaining portions of the County are mostly rural, with a few exceptions being Oberlin and Wellington. The characteristics and makeup of the County creates a challenge for developing a sustainably funded Countywide transportation system.

Map 2: Major trip generators in the geographic area

Some of the largest industries in Lorain County are healthcare, social health and welfare assistance, and manufacturing. Lorain County employs 1.2 times more people than would be expected for a County of comparable size.

Most Lorain County residents drive alone and have a commute time of 23.9 minutes, which is less than those of the average US workers who commute at 25.3 minutes. The average number of cars per household is two.

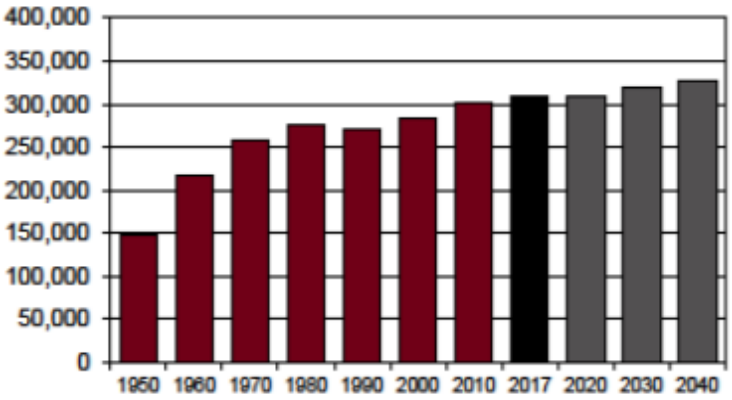
Most of the major trip are generated in the north and north-east parts of the County. With the exception of the Oberlin, this consists of the communities of Avon, Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain, and North Ridgeville.

II. Population Demographics

Chart 1: Total Population with Current and Projected for Five Years

Total Population

Census				Estimated	
1800		1910	76,037	2012	301,637
1810		1920	90,612	2013	302,908
1820		1930	109,206	2014	304,313
1830	5,696	1940	112,390	2015	305,291
1840	18,467	1950	148,162	2016	306,590
1850	26,086	1960	217,500	2017	307,924
1860	29,744	1970	256,843		
1870	30,308	1980	274,909	Projected	
1880	35,526	1990	271,126	2020	310,230
1890	40,295	2000	284,664	2030	320,430
1900	54,857	2010	301,356	2040	328,190



Population by Age	Number	Percent
ACS Total Population	304,091	100.0%
Under 5 years	17,485	5.7%
5 to 17 years	51,963	17.1%
18 to 24 years	26,764	8.8%
25 to 44 years	71,458	23.5%
45 to 64 years	86,848	28.6%
65 years and more	49,573	16.3%
Median Age	41.2	

ALL DATA ON PAGE IS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO OFFICE ON RESEARCH (2010 DATA)

Geography	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)								Change April 1, 2010 (Estimates Base) to July 1, 2017		Change July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017	
	Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Cuyahoga County	1,280,122	1,280,109	1,278,200	1,270,461	1,266,210	1,264,622	1,262,459	1,257,957	1,253,454	1,248,514	-31,595	-2.5%	-4,940	-0.4%
Geauga County	93,389	93,410	93,396	93,292	93,776	93,840	93,976	93,895	93,848	93,918	508	0.5%	70	0.1%
Lake County	230,041	230,050	229,991	229,934	229,485	229,885	229,662	229,571	229,270	230,117	67	0.0%	847	0.4%
Lorain County	301,356	301,369	301,461	301,816	301,637	302,908	304,313	305,291	306,590	307,924	6,555	2.2%	1,334	0.4%
Medina County	172,332	172,333	172,509	173,488	173,603	174,589	175,817	176,128	176,903	178,371	6,038	3.5%	1,468	0.8%
Portage County	161,419	161,421	161,389	161,859	161,350	161,484	162,216	162,260	162,162	162,277	856	0.5%	115	0.1%
Summit County	541,781	541,782	541,648	541,293	540,716	541,601	542,095	541,270	540,394	541,228	-554	-0.1%	834	0.2%

POPULATIONS ESTIMATES DATA - CUYAHOGA COUNTY PLANNING

To better assess demand for transportation services in Lorain County, population characteristics must be examined. Lorain County currently has an estimated population of 307,924, which is an increase of 6,000 since the 2010 census. In fact, the Lorain County population is expected to increase by nearly 1,000 people per year through the year 2030. The Cuyahoga County Planning Commissions shows that Lorain County is one of two counties out of seven that is growing at 2.2% each year since 2010, which is a pace faster than that of the State of Ohio.

Chart 2: Total Population by Age Group

The average age of a person living in Lorain is 41 with a majority (28.6%) falling in the 45 to 64-year-old category estimated to be about 86,848 individuals. Residents 65 years and older are estimated to total 49,573 which represents approximately 16.3% of total County residents.

Population by Age	Number	Percent
ACS Total Population	304,091	100.0%
Under 5 years	17,485	5.7%
5 to 17 years	51,963	17.1%
18 to 24 years	26,764	8.8%
25 to 44 years	71,458	23.5%
45 to 64 years	86,848	28.6%
65 years and more	49,573	16.3%
Median Age	41.2	

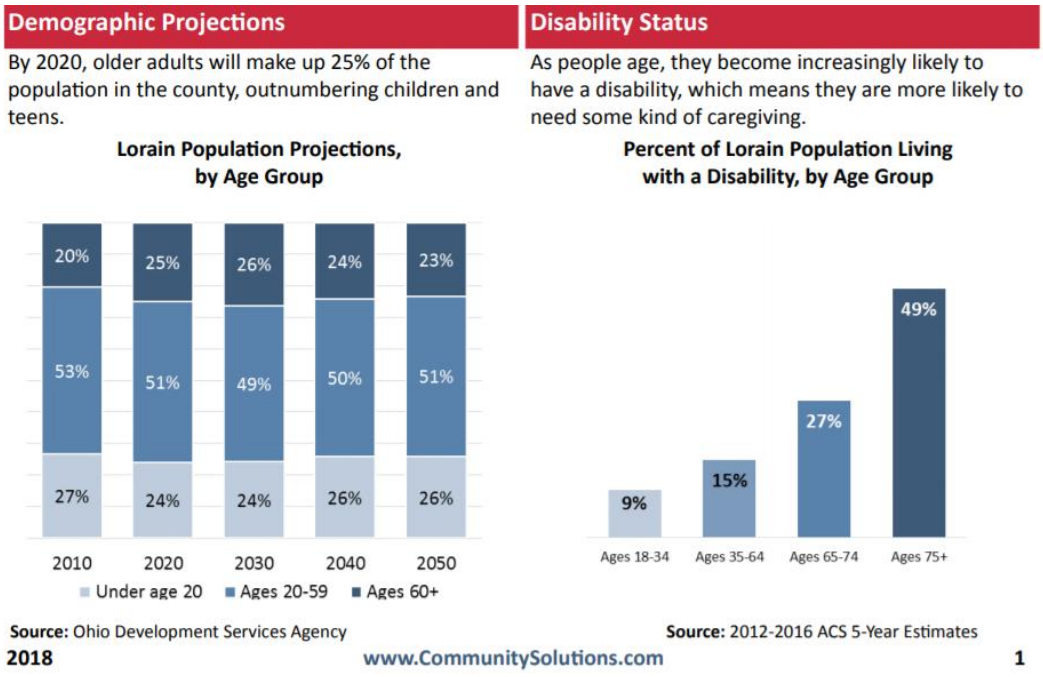
Chart 3: Total Population by Race

Lorain County is 85.4% white, 8.5% African-American, and 9.3% Hispanic with the remaining defined as stated below:

Population by Race	Number	Percent
ACS Total Population	304,091	100.0%
White	259,775	85.4%
African-American	25,839	8.5%
Native American	803	0.3%
Asian	2,951	1.0%
Pacific Islander	134	0.0%
Other	3,915	1.3%
Two or More Races	10,674	3.5%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	28,288	9.3%
Total Minority	63,252	20.8%

DATA IS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO OFFICE ON RESEARCH (2010 DATA)

Chart 4: Number and percentage of people with disabilities



Of the 307,924 population in Lorain County, 45,940 or 15.4% of individuals identify having a disability. A majority of those individuals are 65 and older. The most common identified disability is ambulatory difficulty.

Subject	Lorain County, Ohio					
	Total		With a disability		Percent with a disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
SEX						
Male	144,581	+/-661	21,523	+/-742	14.9%	+/-0.5
Female	152,925	+/-270	24,417	+/-933	16.0%	+/-0.6
AGE						
Under 5 years	17,485	+/-7	153	+/-75	0.9%	+/-0.4
5 to 17 years	51,916	+/-68	4,893	+/-570	9.4%	+/-1.1
18 to 34 years	58,323	+/-334	5,335	+/-503	9.1%	+/-0.9
35 to 64 years	122,085	+/-409	18,474	+/-830	15.1%	+/-0.7
65 to 74 years	27,735	+/-159	7,396	+/-416	26.7%	+/-1.5
75 years and over	19,962	+/-281	9,689	+/-497	48.5%	+/-2.3
DISABILITY TYPE BY DETAILED AGE						
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	13,286	+/-667	4.5%	+/-0.2
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	8,638	+/-711	2.9%	+/-0.2
With a cognitive difficulty	(X)	(X)	17,420	+/-858	6.2%	+/-0.3
With an ambulatory difficulty	(X)	(X)	22,820	+/-949	8.1%	+/-0.3
With a self-care difficulty	(X)	(X)	8,126	+/-657	2.9%	+/-0.2
With an independent living difficulty	(X)	(X)	14,649	+/-769	6.4%	+/-0.3

The 2015 ODOT Transit Needs Study indicated that it was impossible to conclude with any certainty the historical trend of people with disabilities. According to the projections above, the market for transit in

Lorain County is primarily those identified as having some form of a disability. For example, the current dial-a-ride service is used by individuals for transportation to dialysis appointments. Throughout Lorain County, 995 individuals have standing appointment for dialysis transportation.

Chart 5: Number and percentage of households with incomes below the federal poverty level

Chart 5 demonstrates that females with no husband but with children make up the majority of households with incomes below the federal poverty level.

Poverty Status of Families By Family Type by Presence Of Related Children	Number	Percent
Total Families	79,657	100.0%
Family income above poverty level	71,412	89.6%
Family income below poverty level	8,245	10.4%
Married couple, with related children	1,358	1.7%
Male householder, no wife present, with related children	558	0.7%
Female householder, no husband present, with related children	4,895	6.1%
Families with no related children	1,434	1.8%

Chart 6: Number and percentage of individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level

Ratio of Income To Poverty Level	Number	Percent
Population for whom poverty status is determined	294,509	100.0%
Below 50% of poverty level	18,516	6.3%
50% to 99% of poverty level	22,640	7.7%
100% to 124% of poverty level	12,731	4.3%
125% to 149% of poverty level	12,573	4.3%
150% to 184% of poverty level	16,155	5.5%
185% to 199% of poverty level	6,160	2.1%
200% of poverty level or more	205,734	69.9%

DATA IS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO OFFICE ON RESEARCH (2010 DATA)

INFORMATION ABOVE IS FROM LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Chart 7: Percent of population that speak English "Less than very well"

English is spoken by a majority of residents in Lorain County with slightly over 5% of the population speaking English less than "very well".

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME			
Population 5 years and over	286,606	+/-7	286,606
English only	264,297	+/-840	92.2%
Language other than English	22,309	+/-841	7.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	7,554	+/-585	2.6%
Spanish	14,288	+/-789	5.0%
Speak English less than "very well"	4,845	+/-552	1.7%
Other Indo-European languages	4,660	+/-617	1.6%
Speak English less than "very well"	1,214	+/-308	0.4%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	1,905	+/-327	0.7%
Speak English less than "very well"	1,035	+/-238	0.4%
Other languages	1,456	+/-337	0.5%
Speak English less than "very well"	460	+/-192	0.2%

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III. Assessment of Available Services

Conducting an evaluation of service provider capabilities and analyzing the existing gaps and duplications of services for transportation resources in each community provides transportation planners with the information needed to implement changes that will improve the network of transportation resources and services in Lorain County and across county lines.

The lead agency identified stakeholders to participate in the assessment of available services. These stakeholders included those who were represented in the current or past planning committees, as well as others who the planning committee identified as being appropriate stakeholders.

Interviews were conducted with each of the identified stakeholders.

The purpose of the interview was to offer the stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the specific transportation services, gaps, needs, and priorities for their respective service areas or communities.

When applicable, information reported in the previous coordinated plan was used to supplement information gathered during this planning effort.

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Existing Transportation Services

The following information is based on tabulations from the survey and interview results. A total of 15 organizations provided information about their services. There are more transportation providers in Lorain County and we will continue to update this list of service providers over the next 5 years.

List of Transportation Service Providers

Agency Name: The AbbeWood
Transportation Service Type: Agency Staff Using Agency owned Vehicles
Other Services Provided: Health care, Residential facilities
Contact Information: (440) 366-8980
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Service Area: Lorain County
Eligibility Requirements: Elderly Residents
Web-site: www.centurypa.com

Agency Name: El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc.
Transportation Service Type: Agency Staff Using Agency owned Vehicles
Other Services Provided: Transportation, Nutrition, ESC, Health Management Classes, Food Pantry, Interpretation Services, Youth Development, Representative Payee
Contact Information: 440-277-8235
Hours: Mon – Thur 8:30 am – 5 pm; Friday 8:30 am – 3 pm
Service Area: Lorain County and Cleveland
Eligibility Requirements: Low-Income and Senior Latino Community
Web-site: www.lorainelcentro.com

Agency Name: Flat Rock Homes, Inc.
Transportation Service Type: demand responsive to individuals enrolled in programs/services
Other Services Provided: Flat Rock Homes, Flat Rock Care Center and Flat Rock Community Services provides services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our programs include a 34-bed intermediate care facility (Seneca County); supportive living homes (Seneca, Erie and Lorain Counties); non-medical transportation (Seneca, Sandusky and Huron Counties); Adult Day Program (Seneca and Sandusky Counties); Vocational Training and Employment Services Programs (Seneca, Sandusky, Lorain and expanding).
Contact Information: 419.483.7330 ext. 1104 or 1420; visit
Office hours: 8:00-4:30 Monday - Friday
Service Area: Any destination required by individuals enrolled in programs/services for medical, school, employment, social events and activities. Past trips have included many out-of-county destinations as far as Cleveland, Toledo and/or Mansfield.
Eligibility Requirements: Individuals enrolled in Flat Rock's programs/services.
Website: www.flatrockhomes.org

Agency Name: Kendal at Oberlin
Transportation Service Type: Agency Staff using Agency Owned Vehicles
Other Services Provided: Transportation, Healthcare, Nutrition, Rehabilitation, Recreation/Social, Residential Facilities
Contact Information: (440) 775-9832
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Service Area: Lorain County
Eligibility Requirements: Elderly
Web-site: www.kao.kendal.org

Transportation Service Type: The LCADA Way
Other Services Provided: Mental Health Counseling, Transportation, Residential Facilities, Rehabilitation, Information/Referral, Health Care
Contact Information: (440) 989-4900
Hours: Mon – Fri 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Service Area: Lorain County and Surrounding Areas
Eligibility Requirements: Disabled
Web-site: www.thelcadaway.org

Agency Name: Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Transportation Service Type: Agency Staff Using Agency Owned Vehicles, Contracted Services
Other Services Provided: Transportation, Adult Daycare, Job Training, Job Placement, Residential Facilities, Recreation/Social
Contact Information: (440) 284-2751
Hours: Not applicable – Operates 12 hours a day and 4 hours on Saturdays
Service Area: Lorain County, Surrounding Areas
Eligibility Requirements: Disabled (physical, mental, visual, or other disability)
Web-site: www.murrayridgecenter.org

Agency Name: Lorain County Office on Aging
Transportation Service Type: Personal Vehicles or Agency Staff, Volunteers, Information about and referral to other community resources
Other Services Provided: Transportation, Nutrition, Information/Referral, Homemaker, Chore, Home Delivered Meals, Congregate Meals, Social Work Support Services, Volunteer Placement Program, Food Pantry, Senior Food Box, Benefits Assistance, Kinship Program
Contact Information: (440) 326-4800
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.**m.**
Service Area: Lorain County
Eligibility Requirements: Elderly, Low-income, Disabled
Web-site: www.lcooa.org

Agency Name: Lorain County Office of Veteran Affairs
Transportation Service Type: Agency Staff, Volunteers, Pre-Purchased tickets, vouchers, passes for other modes of transit
Other Services Provided: Medical Appointments, Mental Health Services, V.A. Benefits, Income Assistance, Information/Referral
Contact Information: (440) 284-4623
Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am – 4:30 pm; Saturday (Contracted Services) 7 am – 7 pm
Service Area: Lorain County and into Cuyahoga County
Eligibility Requirements: Veteran or Veteran Widow
Web-site: www.loraincountyveterans.com

Agency Name: Lucy Idol Center Inc.
Transportation Service Type: Agency Staff using Agency owned Vehicles
Other Services Provided: Transportation, Recreation/Social, Developmental & Mental Health Services
Contact Information: (440) 967-6724
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Sat as needed
Service Area: Lorain County and surrounding areas
Eligibility Requirements: Disabled
Web-site: www.lucyidolcenter.org

Agency Name: New Sunrise Properties
Transportation Service Type: Information about and referral to other community resources
Other Services Provided: Residential Facilities
Contact Information: (440)365-9600 x29
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Service Area: Lorain County
Eligibility Requirements: Not Applicable
Web-site: www.newsunriseproperties.org

Agency Name: Oberlin College
Transportation Service Type: Private Vendors
Other Services Provided: Transportation, Healthcare
Contact Information: (440) 775-6200
Hours: Not applicable
Service Area: Oberlin College Campus
Eligibility Requirements: Oberlin College Students
Web-site: www.oberlin.edu

Agency Name: Stocker Arts Center Lorain County Community College
Transportation Service Type: None
Other Services Provided: Arts and Entertainment
Contact Information: (440) 366- 7105
Hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Service Area: Not Applicable
Eligibility Requirements: Not Applicable
Web-site: www.lorainccc.edu/stockerartscenter

Agency Name: Student Life Lorain County Community College
Transportation Service Type: Rideshare Program, Personal Vehicles or Agency Staff, Agency Staff Using Agency Owned Vehicles
Other Services Provided: Job Training, Childcare, Education, Transportation
Contact Information: (440) 366-7648
Hours: Mon-Thu 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Service Area: Lorain County
Eligibility Requirements: Low-Income, Disabled, Student
Web-site: www.lorainccc.edu

Agency Name: United Way of Greater Lorain County
Transportation Service Type: Information Referral (211)
Other Services Provided: Income Assistance, Organizes Community Collaborations, reimbursement of mileage
Contact Information: 440-277-6530
Hours: N/A
Service Area: Greater Lorain County
Eligibility Requirements: Low-Income (income below 200% of poverty rate)
Web-site: www.uwloraincounty.org

Agency Name: Wesleyan Village
Transportation Service Type: Transportation, Health Care, Nutrition, Income Assistance, Residential Facilities, Recreation/Social, Information/Referral, Rehabilitation
Other Services Provided: Transportation works with Residents, staff and physician offices to schedule appts. and transport Residents to appointments
Contact Information: (440) 284-9258
Hours: Mon – Fri 7 am – 5 pm; Sunday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Service Area: Lorain County and into Cuyahoga County
Eligibility Requirements: Elderly (age 65 and older), Low-income (income below 150 percent), Disabled (physical, mental, visual, or other disability)
Web-site: www.villageliving.org

Agency Name: YWCA Elyria
Transportation Service Type: Personal Vehicles or Agency Staff, Agency Staff Using Agency Owned Vehicles, Volunteers
Other Services Provided: Transportation, Childcare, Job Training, Residential Facilities, Recreation/Social, Information/Referral, Mental Health Counseling, and Nutrition
Contact Information: (440) 322-6300
Hours: Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Fri 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Service Area: Lorain County
Eligibility Requirements: Low Income and Disabled Demographics
Web-site: www.ywcaelyria.org

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The table below provides a summary of the characteristics of the participating transportation providers and organizations that purchase transportation on behalf of consumers.

Table [1]: Organizational Characteristics

Agency Name	Directly Operates Transportation (Yes/No)	Purchases Transportation from Another Agency (if Yes, Who?)	Legal Authority (Private Non-Profit, Private For-Profit, Public Non-Profit,)	Number of Annual One-Way Passenger Trips	Average Number Trip Denials per Week	Are Vehicles Only Available for Human Service Agency Clients (Y/N)*
The AbbeWood	Yes	Home Instead, First Light Home Care	Non-profit	135	N/A	Yes
City of Avon	Yes	None	Non-profit	1000	N/A	Yes
El Centro	Yes	None	Non-profit	4,000	N/A	Yes
Flat Rock	Yes	No	Non-profit	45,727	0	Yes
Kendal at Oberlin	Yes	None	Non-profit	5,000	N/A	Yes
The LCADA Way	Yes	None	Non-profit	26,667	N/A	Yes
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities	Yes	Yes, N/A	Non-Profit	600	N/A	Yes
Lorain County Office on Aging	Yes	None	Non-profit	5,800	N/A	Yes
Lorain County Veterans Services	Yes	Yes	Non-Profit	Over 3,000	N/A	Yes
Lucy Idol Center	Yes	None	Non-profit	100	N/A	Yes
New Sunrise Properties	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oberlin College	Yes	Yes, N/A	Non-Profit	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stocker Arts Center/Lorain County	No	None	Non-profit	N/A	N/A	N/A

Community College						
Student Life Lorain County Community College	Yes	None	Non-profit	8,000	N/A	Yes
United Way of Greater Lorain County	No	No	Non-profit	5,000	N/A	N/A
Wesleyan Village	Yes	Yes - Safe & Reliable taxi cab service, Access To Care and Lifecare Ambulance transport service	Non-Profit	2,000	N/A	Yes
YWCA Elyria	Yes	None	Non-profit	1,000	N/A	Yes

* Answering “Yes” indicates that your agency is closed door. Your agency is considered closed door if you ONLY provide transportation to your facility as a courtesy or if you ONLY serve a particular clientele that are enrolled in your agency programs (i.e. members of a sheltered workshop, or residents in a nursing home). Answering “No” indicates that your agency is open door. This means the service is open to the public or a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low income. For example, if an agency provides general transportation for anyone in the community who is over the age of 60, they are considered “open door”. For example, an individual who is 60 or over can request transportation to a doctor’s appointment or the grocery store regardless of their affiliation with your agency.

The participating organizations provide a wide range of transportation including fixed route, ADA Paratransit, Demand Response, On-Demand, and Human Service Agency routes. Nine of the participating organizations provide services on weekdays. Two operate transportation on Saturdays and one on Sundays. Evening services after 5 pm are operated by one of the organizations. The following table depicts the transportation service characteristics by agency.

Table [2]: Transportation Service Characteristics

Agency Name	Mode of Service	Days & Hours of Operation	Provides Medicaid-Eligible Trips (Y/N)	Level of Passenger Assistance Provided	Training Courses Required for Drivers
The AbbeWood	Cars, Busses	Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 3 pm	No	Wheelchair, Curb to Curb Service, Door to Door service	Yes
City of Avon	Cars, Converted Van, Busses, Four-wheel drive vehicles	Mon – Fri 8 am – 3 pm	No	Wheelchair, Personal Care Attendants, Curb to Curb Service	No
El Centro de Servicos Sociales	Cars, Vans	Mon – Thur 8:30 am – 5 pm Fri 8:30 am – 3 pm	No	Wheelchair, Curb to Curb Service, Personal Care Attendants	Yes
Flat Rock	Transport individuals served by Flat Rock's facilities programs and services	24/7/365	Yes, some are through the Medicaid ICF reimbursement and others are billed through the waiver program	On demand	**Training for All Drivers:** "Drive Smart: Cars, Vans and Lifts" video training shown at orientation. **Additional Training for DOT-certified Drivers:** How to Do a Pre-Trip Inspection; and Introduction to Buses and Bus Equipment (i.e. Lift). These drivers must

					also pass a DOT physical and a road test.
Kendal at Oberlin	Cars, Minivans, Busses, Converted Vans, Four-wheel vehicles	Mon-Fri 8 am - 5 pm	Yes	Wheelchair, Personal Care Attendants, Curb to Curb service, Door to Door service, Through the Door Service	Yes
The LCADA Way	Minivans, Converted Vans (wheelchair lift, raised roof, etc.)	Mon – Fri 8 am – 9 pm	No	Wheelchair, transport from Home to Treatment, Court, LCCS, Medical and/or Mental Health	Yes
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities	Cars, Standard Passenger Vans, Converted Vans	N/A	Yes	Wheelchair, Personal Care Attendants, Curb to Curb Service, Door to Door service	Yes
Lorain County Veterans Services	Vans, Busses	Mon – Fri 7 am – 4:30 pm Contractor provides services Saturdays 7 am - 7 pm	No	Curb to Curb Service, Door to Door Service	No
Lorain County Office of Aging	Employee Owned Vehicles	Mon-Fri 8 am- 4 pm	No	Personal Care Attendant, Curb to Curb Service, Door to Door Service	Yes
Lucy Idol Center	Converted Vans, Transit Bus	Mon-Fri 7 am-5 pm, Sat As Needed	Yes	Wheelchair, Door to Door Service	Yes
Oberlin College	Standard Passenger Vans	N/A	No	N/A	No
New Sunrise Properties	Transportation Referral Services	N/A	N/A	Information about and referral to other community	N/A

Student Life Lorain County Community College	Agency Staff if Agency owned vehicles, Personal Vehicles or Agency Staff	Mon-Thu 8:30 am – 6 p.m., Fri 8:30 am -4:30 pm	No	N/A	No
United Way of Greater Lorain County	Transportation Referral Service (211)	Available 24 hours via website and app	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wesleyan Village	Cars, Minivans, Busses, Standard Passenger Vans, Four-wheel vehicles, Converted Vans (wheelchair lift, raised roof, etc.)	Mon – Fri 7 am – 5 pm Sunday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Yes	Wheelchair, Personal Care Attendant, Door to Door Service	Yes
YMCA Elyria	Cars, Standard Passenger Vans	N/A	No	Car seats, Curb to Curb service	N/A

Transportation-related expenses and revenues also differ by organization. Local funding is a common revenue sources for transportation operators in Lorain County. The table below provides a summary of expenses and revenues for public and non-profit transportation programs.

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Table 3: Transportation-Related Expenses and Revenues*

Agency Name	Fare Structure	Donations Accepted (Y/N)	Number of Full-Time & Part-Time Drivers	Number of Full-Time & Part-Time Schedulers/ Dispatchers	Revenue Sources (most recent Fiscal Year)	Total Annual Transportation Expenses
Flat Rock Homes	N/A	Y, Funds are raised by the agency to fund all agency needs beyond Medicaid funding	**# of Full-Time Drivers:**73, includes staff who drive as a part of their overall duties **# of Part-Time Drivers:**114, includes staff who drive as a part of their overall duties **# of Drivers in Dedicated Driving Position (DOT-certified):** 11 (included in #s above)	0	Medicaid, Donations, Program/Services Revenue, Tiffin City Schools (for 1 student)	$243,716.95

The following table provides basic information about transportation options other than the traditional public and human services transportation. Transportation options might include bike share, ride share, intercity, or taxi services, and more.

Table 4: Alternative/ Active Transportation Options*

Transportation Option	Availability	Cost	Usage	Service Area
None Submitted				

The following table provides basic information about local travel training program options.

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Table 5: Transportation Resources*

Transportation Resource	Availability	Cost	Usage	Service Area
North Point ESC (for Flat Rock Homes)	School Days	Free	School transportation for up to 3 students	Seneca County to Erie County/Perkins Township

The following table illustrates the technology used by each transportation provider for scheduling, dispatching, and/or GPS tracking vehicles.

*Do to an oversight, this information was not requested on the Organizational Asset form. However, we will request this information of all the organization that submitted information upon request.

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Table 6: Technology

Agency Name	Name of Scheduling Software	Do you have an App for Transportation (Y/N)?	Name of Dispatching Software	AVL System/ GPS (Y/N)
El Centro de Servicos Sociales	SAMS Database	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kendal at Oberlin	Paraplan	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities	Paraplan	N/A	Engraph	N/A
Lorain County Office of Aging	SAMS Database	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lorain County Office of Veteran Affairs	Access	N/A	Access	N/A
United Way of Greater Lorain County	N/A	211 Lorain	N/A	N/A

Assessment of Community Support for Transit

The Lorain County Transit (LCT) is a public transportation system which is managed by the Lorain County Commissioners. The Commissioners took over the Lorain County Transit Board in March 2004. Unlike many public transit systems, LCT has no dedicated stream of tax revenue, and therefore must be funded out of the county's general fund, which is used as a local match for state and federal funding.

In 2005, LCT provided over 855,000 rides. Today there are only two intracity bus routes each operating mainly in Lorain and Elyria. In addition, the City of Oberlin contracts services with the Lorain County Commissioners for an on-demand route for 2 days a week. The Transportation Center in downtown Elyria serves as a hub for Greyhound bus and Lorain County Transit. Other transit options include taxi services, Lorain County Regional Airport, Lorain County Port Authority, and Gohio Commute which is a program of NOACA. Amtrak has a stop in Elyria as well. A project is planned to relocated Elyria's Amtrak station to the Transportation Center in downtown Elyria.

Table 2. Lorain County Transit Ridership: 2003-2012

	Fixed Route	Dial-A-Ride	Total
2003	642,532	63,326	705,858
2004	746,625	65,946	812,571
2005	796,475	59,212	855,687
2006	791,717	57,305	849,022
2007	674,187	47,616	721,803
2008	666,020	46,198	712,218
2009	556,827	33,354	590,181
2010	98,912	8,324	107,236
2011	79,225	9,697	88,922
2012	67,193	6,977	74,170

INFORMATION ABOVE IS FROM THE 2013 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PUBLIC TRANSIT STUDY

As a result of the economic downturn of 2008 and lack of a dedicated revenue stream to support public transit, the Lorain County Commissioners placed a .5% sales tax increase on the November 2009 ballot. It was not approved by the Lorain County voters. As a result, the Lorain County Commissioners could not provide the $500,000 out of pocket to support the system and reduced the 14 public transit routes to 4 routes between 2009-2010.

Historically, the small towns and rural communities have opposed passing taxes to support public transit. Even if any of the public transit tax levies were approved, there may not be

enough funding for transit service coverage in the rural communities. A proposed tax levy for public transportation was rejected again in 2013 by 59% of voters, reflecting the continued lack of support from taxpayers.

When Lorain County Transit (LCT) was operating at full capacity, about 1,000 of the then 11,000 students at Lorain County Community College used public transit. With the cut back on LCT and the once every two hour stops, it became a challenge for LCCC students to get to classes. According to the Oberlin Research Group study, this decrease has resulted in what Elyria Mayor Brinda calls a "connectivity issue" for people who cannot access the college. "We get a lot of phone calls in my office from residents... many of whom are young mothers with small children, who," she says, "can't figure out a way to get there."

As noted previously, people in Lorain county commute to work, usually driving alone. Those without a personal vehicle depend on a reliable friend or family to assist them. There are 28% of Lorain County residents traveling across the County corporation limits to work in the Cleveland area. Cleveland has a transit system but it is not connected to LCT nor does it operate in Lorain County.

The League of Women Voters completed a study in 2013 in which surveyed 223 individuals regarding usage of public transportation. Of the total responses, 84-87% either strongly agreed or agreed that LCT needed improvements or expansion. 49.7% agreed that transit service was needed to Cleveland airport or RTA. And 76.9% of all respondents believed that a sales tax should support the improvement and expansion of transit services in Lorain County.

Table 4. Responses Regarding Usage of Public Transportation

Reasons why public transportation is not used.		**Reasons why public transportation is used.**	
Answer Choices	**Responses**	**Answer Choices**	**Responses**
Not available	56.0%	Work	42.0%
Inconvenient	30%	School or post-secondary ed.	27.7%
Inefficient	16%	Shopping	39.3%
Does not go to places I want to go.	44.7%	Travel	26.8%
Confusing schedules	19.3%	Entertainment/family/social	39.3%
Am not familiar with it.	26.7%	Medical appointments	33.9%
Total Responses	150	Total Responses	112

INFORMATION ABOVE IS FROM THE 2013 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PUBLIC TRANSIT STUDY

In this same study, the League of Women Voters found that 54,800 people in Lorain County need public transportation. The study also indicated that 42% of respondents use public transit

for work and 33.9% for medical appointments. Getting to medical appointments is a challenge especially for seniors, people with disabilities and low-income individuals. Mercy Hospitals is spending over $30,000 annually for taxi vouchers to assist patients with access to care. Mercy Hospitals is only one of three major hospital systems in Lorain County, the others being Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals. On May 6, 2014 there was a property tax levy on the ballot to generate $402,804 annually to support a public transit system. The issue was defeated with 42% approval and 58% opposed.

In 2015, Barb Barna of the League of Women Voters; The Public Services Institute of Lorain County Community College; former Commissioner Betty Blair; Commissioner Matt Lundy; and Sharon Pearson, formerly of the Oberlin Project, organized the Lorain County Public Transit Forum at Lorain County Community College on February 4, 2015. This pinnacle event inspired a small group of thought leaders to begin meeting monthly to discuss the lack of available transportation options in Lorain County.

This group eventually decided to name itself Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy (MOVE) Lorain County. In 2016, MOVE became a formal organization and obtained the 501c4 non-profit status. This group believed that expanding the LCT and gaining support from tax payers for a sales tax for public transit was a priority. With funds donated from local businesses and organizations, MOVE hired a Public Opinion Researcher to determine whether voters would support a quarter of a percent sales tax for the November 2016 ballot.

The polling results indicated with enough education on the economic benefits of a public transit system, regardless of whether the voter used the services or not, a slight majority of people would support a dedicated sales tax. (A quarter percent sales tax was the lowest amount that could be dedicated at that time. The State of Ohio has reduced the amount that can be dedicated to 1/10th of a percent.) However, the County Commissioners were not in a position to dedicate the entire sales tax to public transit as there were other priorities, were not able to agree to a fully dedicated quarter of a percent sales tax. The November 2016 sales tax initiative failed 32% in favor and 68% opposed.

A countywide transit system is still is still needed. Lorain County is the 4th largest County in Ohio by total area and the 9th most populated county according to the 2010 Census. Approximately one-fourth of Lorain County land is urbanized with a major rural area in the southern portion of the county. The population density is different moving south (mostly rural) to north (urban) across the County, which also correlates with political support of public transit.

The need for alternative methods of transportation (other than driving alone) was confirmed at the 2018 Lorain County Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit. Over 200 industry leaders, managers and executives attended this event. When asked if alternative methods of transportation are needed to assist their workforce, an overwhelming 86% of the audience agreed.

Lorain County's rural population continues to grow older and our poverty level is on the rise as well. On average since 2010, the County population has been increasing by nearly 1,000 people per year and will stay on this course through 2030, according to the State of Ohio Office on Research (see page 9). Lorain County residents need transportation to work, school, shopping and healthcare and this demand is insufficiently met at the present time. To gather support for these needs, there must be leadership to break down the barriers and begin to be innovatively think outside the box to create a transportation system that will work for all.

Safety

In 2014, the League of Women Voters Oberlin Area finalized their position regarding public transportation in Lorain county. One of the issues involving transportation was safety. This study indicated a safe method of travel is the use of public transit.

Public Transportation riders in Cleveland did not cite safety as an issue. However, survey respondents in Lorain County raised some concerns. Of those that responded, 28.3% of survey responders did not believe safety was an issue on transit. However, 29.9% disagreed that "safety is of no concern." These responses suggest that safety must be of utmost importance when it comes to improvement and expansion of the Lorain County Transit System.

Vehicles

Survey/interview participants listed a combined total of [12] vehicles. Approximately [75%] of the vehicles are wheelchair accessible. A vehicle utilization table is provided at the end of this chapter (Table 6).

All of the transportation providers provide at least wheelchair accessible vehicles, while some organizations have an entire fleet of wheelchair accessible vehicles. Wheelchair assistance does not appear to be as much of an issue as helping people get from their home into the transportation vehicle. Many organizations are no longer offering hand holding services due to liability issues. As vehicles age, they require additional maintenance, may break down more often, and become costlier to operate. Vehicle replacement, based on age and condition, is vital to the overall cost effectiveness of the transportation services provided.

Table [1]: Vehicle Utilization Table

Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
Abbewood Independent and Assisted Living											
1		Bus				Yes			Good		Lorain County, Surrounding Hospitals
1		Town Car							Fair		Lorain County, Surrounding Hospitals
City of Avon											
1	Chevy	Impala	2009		5		Mon – Fri	8 am – 3 pm	Fair		12 Mile radius of Avon & Downtown Cleveland
1	Ford	E-250	2013		6	Yes	Mon – Fri	8am – 3 pm	Good		12 Mile radius of Avon & Downtown Cleveland
1	Ford	Transit	2017		15		Mon – Fri	8am – 3 pm	Excellent		12 Mile radius of Avon & Downtown Cleveland
1	Chevy	Trax	2017		4		Mon – Fri	8am – 3 pm	Excellent		12 Mile radius of Avon & Downtown Cleveland

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Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
1	Chevy	Impala	2017		5		Mon – Fri	8 am – 3 pm	Excellent		12 Mile radius of Avon & Downtown Cleveland
El Centro de Servicios Sociales											
1	Ford	Van	2006		15	N/A	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5 pm; Fri 8:30 am – 3 pm	Poor	Community	Lorain & Cuyahoga County
1	Miles	Car	2007		5	N/A	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5 pm; Fri 8:30 am – 3 pm	Good	Community	Lorain & Cuyahoga County
1	Kia	Car	2014		5	N/A	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5 pm; Fri 8:30 am – 3 pm	Excellent	Community	Lorain & Cuyahoga County
1	Kia	Car	2014		5	N/A	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5 pm; Fri 8:30 am – 3 pm	Excellent	Community	Lorain & Cuyahoga County
Flat Rock											
1	Ford	Transit Van	2018		12	Yes	Mon-Sun	8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Excellent	Community	Lorain
1	Dodge	Ram 2500 S	2012		2	No	Mon-Fri		Good	Care Center	Seneca
1	Ford	Fusion SE	2009		5	No	Mon- Sun	8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.	Good	Care Center	
1	Dodge	Grand Caravan 4X2	2013		7	0	Mon-Sun	8:00am-7:00pm	Good	Care Center	Seneca
1	Ford	E150 4X2	2000		9	0	Mon-Fri	8:30am - 2:30Pm	Good	Community	Seneca
1	Buick	Terraza Extended Sport	2006		7	Seat comes out but no lift or wheelchair positions	Mon-Sun	8:00am-7:00pm	Good	Care Center	Seneca

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Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
1	Ford	E350 4X2 Ext.	2001		10	0	Mon-Fri	7:30am - 3:30pm	Good	Community	Huron
1	Dodge	Grand Caravan 4X2	2013		7	0	Mon-Sun	8:00am-7:00pm	Good	Care Center	Seneca
1	Ford	Ecoline Wagon	2011		10	0	Mon-Fri	7:30am - 3:30pm	Good	Community	Sandusky
1	Ford	Club Wagon 4x2	1998		9	0	5	8:30am - 2:30pm	Good	Care Center	Seneca
1	Ford	E350 Supreme Startrans	2005		10	Lift, 2 Wheelchair Positions	5	8:30am - 2:30pm	Fair	Community	Seneca
1	Chevy	G30 4x2 Express	2002		10	Lift, 2 Wheelchair Positions	7	8:30am - 2:30pm	Fair	Care Center	Seneca
1	Ford	Club Wagon 4X2 Super	1994		9	0	5	8:30am - 2:30pm	Poor	Community	Seneca
1	Chevy	Venture 4X2 Cargo	2004		8	0	7	8:00am-7:00pm	Poor	Care Center	Seneca
1	Chevy	C30 4X2 Fleet side	1988		N/A	N/A	N/A	Out of Service	Out of Service/Not Repairable	Care Center	Seneca
1	Chevy	G350 4X2 Express	2000		N/A	N/A	N/A	Out of Service	Out of Service/Not Repairable	Care Center	Seneca
Kendal at Oberlin											
1	Ford 350	Bus	2013			Yes	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County
1	Toyota Prius	Car	2010			No	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County

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Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
1	MV-1	Modified Van	2014			Yes	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County
1	Ford 450	Bus	2018			Yes	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County
1	Ford 350	Bus	2013			Yes	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County
1	Toyota Prius	Car	2010			No	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County
The LCADA Way											
1	Dodge	Van	2008		10	No	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County, Cuyahoga County
1	Uplander	Van	2008		6	No	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County, Cuyahoga County
1	Ford	Van	2009		12	Yes	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County, Cuyahoga County
1	Ford	Van	2013		12	Yes	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m	Excellent	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County, Cuyahoga County
2	Ford	Van	2015		15	No	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m	Excellent	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County,

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Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
											Cuyahoga County
2	Ford	Bus	2016		15	No	Mon-Fri	8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m	Excellent	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County, Cuyahoga County
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities											
10		Vans			12 each	No	Mon – Saturday	Operate 12 hours a day Mon – Fri & 4 hour on Sat,	N/A	N/A	Lorain County, Cleveland Airport
2		Mini-Vans			7 each	No	Mon – Saturday	Operate 12 hours a day Mon – Fri & 4 hour on Sat,	N/A	N/A	Lorain County, Cleveland Airport
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Cont'd)											
3	Ford Focus	Car			5 each	No	Mon – Saturday	Operate 12 hours a day Mon – Fri & 4 hour on Sat,	N/A	N/A	Lorain County, Cleveland Airport
20		Para Transit			Varies (4 – 12 passengers each)	Yes	Mon – Saturday	Operate 12 hours a day Mon – Fri & 4 hour on Sat,	N/A	N/A	Lorain County, Cleveland Airport

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Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
1		Pickup			2	No	Mon – Saturday	Operate 12 hours a day Mon – Fri & 4 hour on Sat,	N/A	N/A	Lorain County, Cleveland Airport
2		Transit Vans			12 each	No	Mon – Saturday	Operate 12 hours a day Mon – Fri & 4 hour on Sat,	N/A	N/A	Lorain County, Cleveland Airport
Lorain County Office on Veteran Affairs											
2	Dodge	Standard Van	2012		6	Yes	Mon – Sat	7:00 am – 4:30 pm: Contracted Sat 7 am – 7pm			Lorain County, Cuyahoga County
1	Dodge	Van	2014		4	Yes	Mon – Sat	7:00 am – 4:30 pm: Contracted Sat 7 am – 7pm			Lorain County, Cuyahoga County
Lorain County Office on Veteran Affairs (Cont'd)											
1	Ford	Bus	2013		14	No	Mon – Sat	7:00 am – 4:30 pm: Contracted Sat 7 am – 7pm			Lorain County, Cuyahoga County
1	Ford	Transit	2015		8	No	Mon – Sat	7:00 am – 4:30 pm: Contracted Sat 7 am – 7pm			Lorain County, Cuyahoga County

Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
1	Jeep	Vehicle	2017		4	No	Mon – Sat	7:00 am – 4:30 pm: Contracted Sat 7 am – 7pm			Lorain County, Cuyahoga County
Lucy Idols Center											
1	Mercedes	Sprinter	2010			Yes	Mon-Fri, Some Saturdays	7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County
2	Ford	Transit Bus	2011			Yes	Mon-Fri, Some Saturdays	7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County
3	Ford	Transit Bus	2013			Yes	Mon-Fri, Some Saturdays	7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County
4	Ford	Transit Bus	2013			Yes	Mon-Fri, Some Saturdays	7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County
5	Chevy	Transit Bus	2014			Yes	Mon-Fri, Some Saturdays	7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Good	N/A	Lorain County, Erie County
Wesleyan Village											
2	Ford E450	Bus	2005, 2006, 2011			Yes	Mon-Fri, Sundays	7:00 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Poor/Fair/ Good	N/A	Lorain County, Cuyahoga County
1	Ford E350	Converted Van	2013			Raised Roof	Mon-Fri, Sundays	7:00 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Poor/Fair/ Good	N/A	Lorain County, Cuyahoga County

`

Veh #	Make	Model	Year	Vin #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Vehicle is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
1	Dodge	Converted Van	2015			Wheelchair Ramp	Mon-Fri, Sundays	7:00 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Poor/Fair/ Good	N/A	Lorain County, Cuyahoga County

Summary of Existing Resources

Lorain County has a multitude of nonprofit and human service organizations that are providing transportations services. However, obtaining the needed information from local organizations has been a challenge since this is the first time Lorain County is developing a Coordinated Transportation Plan. Education and trust in the process will be developed over time so increased information will be submitted.

We will develop and continually update a database of transportation services over the next 5 years. Establishing an inventory of current services allows an opportunity to identify gaps and unmet needs. With this information, transportation options and pilot projects can be developed to provide efficient services to address gaps and unmet needs.

The current list of resources indicate is (some of the information below is from the 2015 ODOT Transit Needs Study):

- There is a lack of a single location to obtain transportation provider information
- A need to develop a county-wide transportation system that assists individuals with accessing medical facilities, employment, education centers, groceries and social events
- Very limited public transportation options. And of the options available, there is no public transportation service on weekends or after 6:30 pm during the week.
- The lack of an affordable county-wide transportation system
- A lack of services, specifically for the older population, to access specialists that reside in Cuyahoga County at an affordable cost.

IV. Assessment of Transportation Needs and Gaps

In an effort to better understand the Lorain County needs, the planning committee examined research and data, as well as solicited input from the community to understand transportation needs and service gaps.

The demographic and socio-economic conditions of the study area are discussed in the Demographics Chapter of this plan. The following overview is an evaluation of the gaps in service based upon geographic data as well as the perspective of the targeted populations, transportation providers, and the general public.

MOVE Lorain County coordinated a variety of stakeholders in the area in an attempt to solicit input and request participation from any organization that could potentially be impacted by the coordinated transportation planning process. More information on how the lead agency engaged stakeholder and the general public is available upon request.

The following methods were used to assess transportation needs and gaps:

- Assessment of data and demographics
- Released one general public survey to County residents through organizations such as:
    - Green Circle Growers (Employer including Hispanic Population)
    - Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
    - Neighborhood Alliance (which focuses on Low-Income, Seniors, and Homeless)
    - Lorain County Public Health (specifically active transportation component & senior population)
    - Kendal at Oberlin (Independent Living Center)
    - Oberlin Community Services (focus on low-income)
    - Lorain County Urban League (focus on low-income and people of color)
    - Board of Mental Health

- Five Transportation Needs Round Table Sessions held throughout the County:
    - August 1, 2018 – Wellington Campus of Lorain County Community College (Rural area)
    - August 21, 2018 – United Way of Greater Lorain County (City of Lorain)
    - September 6, 2018 – Ohio Business College (City of Sheffield)
    - September 10, 2018 – First Church of Oberlin UCC (Oberlin)
    - September 13, 2018 – Avon Public Library (Avon)

Local Demographic and Socio-Economic Data

Data for each target population group were aggregated by Census Block Group for transportation analysis. The demographic and socio-economic data is valuable because a comparison of where the highest and lowest densities individuals who are most likely to need transportation live. This information can then be compared to the locations of (1) major trip generators, and (2) available transportation services.

The following exhibit 1 illustrates the areas where the number of older adults (age 65 and older) is at or above the Lorain County average.

Exhibit 1: Map of Population Density of Individuals Age 65 and Older

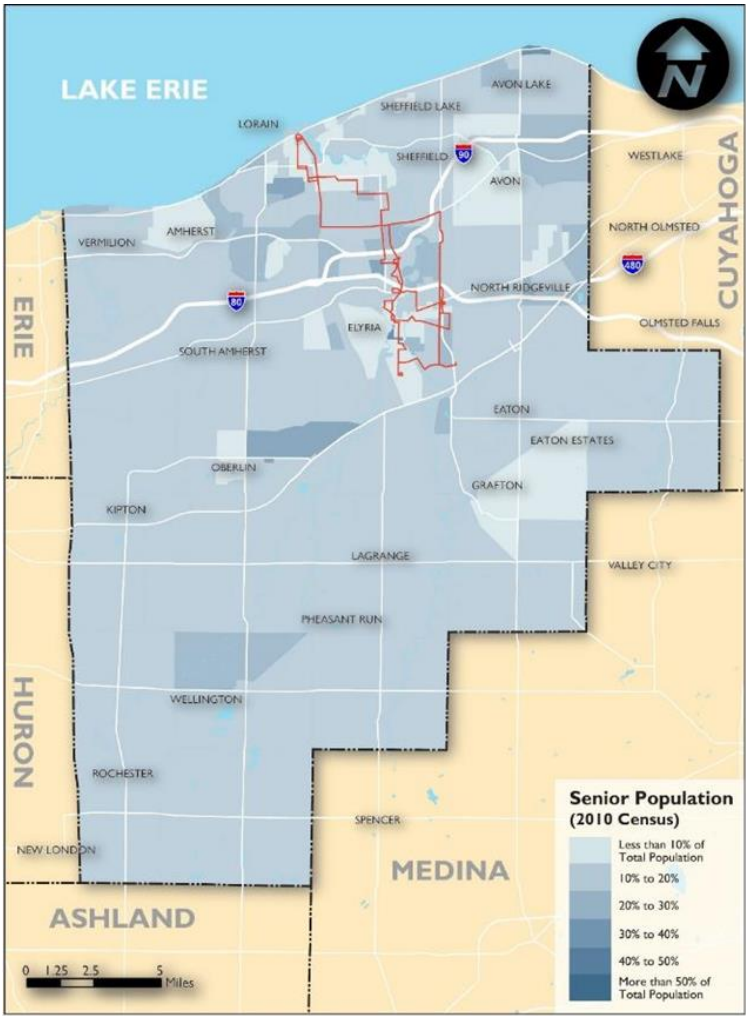
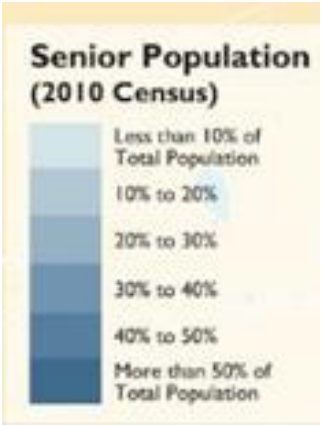
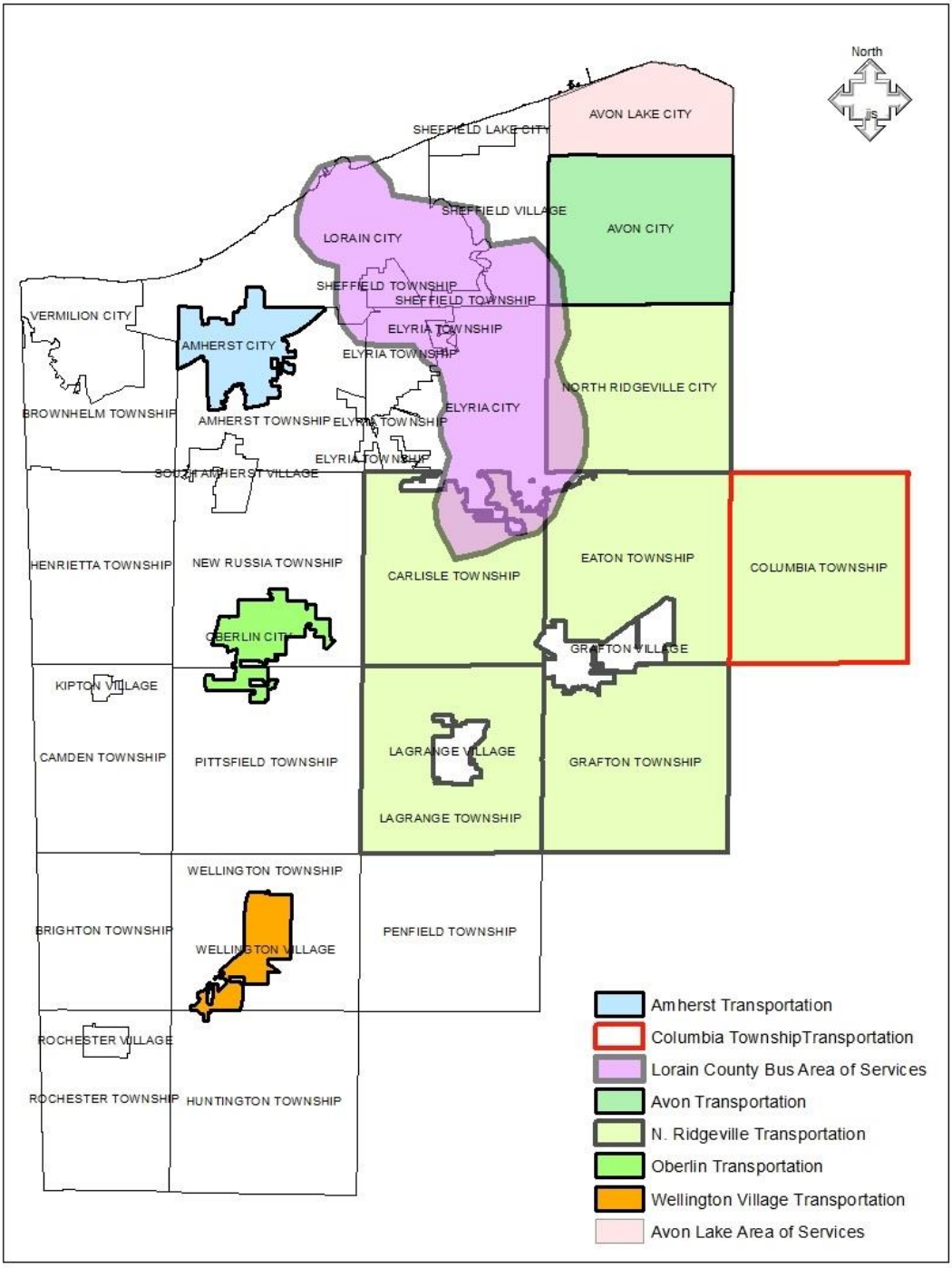


Figure 1: Senior Population



The red line on the map to the left represents the Lorain County Transit service route.

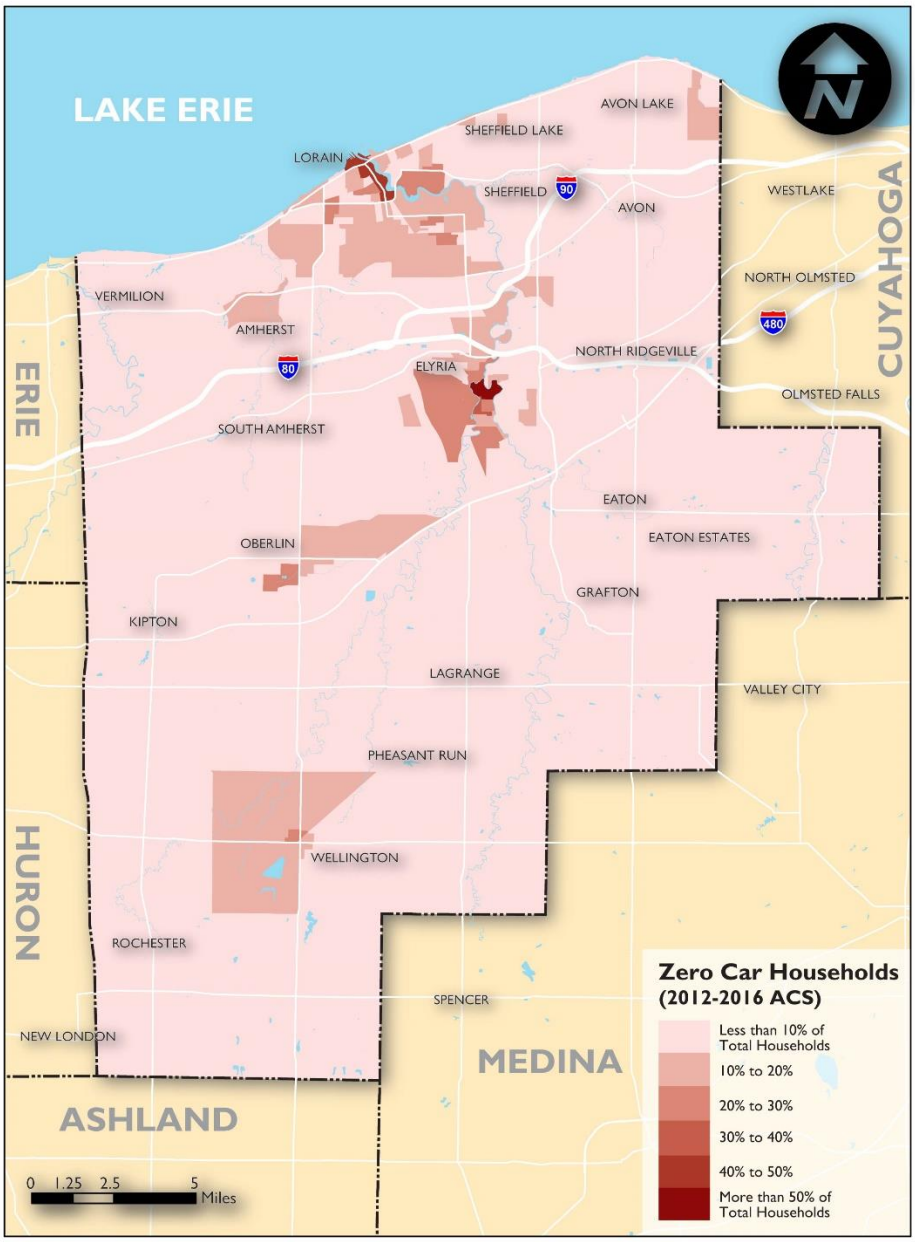
Lorain County Senior Transportation Service Areas

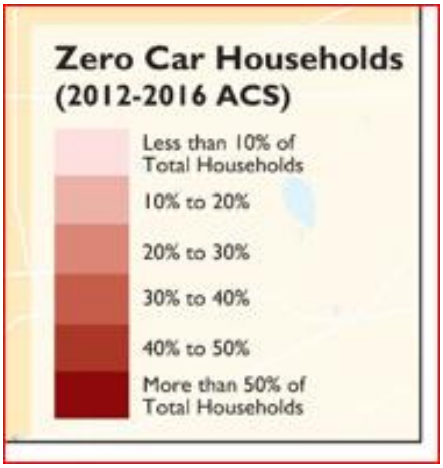


MAP PROVIDED BY LORAIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

The exhibit below indicates the areas where the number of zero vehicle households is above the Lorain County average. The absence of a vehicle in the household is often an indication of the need for transportation services.

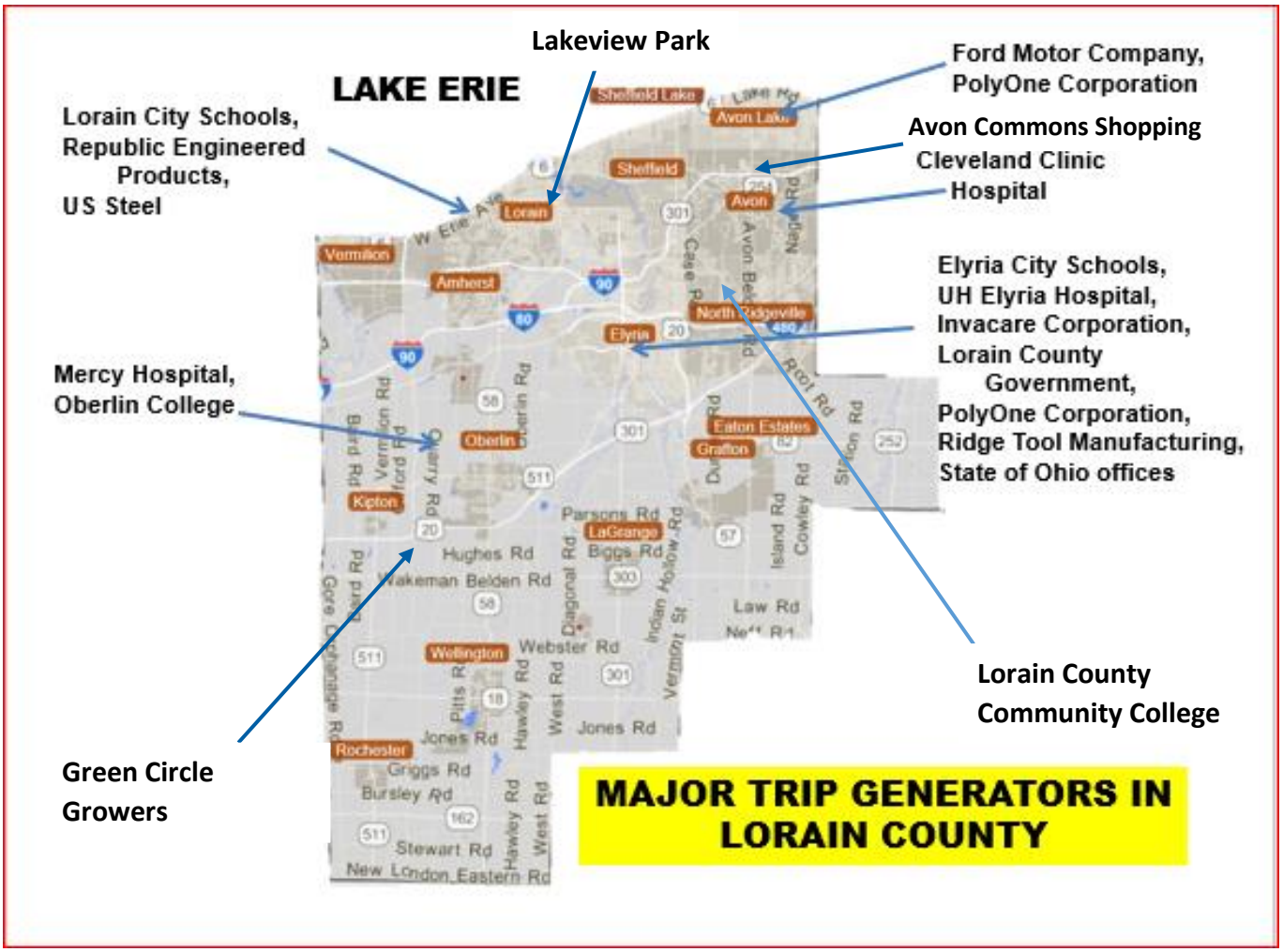
Exhibit 2: Map of Density of Zero Vehicle Households





The next exhibit illustrates the location of the top destinations for the existing transportation providers as well as major trip generators for anyone in the area, including those who drive a personal vehicle.

Exhibit 3 Map of Major Trip Generators



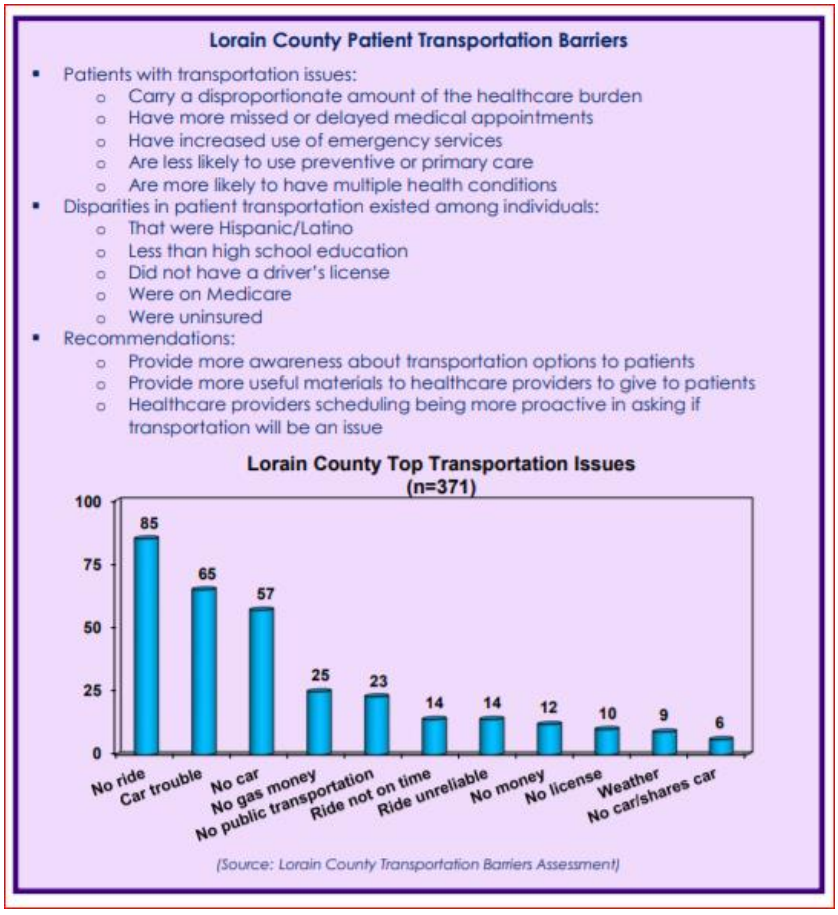
Analysis of Demographic Data

There are individual community senior transportation services available but most do not travel outside of their service areas or across the County. Very few transportation services are available to seniors living in rural communities. The maps provided on senior living are based on census tracts, which makes it a challenge to identify the number of seniors in rural communities, since the households are farther apart.

To save on taxes some individuals are moving to into Lorain County just over the Cuyahoga County corporation limits. While many of the trip generators are located in Elyria and Lorain, increased growth is taking place Avon, Avon Lake and North Ridgeville. These communities are home to popular shopping areas, upscale housing along with more retail and private businesses. As a result, Lorain County is expected to grow by nearly 1,000 or more individuals per year through 2030.

Although there is growth in the northeast part of Lorain County, hospitals and business owners are struggling to find reliable workers due to the lack of transportation options. In addition, Mercy Hospital spends at least $30,000 a year on taxi vouchers to help disabled, low-income and older population access doctors' appointments. To sustain the economic growth and also assist the growing senior and low-income population, it is critical that Lorain County provides affordable and reliable transportation options.

According to the 2015 Lorain County Community Health Assessment transportation issues in association with health care are as follows:



The study also stated that transportation is one of the top 5 reasons individuals do not seek help for a loved one's or their own drug problem. In 2014, an estimated 54,800 Lorain County residents needed transportation services. There were about 7,712 households without access to a car or truck. In fact, 13% of households in Lorain County do not own a vehicle. Of those 13% most live in Elyria and Lorain. Lorain County does not have a county-wide public transit system, leaving many to rely on family and friends for transportation.

General Public and Stakeholder Meetings/Focus Groups

MOVE Lorain County, in association with Lorain County Community College, hosted and facilitated 4 local meetings and focus groups to discuss the unmet transportation needs and gaps in mobility and transportation. 40 of people participated in the meetings. Of those, 13 self-identified as older adults and 4 self-identified as being a person with a disability. More information about what meetings were held and attendance at those meetings is available upon request.

During the meeting, MOVE Lorain County presented highlights of historical coordinated transportation in the Lorain County, and discussed the activities since the last Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan that have helped to address some of the unmet transportation needs and gaps in services for the area.

Following the initial presentation, the stakeholders were asked to review the gaps in transportation services and needs from the previous plan/or update and identify any gaps that were no longer valid and any new needs/gaps, which the facilitator deleted/added to/from a list. The focus of the discussion was transportation for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes. However, several topics discussed also impact mobility options for the general public.

Coordinated transportation stakeholders will consider these unmet needs when developing transportation goals and strategies, and grant applications. The exhibit at the end of this section provides a summary of the unmet mobility needs discussed during the meeting as well as the needs identified by the survey results.

Surveys

The following survey summary includes the information gained from the following surveys that were performed. 691 surveys from the general public: 41**%** of individuals with disabilities completed the survey; 22**%** of older adults completed the survey.

Table #1: Responses by Age

Respondents by Age	Count	Percentage
0-15	8	1.2%
16-25	52	7.6%
26-45	207	30.0%
46-55	129	18.7%
56-64	102	14.8%
65+	191	17.7%

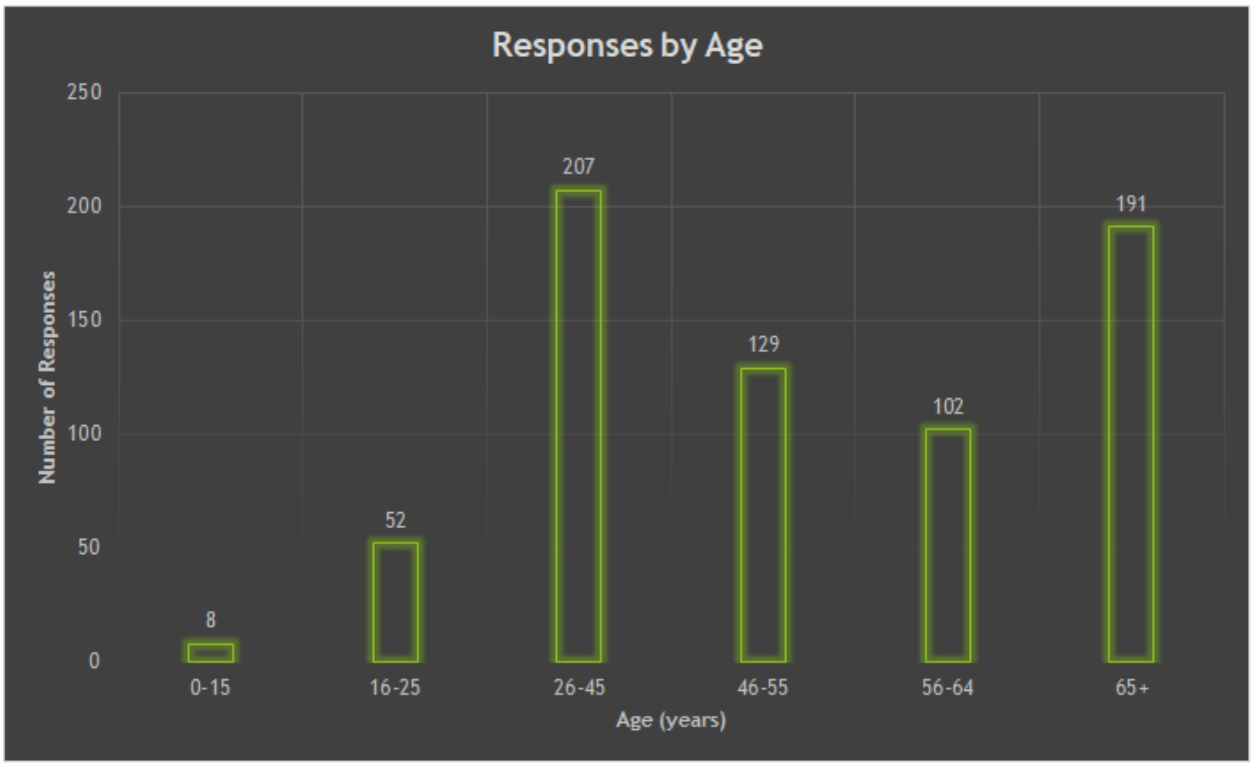


Table #2: Self-Identified Respondents

Self-Identified Respondents	Count	Percentage
Disabled	284	41.1%
Low-Income	345	49.9%
Seniors (65+)	153	22.1%

Table #3: Responses by City

Survey Location	Count	Percentage
Amherst	19	2.8%
Avon	9	1.3%
Elyria	138	20.0%
Grafton	4	1.0%
Kipton	3	0.4%
LaGrange	4	1.0%
Lorain	249	36.1%
North Ridgeville	11	1.6%
Norwalk	3	0.4%
Oberlin	108	15.7%
Sheffield	13	1.9%
Vermilion	8	1.2%
Wellington	16	2.3%
Received one or two responses from:		
Cleveland City, Collins, Wakeman, Eaton, Fairhaven, Columbia Station, Macedonia, Sandusky, Litchfield		
Cleveland East & West Side		

Table #4: Current Transportation Modes

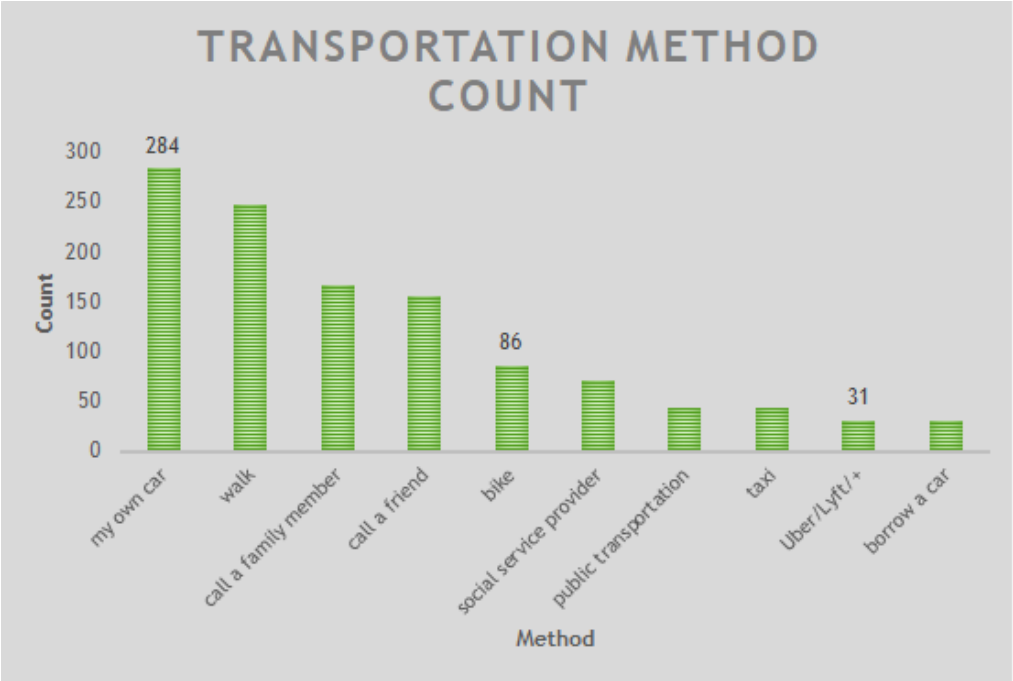
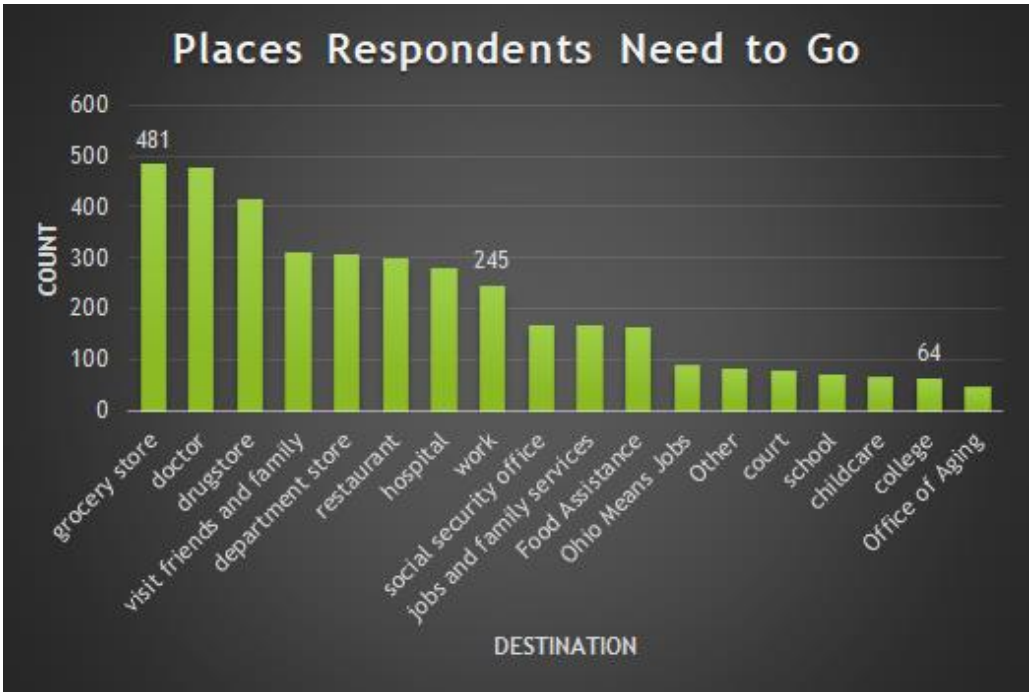


Table #5: Destinations



Destination Need	Count	Percentage
grocery store	481	70.1%
doctor	474	68.8%
drugstore	412	59.8%
visit friends and family	309	44.9%
department store	305	44.3%
restaurant	297	43.1%
hospital	280	40.6%
work	245	35.6%
social security office	168	24.4%
jobs and family services	166	24.1%
Food Assistance	164	23.8%
Ohio Means Jobs	88	12.8%
Other	82	12.0%
court	80	11.6%
school	71	10.3%
childcare	66	9.6%
college	64	9.3%
Office of Aging	47	6.80%

Table #6 Notable Survey Comments:

- "We need something for Oberlin and Wakeman and surrounding places. I only live 5 miles from work and paid $40 that only to work and back., so we need you guys bad."
- "Spread the word about my options because I do now know much about what they are so I can use them."
- "More services need to be provided to the elderly and disabled adults with a limited income, it's impossible to pay what is required to get to the doctors or department stores."
- "Additional work to develop bike paths and bike friendly roads. It should be available in all areas and to people who not only do not have a vehicle but also those who do not drive. As a young teen in Elyria I used public transit frequently and I would like to see this return."
- "Bus needs more routes. Bike friendly and walking friendly. There are places with no sidewalks. Have people shovel their sidewalks. Bike rental in Lorain and Elyria. Bike lanes in Lorain. Wi-Fi on buses and Electric buses."
- "Commercial and residential zoning is too spread out, requiring a car to do anything."
- "Easier access to jobs via public transportation to areas like Avon that has an ever growing need for help. Cars or bikes are not always the answer."

Table #7: Key Insights

Below are the notable comments from each of the five Transportation Needs public meetings.

August 1, 2018 – Lorain County Community College – Wellington Campus

Where do you or others need transportation?

- Our neighbor has to travel from Wellington to Avon three times a week for dialysis. Winter time travel is a huge problem for her. The driver refused to help this rural county resident into the vehicle due to snow and she missed three appointments and almost died as a result.

What areas are difficult to get to because of transportation issues?

- Residents carpool and catch rides with friends to get where they need to go.

What types of transportation do you use?

- Wheelchair accessibility is needed.

When you (or someone you know) has a barrier and cannot get transportation, what happens?

- If they cannot get where they need to go they just stay home.

If you lost your driver's license tomorrow, what is your plan for transportation?

- If they lost their driver's license, they would call 911. But they would get stuck with an ambulance bill. This happened twice and the cost was over $1,000 each time.

What makes using transportation "user friendly" to you?

- Transportation is "user friendly" when they can use a website, newsletter information, United Way 211, or a mobile app to obtain transportation information.
- Residents would also like to read about transportation options in the newspaper, on Twitter, and Facebook.

What would make transportation services more accessible in Lorain County?

- Residents would like to receive monthly updates, information from Senior Aging newspaper, Rural County news sources, world of mouth, booth at Fairgrounds, colleges, cable, and rural urban news.
- MOVE Lorain County should connect with LOVE, Inc.

August 21, 2018 – United Way of Greater Lorain County (City of Lorain)

Where do you or others need transportation?

- Doctors & medical appointments, grocery stores, and work.
- People lose their jobs if they do not have transportation.

What areas are difficult to get to because of transportation issues?

- There are no other options to get around safely.
- They want to visit Avon Commons on a bicycle but the roads are not bicycle friendly.
- They want to make cross county trips.
- In Lakewood there are many low speed roads but not as many in Lorain County to get to other cities by bicycle.

What types of transportation do you use?

- Car, bike, and walk.
- It is hard to figure out how to use the local transit system.
- Safe & Reliable taxi service, Pegasus Transit, and Provide A Ride.

What do you like about the transportation you use?

- I like my car because it works.
- My bike since Lorain has some of the best bike lanes.

What accommodations do you need, if any?

- Bike racks on busses.

What is the greatest transportation challenge you face?

- Connectivity. There are gaps (for bike riders) trying to get to Avon Commons.
- There are not enough low speed roads (for bike riders).
- Safe sidewalks.
- Reliable transportation.
- Consistent transportation.
- Giving a voice to the people who are underserved.

When you (or someone you know) has a barrier and cannot get transportation, what happens?

- Get a ride with a friend.
- People can get gas cards from some health and welfare organizations.

If you lost your driver's license tomorrow, what is your plan for transportation?

- Use Uber or Lyft.
- Walk to work.

- Carpool to work.

What makes using transportation “user friendly” to you?

- Transportation that is reliable and consistent every day.
- Easy to pay and easy to use such as using a pass that can be scanned on a bus or other transportation system.
- Use of a phone app.

What would make transportation services more accessible in Lorain County?

- We need to go where people are underserved.
- We need to be fiscally conservative.
- It is a challenge to access the County offices for a reduced bus pass.
- Collaboration with the public libraries and court systems.

September 6, 2018 – Ohio Business College (City of Sheffield)

Where do you or others need transportation?

- All over.
- Many students need transportation in the evening.
- People need to go to grocery store such as Aldi's, Shop-A-Lot and to go out to eat.
- People need rides to hospitals and medical appointments.
- People at the low-income high rises need rides.

What areas are difficult to get to because of transportation issues?

- Getting to medical appointments if they are disabled.
- Doctors' appointments
- Getting to work.

What types of transportation do you use?

- Motorcycle, Uber/Lyft or walk.
- Sidewalks are an issue as many people walk to Lorain County Community College.

What do you like about the transportation you use?

- Walking because it is good exercise.
- Use Uber/Lyft because it is safe.
- My personal car because it allows freedom.
- It was nice when I could use transit. I was able to use it for everything because my family didn't drive.

What accommodations do you need, if any?

- People need wheelchair access. Sometimes the first step on a bus is too high.

What is the greatest transportation challenge you face?

- Construction and potholes.
- Walking across a busy street.
- There are no crosswalks to get to Lorain County Community College.

When you (or someone you know) has a barrier and cannot get transportation, what happens?

- Call a friend.
- If it is close by, then I walk.
- People don't clear sidewalks and end up walking in the street. If you walk in the street, you can get a ticket for jay walking as a result.

If you lost your driver's license tomorrow, what is your plan for transportation?

- Panic.
- Walk, carpool or quit my job.
- Take a leave of absence from work.

What makes using transportation "user friendly" to you?

- Regular schedule.
- The use of technology, apps, and websites that are kept up to date.

What would make transportation services more accessible in Lorain County?

- Websites.
- The use of Googles and reviews.
- More sidewalks.
- Using United Way's 211.

September 10, 2018 – First Church of Oberlin UCC (Oberlin)

Where do you or others need transportation?

- Lorain County Community College, Cleveland Clinic, Green Circle Growers, and Cleveland doctors' appointments.

What areas are difficult to get to because of transportation issues?

- Yes, and it depresses people when they cannot get transportation.

What types of transportation do you use?

- Kendal bus, limo service to get to Cleveland Clinic downtown, Lorain County Transit, and Uber & Lyft.
- Kendal at Oberlin is looking at using the Go Go Grandparent app.

What do you like about the transportation you use?

- My car is convenient to use and I can go anytime I want.

What is the greatest transportation challenge you face?

- Obtaining funding for transportation. The voters keep voting down tax initiatives.
- There are a lot of options for transportation but it is not coordinated.
- People vote down the taxes because they are opposed to paying taxes. There is also a mistrust of government.

When you (or someone you know) has a barrier and cannot get transportation, what happens?

- They have to get aid.
- Jobs won't come in to the County if people can't get to work.

If you lost your driver's license tomorrow, what is your plan for transportation?

- Kendal at Oberlin has a bus.
- If it is in Oberlin, then we can walk or ride a bike.

What makes using transportation "user friendly" to you?

- A regular schedule.
- Reasonable fees.
- It is reliable.
- A system that runs every ½ hour so it is easy to remember.
- Running ads about the service that is available.
- Make it convenient to purchase tickets for public transportation.

What would make transportation services more accessible in Lorain County?

- Service to the smaller communities.
- It should be connected to Cleveland.
- There should be a more positive focus than a negative focus.
- Marketing and advertising of services.
- Diversity in transportation options.
- Involving technology as long as it is simple.

September 13, 2018 – Avon Public Library (Avon)

We had very limited time at this location. It became more of a discussion about the lack of public transit. Many public transportation supporters were in the room. As a result, we skipped many of the questions. Since the discussion focused on getting to work, school and social activities, we had a brief discussion about Enterprise Van Pool and also NOACA's Gohio Commute.

Where do you or others need transportation?

- Transportation is needed to get to jobs and school.
- My daughter has a disability and she is unable to get to social events.
- There is a serious lack of transportation in Lorain County, especially for our children who are disabled.

What areas are difficult to get to because of transportation issues?

- Work.

What types of transportation do you use?

- Dial a friend or family member.
- Walk.
- There is a transportation service bus for seniors in North Ridgeville.
- My child is disabled and I had a difficult time getting him to school. I had to go through the County government to ask for an Uber gift card. It was a very lengthy process. By the time we were granted the gift card my circumstances changed and I was able to get him where he needed to go.
- Because we live on the boarder of Lorain County and Cuyahoga County, my son has many activities in Western Cuyahoga County and it is difficult to get him to those events and activities.

What makes using transportation "user friendly" to you?

- It needs to be convenient.
- It needs to be reliable.
- There are some challenges using paratransit services.

Stakeholder Meeting Discussions

MOVE Lorain County conducted 11 personal stakeholder conversations about transportation needs and gaps in Lorain County. This is not a comprehensive list of stakeholders as more were desired but there was not enough time to conduct all the interviews. Interviews will continue to take place to help shape the Coordinated Transportation Plan for Lorain County as it continues evolving.

The organizations interviewed are as follows:

- Abbewood – Independent Living Center
- Independence Village – Independent Living Center
- LifeCare Ambulance
- Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LCADA) Services
- Lorain County Board of Mental Health
- Lorain County Developmental Disabilities
- Lorain County Public Health
- Lorain County Veterans
- Office on Aging
- Pegasus Transit
- The Lucy Idol Center
- The Nord Center
- Wesleyan Village – Independent Living Center

Notable Comments & Observations:

- Medicaid discussion was a part of many of the discussions.
- Many organizations coordinate services with LifeCare.
- Both Veterans and Medicaid transportation can only take people from their home to doctor's appointments. There may be cases where the patient needs medication (a top 5 "need" on the community surveys) from a local drugstore but transportation offered through Medicaid and Veterans Services are not supposed to take them.
- Break down the proverbial "personal territory" and learn how to collaborate more to expand transportation options.
- People with disabilities and seniors have no options "after hours" and on weekends.
- Transportation for non-emergency and non-essential destinations i.e. department store, grocery shopping, banks, food bank, Jobs & Family Services, Lorain County Community Action Agency, and visiting family is not available.
- Getting people to work and school was a big concern in most of these conversations.
- Dial-a-ride service needs to improve and should not just be for medical appointments.

- Timely service to appointments is important. This includes dropping an individual off at an appointment but also picking them up. When service is not reliable people will skip appointments. If a person has a mental health issues and skips appointments because of the lack of reliable transportation, this can lead to a serious problem.
- Developing a Lorain County Uber-type service could possibly fill gaps and unmet transportation needs.
- Availability and cost are some of the biggest challenges to providing transportation services in Lorain County.
- It is important to focus on the elderly, disabled and low-income resident of Lorain County and assist them with access to transportation options.
- Seniors (age 60 and older) can receive rides twice a month through the Lorain County Office on Aging, depending on availability.
- Locating funding for transportation services is a challenge.
- Making information available about transportation options could be a huge improvement.
- It is important to foster a culture of collaboration among organizations, non-profits, and businesses so we can provide more transportation options and close the gaps on service.
- The State of Ohio encourages Volunteer Transportation services.
- A program called Circulator could be one solution to some of the transportation needs (www.Circulator.com.)
- Some individuals use 911 if they need transportation. This can be costly to the individual or hospital.
- It is important that we think outside the box and be innovative regarding transportation services for Lorain County.
- In Cuyahoga County, all the senior centers collaborated and created one senior transportation service called Senior Transportation Connection.
- Rural areas need transportation services.
- Pick up and drop off locations need to be comfortable.
- Safe routes throughout the County are a challenge, especially in rural communities.
- Including bike racks on busses would improve transportation options, also incorporating technology too!
- There should be a means of collecting and sharing data regarding transportation in one location.
- There are some transportation services that are reducing their wheelchair van services.
- One service provider has the equipment and technology to expand transportation but is a for-profit organization that is challenged with obtaining funding.
- Residents (Independent Living Center) would like weekend transportation but it is not always offered.

- It would be great if all the communities, especially the senior transportation services, would coordinate services together to provide a transportation system.

Challenges to Coordinated Transportation

In addition to identifying needs, the planning committee gathered information from stakeholders and used their own professional experience to identify challenges to providing coordinated transportation services. These challenges include the following:

The lack of transportation options is a major source of frustration for non-profit organizations, private businesses looking for employees, and medical centers trying to take care of patients. The population of Lorain County is growing older, with a median age rising from 36.5 to 40 between 2000 and 2010. In that same time frame, the demographic between 45-64 grew 31.1% and the demographic over 64 grew 21.2%. As people grow older, it is increasingly difficult to operate a car, so alternative means of traveling are imperative.

In 2014, it was estimated that 14.2% of Lorain County residents lived beneath the federal poverty level; 13% of Lorain County households were reported as not owning a car. At a public transportation forum in 2015, it was reported that in order to successfully own and operate a car, an individual would need to earn $15 an hour.

Many businesses and private organization realize the need for transportation options to sustain their operations. However, the local public transit system was reduced from 14 to 4 routes by 2010. Although the 2013 League of Women Voters survey indicated that 42% of county residents reported using public transportation to get to work, very few people, especially those who are low-income, can utilize public transportation to get to work with its limited scope of transit routes.

There has been a difference of opinion by voters in the County regarding the use of tax increases to support a transit system due to different political beliefs between rural communities and urban centers. Maintaining a robust, effective, and efficient transportation system requires funding and constant commitment. With funding through the FTA 5310, we can begin to close gaps and unmet needs specifically for seniors and low-income and disabled residents of Lorain County, without increasing local taxes. Moreover, this approach will also serve to establish a foundation for the future construction of a transportation system which can support all county residents who desire alternative transportation options and support economic growth in Lorain County, when people have alternative access to jobs, medical services, and retail shopping areas.

Summary of Unmet Mobility Needs

The following table describes the unmet transportation needs that were identified and the method used to identify and prioritize each need. Needs are listed in order of their rank in highest to lowest priority.

Exhibit 1: Prioritized Unmet Mobility Needs

Rank	Unmet Need Description	Method Used to Identify and Rank Need
1	Improve awareness of transportation options	Survey and Round Table input
2	Increase access to grocery stores, and drugstores	Survey and Round Table input
3	Increase access to doctors and medical services	Survey and Round Table input
4	Improve transport for elderly and disabled	Survey and Round Table input
5	Increase ride-share options	Survey and Round Table input
6	Increase bike paths and bike-friendly roads	Survey and Round Table input
7	Improve sidewalks for walking-friendly roads	Survey and Round Table input
8	Develop and implement a Mobility Management Program	Coordinated Plan Planning Committee
9	Continue 5310 funding	Round Table input
10	Coordinate county-wide efforts	Survey and Round Table input

V. Goals and Strategies

Developing Strategies to Address Gaps and Needs

Strategies for improving transportation for the Lorain County should address the service gaps and user needs identified in this plan, if they are to be effective. As described, the gaps and unmet needs were based on information obtained from geographic analysis, the attendees participating in the meetings, and responses to the public survey.

Based on information gathered throughout the planning process, the MOVE Lorain County developed the following strategies to address the gaps and unmet transportation needs. Priority levels are assigned by considering the primary funding sources that could be available to support plan implementation compared to the importance of meeting this unmet need expressed by the public and stakeholders. Not all strategies are activities specifically eligible for funding under the existing programs, nor is it guaranteed that sufficient funding will be available to achieve every strategy identified. In addition, the local stakeholders will need to provide support and commit to pursuing the strategies if they are to be accomplished. Nonetheless, these strategies have been tailored to 5 of the identified primary gaps and needs.

Below is an outline describing the prioritized strategies to address each of the identified unmet transportation needs and gaps in service.

Goal #1:

INCREASE AWARENESS OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Need(s) Being Addressed: The lack of knowledge about available transportation services and options within Lorain County, specifically to access grocery stores, medical appointments, job access, educational opportunities, and social events.

Strategy 1.1:

Develop and manage a "one-stop shop" program to increase awareness and improve access to transportation options in Lorain County. (Customer Service)

Timeline for Implementation: Present to January 2021

Action Steps:

- Develop a full marketing plan to include:
  - Brand/identity creation
  - Distribution/awareness plan: flyers/pamphlets, posts with tear-offs, multimedia, hyperlinking with local community
  - Use of Facebook & Instagram and other social media outlets
- Disseminate information widely and through targeted outlets to educate the community about transportation options to make it easier for people to find services.
- Create a public listing of transportation options to increase awareness of what is available now and a process to update the information.
- Incorporate an automated system, web analytics, count calls, for syncing online data with utilization of services

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Lorain County Mobility Manager, Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan Taskforce

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Ohio Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration

Resources Needed: Funding, staff time, local cash, technology, training

Potential Cost Range: Dependent on project

Potential Funding Sources: The Lorain County Mobility Management Program

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Number of website visits
- Number of distributed materials
- Number of distribution/partner organization information outlets

Goal: #2

DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENT A MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Need(s) Being Addressed: To identify unmet needs and gaps in transportation services to improve access to jobs, medical facilities, educational centers, while also supporting the local economy.

Strategy 2.1:

Create a Lorain County Taskforce on Transportation, to include non-profit and private organizations together with members of the general public and targeted populations to support the work of the Lorain County Mobility Manager and ODOT Coordinated Transportation Plan Guidelines. (Leadership)

Timeline for Implementation: Present to January 2021

Action Steps:

- Develop a Lorain County Mobility Management Program
- Hire a Full-Time Mobility Manager
- Foster relationships and collaborations between public/nonprofits and private industry; provide transit that benefits them economically (e.g. shopping, services).
- Improve relations/communication between general public and policy makers.
- Coordinate with non-profits (i.e. United Way), existing transportation providers and employers; agencies i.e. Veterans services, etc. that are serving target markets to assess needs and available services.
- Explore funding/provision of services by private businesses that will benefit department stores, shopping centers, medical providers, schools, and employers to provide services (i.e. shuttles) to connect to existing transportation.
- Increase knowledge of current state/future possibilities

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan Taskforce

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Ohio Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration

Resources Needed: Funding, staff time, local cash, technology, training, software

Potential Cost Range: $100,000

Potential Funding Sources: ODOT 5310, 5311, 5316 Operations, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Private Sector, County Area Foundations

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Hiring of a full-time Mobility Manager or Consultant
- Level of response from stakeholders
- Increased local funding to support coordinated efforts
- Increased coordination relationships within Lorain County

Goal #3:

EXPLORE DATA COLLECTION AND PLANNING SYNERGIES

Need(s) Being Addressed: Reducing the duplication and costs that support planning efforts utilizing existing resources for efficient transportation options.

Strategy 3.1:

Through continually collecting data and planning, identify strategies to eliminate or reduce duplication in services, thereby allowing more efficient utilization of existing resources. (Data Collection & Planning)

Timeline for Implementation: January 2020 – December 2024

Action Steps:

- Identify potential natural synergies
- Explore opportunities to collect data such as number of trips, where people are going, by the transportation provider, hours of services, and utilization rates
- Identify strategies to eliminate or reduce duplication in services.

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Lorain County Mobility Manager

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Lorain County Mobility Manager, Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan Taskforce

Resources Needed: Funding, staff time, local cash, technology, training

Potential Cost Range: Depending on project

Potential Funding Sources: ODOT 5310, 5311, 5316 Operations, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Private Sector, County Area Foundations, Local Stakeholders

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Local Stakeholder Response
- Number of training sessions by stakeholders
- Number of public training sessions

Goal #4:

COORDINATE EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

Need(s) Being Addressed: Reducing training costs incurred by organizations independently paying for transportation driver training. Also, to improve individuals' comfort levels with utilizing available transportation services through training.

Strategy 4.1:

Establish and coordinate educational training programs for (a) transportation providers to reduce administrative cost, and (b) educate transportation users to improve usage of transportation options. (Transportation Services)

Timeline for Implementation: Present to December 2024

Action Steps:

- Identify potential natural synergies
- Identify common training sessions
- Ensure people providing transportation are culturally competent and trained to provide safe rides to individuals

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Lorain County Mobility Manager

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Lorain County Mobility Manager, Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan Taskforce

Resources Needed: Funding, staff time, technology, training

Potential Cost Range: Depending on project

Potential Funding Sources: ODOT 5310, 5311, 5316 Operations, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Private Sector, County Area Foundations, Local Stakeholders & Private Organizations

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Local Stakeholder Response
- Number of training sessions by stakeholders
- Number of public training sessions

Goal #5:

EXPLORE TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROJECTS

Need(s) Being Addressed: Unavailability of affordable public transportation services connecting residents to job access, health care, social events, and educational opportunities.

Strategy 5.1:

Explore opportunities to develop a local innovative pilot program (i.e. local rideshare, volunteer transportation service) utilizing technology accessible to targeted populations to allow: (a) fulfillment of transportation needs cited in the 2018 Transportation Needs survey and (b) improvement of access to local education and job centers. (Transportation Services)

Timeline for Implementation: Present to December 2024

Action Steps:

- Explore the opportunity for an innovative project that would:
    - Ensures safety and security for riders
    - Give options for "On demand" travel service
    - Promote efficient utilization of resources
    - Strive for fiscally strong system
- Develop a funding pool dedicated to purchasing transportation passes, tickets, tokens, rides, and vouchers for employment access via a participating transportation provider and enhance transportation service levels

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: The Lorain County Mobility Manager, The Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan Task Force

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: The Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan Task Force,

Resources Needed: Funding, staff time, contract services, publications or printing, local cash, technology, capital needs

Potential Cost Range: Depending upon project

Potential Funding Sources: ODOT 5310, 5311, 5316 Operations, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Private Sector, County Area Foundations, Local Stakeholders, Private Organizations, State of Ohio general funds, Ohio Elderly and Disabled Fare Assistance Program, Lorain County Jobs and Family Services, Lorain County Board of Mental Health

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Identify possible pilot projects
- Complete at least one budget for the pilot projects
- Determine funding sources to support the pilot
- Expansion of services

VI. Plan Adoption

The Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan will be submitted by December 1, 2018 to ODOT. Prior to submissions there will be a 30-day public comment period beginning on October 22, 2018. The MOVE Lorain County Board, along with other community supporters will vote and indicate support of adopting this plan at a public meeting prior to submission.

Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy (MOVE) Lorain County
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2019 LORAIN COUNTY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

WHEREAS, people with specialized transportation needs have rights to mobility. Older adults, individuals with limited incomes and people with disabilities rely heavily, sometimes exclusively, on public and specialized transportation services to live independent and fulfilling lives. These services which are provided by public and private transportation systems and human service agency programs are essential for travel to work and medical appointments, to run essential errands, or simply to take advantage of social or cultural opportunities; and

WHEREAS, under the FAST Act, projects funded by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program must be included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program provides operating and capital assistance funding to provide transit and purchase of services to private nonprofit agencies, and to qualifying local public bodies that provide specialized transportation services to elderly persons and to people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a local committee with participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers and participation by other members of the public met on Wednesday, November 28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the local committee reviewed and recommended through consensus a 2019 Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan to be submitted to the State of Ohio Department of Transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MOVE Lorain County:

That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE MOVE LORAIN COUNTY THIS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018 AS EVIDENCED BY THE AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES BELOW.

Victor Leandry, El Centro de Servicios Sociales — Date 11/28/18

Mark Hullman, MOVE Lorain County Treasurer — Date 11/30/2018

Frank Whitfield, Lorain County Urban League — Date 11/28/18

Anthony Gallo, Lorain County Chamber of Commerce — Date 11/28/18

Barb Barna, Kendal at Oberlin Resident — Date 11/28/18

Alex Moen, Lorain County Resident — Date 11/28/18

Christine Matusik-Plas, United Way of Greater Lorain County — Date 11/28/18

_____ — Date

MOVE Lorain County adopts regional transportation plan

Kevin Martin — The Morning Journal

Nov 28, 2018

Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy, also known as MOVE Lorain County, officially adopted its five-year Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan.

In a Nov. 28 meeting at the United Way of Greater Lorain County, 642 Broadway in Lorain, MOVE's Board of Directors signed a resolution supporting the adoption of the 130-page plan to submit to the Ohio Department of Transportation on Dec. 1.

MOVE Lorain County was formed in 2015 following a transportation forum hosted by Lorain County Community College, which was created to address area transportation gaps.

“Since then, our plan has been to keep the conversation of transportation in the forefront and to find ways out of the box where we can be creative and bring more transportation to Lorain County,” said Victor Leandry, MOVE’s board chair. “It’s been a hard three years in trying to move the needle.

"Everybody sitting at this table knows how challenging it is to deal with transportation. So, it’s not a problem to fix, and it’s very challenging.”

Leandry, who is executive director of El Centro de Servicios Sociales in Lorain, said bringing the community together and addressing transportation for Lorain County and is just the beginning.

“This is a big deal for Lorain County having this coordinated transportation plan," he said. "This is a big step forward. We have a long way to go, but this is a step forward.”

Sharon Pearson, a mobility management consultant with MOVE Lorain County, said there is a strong support for the plan from area nonprofits.

After receiving numerous letters of support from area nonprofit organizations, MOVE Lorain County will head into 2019 hoping to receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration’s 5310 program called Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities.

This funding targets the needs of underserved populations including seniors and people with physical disabilities.

If approved, the funding will become available in 2020.

During 2019, MOVE Lorain County will focus on creating a database of transportation services and to continue researching a volunteer transportation system, Pearson said.

Board member Frank Whitfield joked that finally signing the resolution felt like the Declaration of Independence and is an opportunity to put Lorain County’s shared vision

for transportation into action through documenting current services and work to promote them.

“What is our shared vision that nonprofits can align with, the government can align with," asked Whitfield, who is president and CEO of the Lorain County Urban League. "And Sharon (Pearson) and her brilliance found this opportunity with the mobility management plan, and that is what we’re doing.

"This is a great opportunity in Lorain County to come up with a vision that meets the needs of all people, and I’m really excited. I’m proud of the work that’s been done, but we have a year now.”

MOVE Lorain County drafts transit plan

By[Bruce Walton](#) | The Chronicle-Telegram

Published on Nov. 29, 2018 | Updated 1:54 p. m.

LORAIN — After months of planning and meetings, MOVE Lorain County officially adopted its coordinated transportation plan.

Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy met Wednesday afternoon at United Way of Greater Lorain County to officially adopt the plan before submitting it to the Ohio Department of Transportation by Saturday's deadline. The coordinated transportation plan will be submitted to ODOT as a part of an application for grant money to fund it.

The plan hopes to create a mobility manager program, which would act as a conduit for all the transportation programs in the county, connecting residents to the different nonprofits.

"I'm very excited and I am confident that we're going to be able to get some funding here in Lorain County to be able to do what I think MOVE always originally wanted to do," MOVE consultant Sharon Pearson said, "which is to try and figure out solutions to some of the transportation problems in Lorain County."

Five to six letters of intent, which allow the organization to apply for grant funding in January, were submitted to ODOT, Pearson said.

"Older adults, individuals with limited incomes and people with disabilities rely heavily, sometimes exclusively, on public and specialized transportation services to live independent and fulfilling lives," the letter read.

"These services which are provided by public and private transportation systems and human service agency programs are essential for travel to work

and medical appointments, to run essential errands, or simply to take advantage of social or cultural opportunities."

The grant awards are expected to be announced by early spring, with recipients getting the funds by January 2020.

*Contact Bruce Walton at (440) 329-7123 or **bwalton@chroniclet.com**. Follow him on Facebook **@BWalton440** or Twitter **@BruceWalton**.*

RELATED TOPICS: MOVE LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Appendix A: List of Planning Committee Participants

The planning committee consists of representation from local agencies as well as participation of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and members of the general public. More information about the planning committee is available upon request by contacting Sharon Pearson, MOVE Lorain County Consultant.

Agency Representation

Name	Agency
William Oliver	Carlisle Township Trustees
Pam Fechter	City of Avon
Councilperson Marcus Madison	City of Elyria
Council Member Brenda Davis	City of Elyria
Mayor Holly Brinda	City of Elyria
Phillip Dore	City of Lorain
Jeff Armbruster	City of North Ridgeville
Carrie Handy	City of Oberlin
Mayor John Hunter	City of Sheffield Village
Cindy Andrews	Community Foundation of Lorain County
Nick Turner	Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur Office
Victor Leandry	El Centro
Jim Wall	Elyria City Schools Superintendent Office
Rae-Lin Jones	Enterprise Rideshare
Sherman Jones	Facilitator
Karen Kilgo	Flat Rock Homes
Megan Pettibone	Green Circle Growers
Ed Harder	Kendal at Oberlin
Barbara Thomas	Kendal at Oberlin
Cynthia Kushner	LCCC Administration
Selina Gaddis	LCCC Administration
Anthony Rumph	LCCC Student
James Johnson	LCCC Student Senate
Sijoon Jude Jeon	LCCC Student Senate
Danielle Porter	LCCC Student Senate
Eric Skinner	LCCC Student Senate
Amy Szmania	LCCC Wellington Campus
Nicholas Vaughn	LifeCare Ambulance
Don Schiffbauer	Lifecare Ambulance
Cheryl Gorham	Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential (LEAP), Inc.
Thomas Stuber	Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (LCADA),
Jeff Miller	Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Kathleen Kern	Lorain County Board of Mental Health
Tony Gallo	Lorain County Chamber/MOVE Lorain County Board

Commissioner Matt Lundy	Lorain County Commissioners
Jackie Boehnlein	Lorain County Community Action Agency
Deborah Porter	Lorain County Community College (LCCC) Student Senate
Elizabeth Boardwine	Lorain County Metropolitan Housing Authority
Lauren Burgess	Lorain County Office on Aging
Kat Bray	Lorain County Public Health
Sara Tille	Lorain County Public Health
Frank Whitfield	Lorain County Urban League/Move Lorain County Board
Terry Stone	Lorain County Veterans Services
Tad Peck	Lucy Idol Center
Catherine Woskobnik	Mercy Hospitals
Mark Hullman	MOVE Lorain County Board
Barbara Barna	MOVE Lorain County Board
Alex Moen	MOVE Lorain County Board
David Blevins	Murray Ridge Production Center
Sara White	NOACA
Bev Burtlaff	NOACA
Darren Hamm	Oberlin Center for the Arts
Tita Reed	Oberlin College Administration
Tania Boster	Oberlin College Bonner Center
Jessica Holtsberry	Ohio Business College
Theresa Yuzon	Pegasus Transit, Inc.
Marcus Atkinson	Resident
Julie Chase-Morefield	Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
Dorena Gilchrist	The Nord Center
Eric Morse	The Nord Center
Marco Cuevas	United Way of Greater Lorain County
William Harper	United Way of Greater Lorain County
Kristen Jones	Wesleyan Village

In addition to participants listed above, the planning committee also included representation of older adults, people with disabilities, and members of the general public. In addition to hosting a planning committee, MOVE Lorain County and other planning committee members also conducted a wide variety of activities designed to increase involvement of community stakeholders in identifying community resources, addressing community needs, and setting goals and priorities. More information about these efforts that occurred is available upon request. To request additional information please contact:

Sharon Pearson
MOVE Lorain County
PHONE: 440-707-6477
Email: MOVELorainCounty@gmail.cm

Appendix B: List of Annual Reviews and Plan Amendments

It is required that this plan be reviewed by the planning committee annually. For more information on when the next annual review will occur, how to be involved in the annual review process or to request information on how to make changes or corrections to this plan between annual reviews, please contact:

Sharon Pearson
MOVE Lorain County
PHONE: 440-707-6477
Email: MOVELorainCounty@gmail.cm

Annual Review

Provide a brief description of any annual reviews that have occurred, including a summary of the review meeting and a brief summary of any changes were made.

Amendment

If the plan has been amended between annual reviews, include that information here.

Appendix C: Definitions

There are several terms used throughout the plan that may be unique to transportation providers or human service agencies. The terms are defined here for reference.

Coordination – Collaborative efforts toward understanding and meeting the mobility needs in the most appropriate, cost effective, and responsive manner.

FAST Act – Congress established the funding for Federal Transit Administration programs through authorizing legislation that amends Chapter 53 of Title 49 of the U.S. Code. On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, reauthorizing surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2020.

Gaps in Service – A break in the continuity of available transportation resources such as a break between hours of operation or a break between two or more geographic areas.

Lead Agency – The organization responsible for facilitating outreach; composing a plan that meets the requirements of current Federal and State legislation; maintaining documentation from the planning process and making it available upon request; and leading stakeholders through annual reviews, amendments, and updates of the plan. The Lead Agency also is responsible for submitting the adopted Coordinated Plan and all amendments or updates to participating stakeholders and ODOT.

Planning Committee – (indicate if the planning committee has another formal name) The Planning Committee is composed of key community stakeholders. The Planning Committee members agree to actively participate in the planning process and act as the plan advisory and adopting entity.

Ridership – The total number of passengers who boarded transportation vehicles are counted each time they board a vehicle.

Section 5310 Program – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (49 U.S.C. 5310) provides Federal formula funding for the purpose of assisting private nonprofit groups in meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. The program aims to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options.

Section 5311 Program – The Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000 where many residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations. The program also provides funding for state and national training and technical assistance through the Rural Transportation Assistance Program. Subrecipients may include state or local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation or intercity bus service.

Section 5307 Program – The Urbanized Area Formula Grants program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes federal resources available to urbanized areas and to governors for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation-related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more.

Transportation – Transportation is broadly defined to include traditional transit, human service agency services, on-demand (taxi-like) services, bicycle and pedestrian programs and amenities.

Unmet Transportation Needs – Transportation that is wanted or desired but is not currently available.

Appendix D: Invitation Letter

MOVE Lorain County

c/o ***Sharon Pearson, Mobility Management Consultant***
264 North Pleasant Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
Email: moveloraincounty@gmail.com
Phone: 440-707-6477
Website: www.MOVELorainCounty.org

May 7, 2018

Greetings!

MOVE (Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy) invites you as a representative of your organization to participate with us in a planning committee to develop a new type of transportation system for Lorain county. This model was developed by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to assist small urban and rural communities like those in Lorain County to develop their own plans that would address specific, local transportation needs. Called a "Coordinated Transportation Plan", this model for transportation planning has been successful in improving modes and convenience of transportation for similar communities in Southern Ohio. Moreover, the plan has been successful in reducing costs and increasing access to modes of transportation appropriate for older adults, people with disabilities, and other populations without readily available transportation.

The goal of our Coordinated Transportation Plan is first to identify a realistic view of Lorain County's transportation strengths and needs. A second goal is to establish a single location for a multi-organizational bank of transportation data that will be accessible to all groups and residents in Lorain County. Finally, and most important, our goal is to devise plans that would improve modes of transportation for all Lorain County residents.

Developing this plan would involve considering many types of transportation such as biking, walking, ridesharing, and public transit. Doing so necessitates participation by a range of organizations, including, but not limited to, municipal governmental agencies, non-profits, and for-profits. Working together, these organizations and agencies can better identify transportation needs and suggest ways of meeting those needs. Representatives that have already agreed to participate include: Victor Leandry, El Centro De Servicios, Inc; Bill Harper , United Way of Lorain County; Tony Gallo, Lorain County Chamber of Commerce; Frank Whitfield, Lorain County Urban League; Dr. Kathleen Kern, Board of Mental Health; Jadera Patton, Neighborhood Alliance; and Mark Hullman, MOVE Lorain County.

This is an exciting opportunity for your organization to offer help in identifying transportation needs and working toward solutions. Your input is valuable. Your time is valuable. The planning committee will meet no more than five times in the next eight month period.

Please join us with others at the initial planning committee meeting:

May 24, 2018
2:00 to 4:00 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Conference Center Rooms 207/208

We look forward to seeing you on May 24, 2018. Please RSVP by May 18, 2018 to Sharon Pearson at by email: **moveloraincounty@gmail.com** or by phone at 440-707-6477. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Sharon Pearson.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Pearson,
Mobility Management Consultant
MOVE Lorain County

cc: MOVE Lorain County Board

Appendix E: Meeting Agendas

Lorain County
Coordinated Transportation Plan

Meeting 1: Establishing the Planning Approach
Thursday, May 24, 2018; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Center Rooms 207/208

Objectives:

- Understand MOVE Lorain County's Mission & Vision
- Understand the importance of a Coordinated Transportation Plan
- Provide an overview of the planning approach
- Explain the asset inventory and needs assessment data collection process
- Identify representatives to serve as agency contacts

I. **Welcome**
- Victor Leandry, Chair of MOVE Lorain County
- Sherman Jones, Facilitator

II. **Participant Introductions**

III. **Overview of Coordinated Transportation Plan & History**
- Sharon Pearson, MOVE Lorain County Mobility Management Consultant
- Barb Barna, Coordinated Transportation Plan Steering Committee Member

IV. **Participant Engagement** – Sherman Jones, Facilitator

V. **Next Steps, Questions, and Adjourning Meeting**
- Homework – Asset Inventory
  By Alex Moen, Coordinated Transportation Plan Steering Committee Member

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Lorain County
Coordinated Transportation Plan

Meeting 3: Preparing for Community Input
Thursday, August 30, 2018; 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Center Rooms 114

Objectives:

- Review of where we are in the planning process
- Review Survey Information collected through Needs Assessment
- Examine Transportation Options
- Brainstorm Transportation Goals

I. **Introduction of Participants** (15 Minutes)

II. **Summary of the June 28th Meeting** (10 Minutes) - Sherman Jones, Facilitator

III. **What did the Needs Assessment and One on One Interviews reveal?** (10 Minutes) – Sharon Pearson, Mobility Management Consultant

IV. **Presentation: Gohio Carpool** – Beverly Burtzlaff, NOACA (15 Minutes)

V. **Presentation: Enterprise Rideshare** – Rae-Lin Jones, Enterprise (15 Minutes)

VI. **Roundtable Discussions** (25 Minutes) – Sherman Jones, Facilitator

VII. **Next Steps, Questions, and Adjourning Meeting** (5 minutes)

Lorain County
Coordinated Transportation Plan

Meeting 4: Preparing for Community Input
Thursday, September 27, 2018; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Center Rooms 114

Objectives:

- Review the Coordinated Transportation Plan Process
- Prioritize categories of need for targeted populations in Lorain County
- Brainstorm potential strategies to address needs and establish action plan steps
- Review the Planning Process and Timeline for Completion

I. **Introduction of Participants**

II. **RECAP: Coordinated Transportation Plan Process**

III. **Summary of the August 30th Meeting**

IV. **RECAP: What did the Needs Assessment and One on One Interviews reveal?**

V. **Roundtable Discussions: Coordination Strategies**

VI. **Roundtable Report Out**

VII. **Next Steps, Questions, Signed Commitment, and Adjourning Meeting**

October 5 – Letter of Intent Due for FTA 5310 for Organizations & Coordinated Transportation Plan
October 22 – Draft of Coordinated Transportation Plan for 30 Day Public Review
Late November – MOVE Lorain County Adopts Coordinated Transportation Plan
December 1 – Final Plan Submitted
January 2 – March 1, 2019 – FTA 5310 Applications Available

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MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Appendix F: Meeting Summary & Minutes

Lorain County
Coordinated Transportation Plan Meeting Summary

Meeting 1: Establishing the Planning Approach

Thursday, May 24, 2018; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Center Rooms 207/208

How many individuals in this room have used public transportation before? – Everyone raises their hands.
How many individuals have used public transportation in Lorain County? – Only about half of the hands in the room are raised.
How many individuals know people who are regular users of Lorain County public transportation? – Less than a quarter of the hands in the room are raised.

Discussion question 1: What are the opportunities for transportation services in Lorain County?

a. Technological Advances- mode of transportation, or method used to route transportation options where people need it.
b. Bridge The Great Divide- between those who have personal vehicles, and those who do not/choose not to.
c. Opportunity to assist service organizations to serve their communities better.
d. Educate people on how to use transportation, possibly through development days.
e. Educate people on bike lanes! What are the usage/benefits?
f. Utilize idle vehicles so that the maximum amount of riders can be served. Also cross ridership whereby Agencies pick -up more than just their own service users.
g. Explore models of transportation services provided in other communities.
h. Improve the usage and rider experience of current services.
i. Collaborate with like organizations to leverage resources and lower expenses.
j. On-demand medical transit. Transport: adults and kids to school, seniors to supermarkets/shopping, individuals to jobs utilizing structured routes.
k. An opportunity to focus on transportation needs in communities outside of urban hubs.
l. An opportunity to focus on younger generations and their mobility needs.

Discussion Question 2: What are the potential gaps and unmet needs as related to transportation services in Lorain County?

a. Basic needs: 65+ don't have adequate access to their own neighborhoods
b. Gaps of service delivery re: on-time reliability
c. Lack of dedicated general funding
d. Lack of pressure on Columbus and ODOT to support transportation and transportation funding in areas such as ours. Most funding dedicated to larger big city urban centers.

Discussion Question 3: Who is not at the table that should be included?

a. LCCC Representatives
b. Workforce Development, Job and Family Services
c. Labor Unions
d. Senior Living Organizations
e. State Representatives
f. Community members re: riders/end users
g. Large County Employers
h. Young People (Millennials)
i. Religious Organizations

Discussion Question 4: How can the community and constituent groups best be engaged?

Rich discussion was enjoyed by attendees with several best practice ideas shared. This question will be continued and examined more closely in future meeting discussions. • • •

Lorain County
Coordinated Transportation Plan- Notes

Meeting 1: Establishing the Planning Approach

Thursday, June 28, 2018; 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Center Rooms 114

Objectives:

- Collect completed transportation services surveys.
- Create an end goal vision
- Establish process for engaging targeted populations
- Develop FAQs for the Coordinated Transportation Plan

I. Introduction of Participants

II. Summary of the May 24th Meeting

Recap of the first meeting, see notes from May 24, 2018 meeting for information covered.

III. What is the end goal?

The goal is to coordinate services, possibly through a one-call/click system. This is the reason we are asking for organizational asset forms. The final product should be stress free, personal, and on demand. The current idea for the Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan is that we will create a low tech version of a one click transportation system database.

Informative video demonstrating a one—call/click system is shown. You can view this video by accessing the power point from the June 28, 2018 meeting.

IV. Questions about the Coordinated Transportation Plan

Q: Has there been any discussion on expanding LCT? Is there a limit on how far LCT can expand, the amount of available routes?

Q: What will be the cost for individuals who receive transportation services and how is affordability being addressed throughout the coordinated transportation plan?

Q: At this point how do we make something happen regarding transportation? How do we help people?

Q: How can employers become more involved?

Q: Is there any thought to entities contributing to a pot and having a priority service for their constituents?

• • •

Q: How does this plan differ from 211? Can we reduce duplication?

Q: Would you be able to take requirements of the coordinated plan so we can all see it?
Interactive map?

Q: Are we able to connect our plans with our bordering counties?

Q: What do you see already as what we would consider as the low hanging fruit? Short term successes?

Q: Is there a thought pro move to a needs based to a want based transit program?

We need to value transportation that may require an investment-

Q: Are we looking at all areas/modes/forms/demographics for transportation?

V. **Roundtable Discussions** (30 Minutes) – Sherman Jones, Facilitator
Roundtable question: What input do you have the needs survey?

- Give a range for the low-income question.
- Look at identifying major locations underneath "places I need to go"
- Include Uber/Lyft
- Refine the age ranges
- Create different questions to target different groups
- Included a student and unemployed option
- An option to opt into working with this group to help develop the plan
- Include a question that asks if they are interested in using public transportation even if they do not right now?
- Include this question- What type of transportation would you use?
- Ask where the individual lives, or ask for the zip code
- Should there be a question asking if the person is retired?
- Do we need to know the persons sex/gender?
- We should include a household size question
- Can individuals complete a survey on behalf of a household?
- Add a question about how they want to access transportation information

VI. Next Steps, Questions, and Adjourning Meeting (5 minutes)

There will be 1-hour public meetings held at various locations in the county in July and August. The next planning meeting is on August 30 at 2 p.m. at Lorain County Community College.

Next steps include finalizing and distributing the Needs Survey to the community in person and digitally. Members of the planning committee will be asked to submit at least 10 completed Needs Surveys by August 1, 2018.

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Lorain County
Coordinated Transportation Plan

Meeting 3: Preparing for Community Input Notes

Thursday, August 30, 2018; 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Center Rooms 114

Objectives:

- Review of where we are in the planning process
- Review Survey Information collected through Needs Assessment
- Examine Transportation Options
- Brainstorm Transportation Goals

I. **Introduction of Participants**

II. **Summary of the June 28th Meeting**
A summary of the previous meeting can be found in the notes from the June 28th planning meeting.

III. **What did the Needs Assessment and One on One Interviews reveal?** Sharon Pearson shared what the Needs Assessment and One on One Interviews revealed. To see the results from the one on one interviews and needs assessments view the handouts from the August 30th planning meeting.
Attendees were asked to share their thoughts and takeaways on the survey results.

Table 1- Half of the respondents had no idea about alternate transportation options. There were also more millennial respondents than expected.

Table 2- Many of the respondents wanted a newsletter mailed to them detailing transportation options in the county. Pointed out how common social isolation is in southern Lorain County.

Table 3- Adequate representation of several generations.

Table 4- The Needs Survey revealed similar results to a study recently completed at Lorain County Community College of their students without transportation. Table 5- School and work were not listed in the top five locations that respondents needed to go. In response to the notable comments from the survey results, they asked what can we do to interact with people when they are on public transportation? Table 6- Satisfied with the amount of total respondents. IV. **Presentation: Gohio Carpool** –

Beverly Burtzlaff from NOACA discussed the Gohio Carpool program. Gohio Commute, a smarter way, is a trip planning and ride matching program designed to help people commute to work or school. It also matches up riders with other riders who are going to similar places or have similar routes.

For more information on Gohio Commute visit this website https://gohiocommute.com/#/ , or review the PowerPoint from the August 30, 2018 Coordinated Transportation Planning Meeting.

V. Presentation: Enterprise Rideshare –

Rae-Lin Jones from Enterprise car rentals spoke about a new Enterprise rideshare program. This commuter program can be shared by 5-10 employees to go to work throughout the week. Since it is a rental vehicle the coordinator of the carpool receives 200 miles of personal mileage on the vehicle as well.

VI. Roundtable Discussions

The tables were asked to discuss and share what goals the coordinated transportation planning committee should create and how to complete those goals.

Table 1- Model something after the Columbus Lime Motorized Scooter and Bike Service where you pay by the mile.

Table 2- Implementing an app that connects to United Way's 211 program that is user friendly.

Table 3- Explore strategic partnerships with hospitals and healthcare facilities. Table 4- Creating a year-round bike share program as well as a volunteer driver program. Possibly utilizing students for these two services.

Table 5- Find a way to fight the stigmas against using public transportation. How do we brand or market our transportation so that is appealing and useful to everyone? We should also address the concerns some people might have about riding with someone they don't know.

Table 6- Utilize the website to share more ideas about transportation and mobility.

Ensure that the program we use is accessible and user friendly.

VII. Next Steps, Questions, and Adjourning Meeting

At the next meeting we will be setting the goals of the Coordinated Transportation Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 27 at 1:00 p.m. at LCCC.

<u>Upcoming Public Meetings</u>:
Thursday, September 6, 2018 @ 6 pm – Ohio Business College
Monday, September 10, 2018 @ 6:30 pm – First Church of Oberlin UCC – JFO Room **Thursday, September 13, 2018 @ 7 pm** – Avon Public Library

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Lorain County
Coordinated Transportation Plan - Notes

Meeting 4: Preparing for Community Input
Thursday, September 27, 2018; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Lorain County Community College
Spitzer Center Rooms 114

Objectives:

- Review the Coordinated Transportation Plan Process
- Prioritize categories of need for targeted populations in Lorain County
- Brainstorm potential strategies to address needs and establish action plan steps
- Review the Planning Process and Timeline for Completion

I. Introduction of Participants

II. RECAP: Coordinated Transportation Plan Process

Information shared on the process of creating the coordinated plan can be found in the power point from the September 27, 2018 planning meeting.

III. Summary of the August 30th Meeting

The notes from the August 30, 2018 planning meeting were shared.

IV. RECAP: What did the Needs Assessment and One on One Interviews Reveal?

Sharon Pearson shared what she learned in one on one meetings with organizations around the county. More information about what was found in these meetings can be found in previous meeting notes.

V. Roundtable Discussions: Coordination Strategies

Everyone was given the opportunity to brainstorm two major initiatives that they felt the coordinated plan should address at their tables of eight people. Each table was then asked to explain their two initiatives. Individuals were asked to pick five

initiatives and goals suggested by each table that they felt would be best included in the plan.

Once the top five initiatives were identified, each table was asked to further brainstorm the action steps to accomplish the imitative and create the goal for the initiative.

VI. Roundtable Report Out

The goals that were identified and their action steps are as follows:

VII. Next Steps, Questions, Signed Commitment, and Adjourning Meeting

Appendix G: Public Meeting Press Release & Flyers

MOVE Lorain County

c/o ***Sharon Pearson, Mobility Management Consultant***
264 North Pleasant Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
Email: moveloraincounty@gmail.com
Phone: 440-707-6477
Website: www.MOVELorainCounty.org

July 16, 2018

MOVE's Transportation Survey & Public Meeting Schedule
Press Release

MOVE (Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy) invites all those who live, work and play in Lorain County to participate in either the Transportation Survey or Public Meetings that are being scheduled throughout Lorain County. Your participating will assist MOVE Lorain County with achieving three goals. One is to identify a realistic view of Lorain County's transportation strengths and needs. A second goal is to establish a single location for a multi-organizational bank of transportation data that will be accessible to all groups and residents in Lorain County. Finally, and most important, our goal is to devise plans that would improve modes of transportation for all Lorain County residents.

Developing this plan would involve considering many types of transportation such as biking, walking, ridesharing, and public transit. Doing so necessitates participation by a range of people, especially seniors, people with disabilities, low-income folks, and those that would prefer to have transportation choices. Your input is valuable. Your time is valuable. We encourage you to complete a Transportation Needs Survey by visiting MOVE's website at: www.MOVELorainCounty.org under the Coordinated Transportation Plan tab. We are looking for your response by August 15. It should take about 10 minutes to complete. Or please join us at one of these public meetings:

Monday, July 30, 2018; 5:30 pm

Lorain County Urban League – Annual Meeting
Location TBD (I should know tomorrow where this being held)

Wednesday, August 1, 2018; 6:00 pm

Lorain County Community College – Wellington Center

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Sharon Pearson by email at MOVELorainCounty@gmail.com or by phone at 440-707-6477. We look forward to your participating.

-30-

Public Meeting

On County Transportation Needs

Lorain County Community College - *Wellington Center*

Wednesday, August 1, 2018 @ 6 pm

MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Transportation is an issue for many agencies and residents in Lorain County. MOVE Lorain County is working on a Coordinated Transportation Plan that will create a database of available services that can be shared with the general public. In addition, we are seeking to understand the unmet needs and gaps that exist even though we have these services. In association with Lorain County Community College Wellington Center, MOVE Lorain County invites the general public, and especially those who live in rural communities to this public meeting.

This is one of a series of public meetings that are taking place throughout Lorain County. Your participation assists with retaining federal funds in Lorain County.

If you are unable to attend, we also have an online survey that you can complete by visiting our website at: www.MOVELorainCounty.org. Click on Coordinated Transportation Plan and scroll to the bottom to complete the survey. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

For questions contact Sharon Pearson by email at
MOVELorainCounty@gmail.com or by phone at **440-707-6477**

Public Meeting

On County Transportation Needs

United Way of Greater Lorain County

United Way of Greater Lorain County

642 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, Ohio

Tuesday, August 21, 2018 @ 6 pm

MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Transportation is an issue for many agencies and residents in Lorain County. MOVE Lorain County is working on a Coordinated Transportation Plan that will create a database of available services that can be shared with the general public. In addition, we are seeking to understand the unmet needs and gaps that exist. In association with United Way of Greater Lorain County, MOVE Lorain County invites the general public to this meeting to understand transportation needs.

This is one of a series of public meetings that are taking place throughout Lorain County such as in the Avon, Sheffield/Elyria, and Oberlin areas to name a few. Your participation assists with retaining federal funds in Lorain County.

If you are unable to attend, we also have an online survey that you can complete by visiting our website at: www.MOVELorainCounty.org, there is a link on the home page to the survey. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

For questions contact Sharon Pearson by email at
MOVELorainCounty@gmail.com or by phone at **440-707-6477**

Public Meeting

On County Transportation Needs

Ohio Business College

5095 Waterford Drive, Sheffield Village, Ohio

Thursday, September 6, 2018 @ 6 pm

MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Transportation is an issue for many businesses, residents, and organizations in Lorain County. MOVE Lorain County is working on a Coordinated Transportation Plan that will create a database of available services that can be shared with the general public. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** In association with Ohio Business College, MOVE Lorain County invites YOU to this meeting to helps us understand the unmet needs and gaps that exist in Lorain County.

This is one of a series of public meetings that are taking place throughout Lorain County such as in the Avon, Sheffield/Elyria, and Oberlin areas to name a few. Your participation assists with retaining federal funds in Lorain County.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.MOVELorainCounty.org

For questions contact Sharon Pearson by email at
MOVELorainCounty@gmail.com or by phone at **440-707-6477**

Public Meeting

On County Transportation Needs

First Church UCC in Oberlin

106 N. Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio

Monday, September 10, 2018 @ 6:30 pm

MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Transportation is an issue for many *businesses*, *resi*dents, and organizations in Lorain County. MOVE Lorain County is working on a Coordinated Transportation Plan that will create a database of available services that can be shared with the general public. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** In association with Ohio Business College, MOVE Lorain County invites YOU to this meeting to helps us understand the unmet needs and gaps that exist in Lorain County.

This is one of a series of public meetings that are taking place throughout Lorain County such as in the Avon and Sheffield/Elyria areas to name a few. Your participation assists with retaining federal funds for transportation in Lorain County.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.MOVELorainCounty.org

For questions contact Sharon Pearson by email at
MOVELorainCounty@gmail.com or by phone at **440-707-6477**

Public Meeting

On County Transportation Needs

Lorain Public System Library - Avon Branch

37485 Harvest Drive, Avon, Ohio

Thursday, September 13, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Transportation is an issue for many businesses, residents, and organizations in Lorain County. MOVE Lorain County is working on a Coordinated Transportation Plan that will create a database of available services that can be shared with the general public. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** MOVE Lorain County invites YOU to this meeting to helps us understand the unmet needs and gaps that exist in Lorain County.

Your participation assists with retaining federal funds for transportation in Lorain County.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.MOVELorainCounty.org

For questions contact Sharon Pearson by email at
MOVELorainCounty@gmail.com or by phone at **440-707-6477**

Appendix H: Asset Inventory Form

MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Coordinated Transportation Plan- Organizational Asset Form

Section 1: General organizational Information

1. Name of your organization, and contact information

Organization	
Name	
Address	
City, State	
Zip Code	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	
Survey Respondent	
Name	
Telephone Number	
E-mail Address	

2. What Services does your organization provide? *Please check all that apply*
   - ☐ Transportation
   - ☐ Health Care
   - ☐ Nutrition
   - ☐ Mental Health Counseling
   - ☐ Adult Daycare
   - ☐ Childcare
   - ☐ Rehabilitation
   - ☐ Job Training
   - ☐ Job Placement
   - ☐ Income Assistance
   - ☐ Residential Facilities
   - ☐ Recreation/Social
   - ☐ Information/Referral
   - ☐ Other:_____ _____
3. Please estimate the number of customers your organization has served in the past twelve (12) months?

   Number of Customers: _____
4. Which demographic category is your organization's primary customer? *Please check all that apply*
   - ☐ Elderly (age 65 and older)
   - ☐ Low-income (income below 150 percent)
   - ☐ Disabled (physical, mental, visual, or other disability)
   - ☐ Other:_____ _____
5. Does your organization transport Lorain County clients beyond Lorain County borders? *Please check yes or no*
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

If you answered yes, please list the destination, location, and type of client in that table below:

Destination	Location	Clients (elderly, low-income, disabled, or other)

Section 2: Description of Transportation Services

6. In what manner does your organization provide transportation services? *Please check all that apply*

- ☐ Personal vehicles or agency staff
- ☐ Agency staff using agency owned vehicles
- ☐ Pre-purchased tickets, vouchers, passes for other modes of transit
- ☐ Reimbursement of mileage or auto expenses paid to clients
- ☐ Volunteers
- ☐ Information about and referral to other community transportation resources
- ☐ Other: _____ _____ _____

7. Out of the total number of clients served in the last twelve months what numbers of your transportation clients require special equipment or assistance for their services listed below?

Client Requires:	Number of Clients:
Wheelchair Lifts	
Car Seats	
Personal Care Attendants	
Curb to Curb Service (i.e. drivers will assist passengers to the curb of their origin or destination)	
Door to Door service (i.e. drivers will assist passengers to the entrance of their origin or destination)	
Other requirements (please specify):	

8. If you indicated in the table above that your organization's clients require personal care attendant services, how does your organization meet these needs? *Please check all that apply.*

- ☐ In-house
- ☐ Contract: *If marked, please list contractors:*_____ _____ _____
- ☐ Referral
- ☐ Other: _____ _____ _____

9. Does your organization provide transportation services to clients? *Please mark 'yes' or 'no' for each purpose listed below. If yes, please indicate the estimated number of trips per month for each purpose. (A transportation trip is defined as a one-way trip in a transit vehicle starting at one point, and ending in another point.)*

Purpose	**Yes**	**No**	**# of Trips per Month**	**# of Trips per year**
Program at your agency				
Program at another agency				
Health Related				
Medical Appointment				
Mental Health Counseling				
Adult Daycare				
Employment/Income				
Employment				
Job Training				
Education				
Income Maintenance (food stamps/social security office/cash assistance)				
Childcare				
Personal/Social				
Shopping/Personal Business (e.g. grocery store or bank)				
Residential (trips supporting activities of group residences and group home residents)				
Other				

Section 3: Organizational Transportation Resources

10. What transportation resources does your agency operate? *Please check all that apply and fill out the table below*

- ☐ Cars
- ☐ Minivans
- ☐ Standard Passenger Vans
- ☐ Converted Vans (wheelchair lift, raised roof, etc.)
- ☐ Buses
- ☐ Four-wheel drive vehicles
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ My agency does not have any vehicles

Year	Vehicle Make	Vehicle Type (see above)	Capacity	Own or Lease	Special Equipment	Current Mileage	Miles traveled in 2017	Condition (excellent, good, fair, or poor)	# of days on the road in 2018

11. How are your organization's transportation services funded? *Please check all that apply*

- ☐ FTA Section 5310 (Elderly)
- ☐ FTA Section 5316 (JARC)
- ☐ FTA Section 5317 (New Freedom Program)
- ☐ FTA Section 5311
- ☐ FTA Section 5307
- ☐ Title IIIB
- ☐ Title IIIC
- ☐ Title V
- ☐ Title XX
- ☐ Community Services Block Grant Fund
- ☐ Non-emergency Medicaid
- ☐ Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- ☐ Public Levy
- ☐ County Commissioners
- ☐ Passenger Fares
- ☐ Donations
- ☐ Grants from Charity Organizations
- ☐ Other: _____ _____ _____

12. How does your organization maintain its vehicle fleet? *Please check all that apply*

- ☐ Perform on-house maintenance
- ☐ Contract to outside vendor
- ☐ Other: _____

13. Does your organization offer transportation services 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you answered "no" to the last question please list the hours of your organization's transportation services in the table below.

Days	Hours of Operation
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

14. How are clients' transportation services scheduled?
    - ☐ Standing order trips (regularly scheduled trips)
    - ☐ Demand Responsive (one-time client trip based on client request)
    - ☐ Advanced reservation: please specify (e.g. 24-hour notice) _____ _____
    - ☐ Other: _____ _____

15. What tools and technology does your organization use for scheduling, dispatching, and securing reservations?

	Scheduling Vehicles	Dispatching Drivers	Securing Reservations
Two-Way Radio			
Cell Phones			
Pagers			
On-line computer system			
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			
Other:			

16. How does your organization track the transportation services it provides? *Please check all that apply*
    - ☐ Paper/pencil driver logs
    - ☐ Computer system, Pleas list software used: _____ _____
    - ☐ Other: _____ _____ _____

17. Does your organization require any special training for your drivers/employees? *Please check all that apply*
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
18. If you answered yes to the above question, what type of training does your organization require? *Please be specific*
    - ☐ CPR
    - ☐ CDL
    - ☐ First Aid
    - ☐ Other: _____
    - _____

Section 4: Collaboration

19. In what ways does your organization currently partner with other transportation providers to deliver services to Lorain County residents? *Please mark yes or no in the below collaboration table. If yes is marked, please name the partner*

Type of Collaboration	**Yes**	**No**	**Partner**
Joint Grant Application			
Purchase Transportation for Clients			
Refer Clients to Other Agencies			
Other:			

Thank you very much for participating in this survey! Please submit the completed document to Sharon Pearson at moveloraincounty@gmail.com by June 28, 2018. Also, please sign the below to signify that you are understanding of the expectations of your involvement in the Coordinated Transportation Planning Committee.

_____ _____

Signature Date

Appendix I: Public Needs General Survey

MOVE LORAIN COUNTY
MOBILITY & OPPORTUNITY FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY

Transportation Needs Survey

Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Must be completed by August 15, 2018

1. I am (*Please check*):
   - ___Age 0-15
   - ___Age 16-25
   - ___Age 26-45
   - ___Age 46-55
   - ___Age 56-64
   - ___Age 65+

2. Zip code: _____

3. I am employed *(please check all that apply)*:
   - ___Full time
   - ___Part time
   - ___Seasonal
   - ___Unemployed
   - ___Student
   - ___In Lorain County
   - ___Outside Lorain County
   - ___None of the above
   - ___Prefer not to say

4. Do you consider yourself a person with a disability (*please check one)*? (physical, mental, visual, or other disability)
   - ___Yes
   - ___No
   - ___Prefer not to say

5. If you answered yes to the above question, please list any mobility assistance you require (*please list*)?

6. Do you consider yourself a person of low income (*please check one)*?
   - ___Yes
   - ___No
   - ___Prefer not to say

7. Places I need to go (*check all that apply*):
   - ___To work
   - ___To school
   - ___To college
   - ___To the doctor
   - ___To the hospital
   - ___To childcare
   - ___To a grocery store
   - ___To a drugstore
   - ___To a department store
   - ___To a restaurant
   - ___To visit friends and family
   - ___To court
   - ___To job and family services
   - ___To the social security office
   - ___Ohio Means Jobs
   - ___The Office of Aging
   - ___Food Assistance
   - ___Other, please list:_____

8. Places I would like to go in Lorain County (*please list):*

9. How do you get to your destination (*Check all that apply)*?

___I walk
___I ride a bicycle
___I call public transportation
___I drive my own car
___I borrow a car
___I call a friend
___I call a family member
___I call a social service provider
___An app such as Uber or Lyft
___I call a taxi
___School Bus
___Other, please list:
_____

10. How often do you need a ride from somebody else? Please list amount of times a week or month.

11. Are you aware of transportation services available to the citizens of Lorain County (*please check one)*?

___Yes, I am aware of: _____ ___No

12. What would help you understand what transportation services are currently available in Lorain County (*check all that apply)*?

___Website ___Newsletter
___App ___Other: _____

13. Do you use public transportation within Lorain County *(please check one)*?

___Yes, I use:_____
___No
___I am interested in using public transportation even though I do not require it at this time.

14. What type of transportation would you use *(please check all that apply)*?

___Bike Share ___Walking
___Ride Share ___Car Pooling
___Bus ___Other: _____

15. In your opinion, what improvements should be made to the current transportation services in Lorain County?

16. If you do not use Lorain County's transportation services, please say why?

Thank you! For information or questions
contact Sharon Pearson at moveloraincounty@gmail.com or 440-707-6477

Appendix J: Newspaper Coverage

LOCAL NEWS

MOVE Lorain County aims to create transportation database

By Carissa Woytach | The Chronicle-Telegram

Published on Aug. 2, 2018 | Updated 7:16 a. m.

WELLINGTON — MOVE Lorain County again is trying to fill gaps in area transportation services but is not proposing a specific transit line or tax increase as it did in 2016.

After going quiet for close to two years, Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy (MOVE) Lorain County is working to create a coordinated transportation plan to submit to the Ohio Department of Transportation in hopes of securing federal funding through the agency for a transportation database and possible expansion of other services in the county, according to mobility management consultant Sharon Pearson.

Originally, the group had asked commissioners to place a 0.25 percent sales tax increase on the ballot to fund increased bus transportation, but commissioners instead placed a 0.25 percent sales tax increase on the ballot that would have been split between transportation needs and other county costs. Residents voted against the tax increase in November 2016, and commissioners passed the increase that December, saying otherwise some staff, including 10 to 12 sheriff's deputies, would be laid off.

After the idea of a sales tax measure for MOVE was shot down by commissioners, the group refocused before looking to its current project.

"This is completely different (than the 2016 initiative) because this is not about a sales tax," she said. "This is about what resources do we currently

have, how can we promote that and what can we do to enhance the unmet needs and gaps in the county."

MOVE Lorain County is cataloging all the transportation services in the county, including nonprofit services like transportation provided by

Murray Ridge, as well as age- and location-specific buses and vans. It also is looking at rideshare companies like Uber, Lyft and Via, along with Amtrak, possible bike sharing and volunteer transportation services.

Coverage gaps

While cataloguing the services available in Lorain County, MOVE is looking at where those services are falling short. One of several public input meetings the group plans to have was held Wednesday at the Lorain County Community College Wellington Center, highlighting that rural residents' needs would be taken into account in the county's coordinated transportation plan.

"What I've seen in the past when we start talking about public transit is it ends up being rural versus urban centers," Pearson said. "No matter how much money we put into a public transit system, I don't think it's ever going to be enough to get a full system that would come all the way to Wellington. … I want to keep in mind the people in the southern (part of the) county have needs, in fact what I read is that the transportation costs for people who live in rural communities is much higher than those that live in urban centers."

Residents in attendance stressed their need for transportation to doctors' appointments and ongoing medical care in Lorain and Elyria — something they have trouble reaching if they are unable to drive themselves.

In a presentation about MOVE's work, board member Barb Barna, of Oberlin, said transit in Lorain County is underserved, with the county having several high-need populations including low-income individuals, seniors and

individuals with disabilities. She said they are looking at plans used in other counties in Ohio, which will focus on rural and urban areas.

"We're not the first people to use this plan," Barna said. "This plan has been used in southern Ohio counties and has been successful in reducing costs and increasing transportation access, so there are models for us to look at and that's exactly what we're doing here."

Needs surveys are available at MOVELorainCounty.org, and must be completed by Aug. 15. Questions address topics like residents' employment and income level, disabilities, possible destinations, and how they would like to get information on services available in the county.

The organization plans to have more public meetings, possibly in Lorain and Avon, to get further input from residents. Times and locations for those meetings have yet to be determined, Pearson said.

End goal

While MOVE looks at services and needs in the county, its end goal is to submit a coordinated transportation plan to ODOT by mid-November for consideration. If approved, the group would be able to apply for grants starting next year, with an end goal of creating a "one-call, one-click system" to provide residents information about transportation in the county.

"The final product we want is something that should be transportation systems that are stress-free, and that are on-demand," Barna said. "So this is a slightly different attitude than what the conventional public transportation schedules use now."

Pearson said regardless of whether the organization is able to expand a transportation system in the county, it plans to provide the database. While the database could be available sooner — possibly through United Way's 211 hotline — she said the earliest a transportation system could be set up is January 2020, due to the timeline surrounding federal dollars. If the group's eventual plan is approved, 80 percent of it will be funded by federal grants,

with 20 percent picked up locally by municipalities, private or nonprofit funding. Transportation systems could include walking, biking, and bike or ride-sharing, but the group is not looking to add a bus route.

"Right now we get a lot of people who say 'Oh, there's no transportation.' So we're trying to answer the question is that true? What does exist?" Pearson said. "So that's why we're doing the asset surveys and one-on-one interviews with various people, trying to understand what people are doing. … I think that the one thing that's going to definitely come out of this is a database of services that are currently available. Once we know what that is, then we can begin to look at the unmet needs and gaps that exist."

*Contact Carissa Woytach at 440-329-7245 or **cwoytach@chroniclet.com**.*

MOVE Lorain County makes good move for public transit system | Editorial

Aug 3, 2018

Kevin Martin—The Morning Journal

MOVE Lorain County Mobility Management Consultant Sharon Pearson, right, discusses local transportation issues at LCCC Wellington Center on Aug. 1 as board member Barb Barna observes. MOVE Lorain County is gathering feedback from area stakeholders in the development of a coordinated transportation plan.

An expanded Lorain County transit system is a must for residents.

Thanks to MOVE (Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy) Lorain County, the group is keeping the issue on the front burner since its origin in 2015.

At a public forum Aug. 1 at the Lorain County Community College Wellington Center, representatives from MOVE Lorain County solicited feedback from community stakeholders on what a Lorain County coordinated transportation plan would look like.

And it's no surprise that Lorain County's diverse transportation needs continue to be the subject of ongoing community consultation.

MOVE Lorain County is gathering feedback through a survey and community forums and will submit a mass transit system proposal to the Ohio Department of Transportation in November.

Sharon Pearson, a mobility management consultant with MOVE Lorain County, said the group is strategically reaching out to all corners of the county and demographic groups to develop a targeted transportation strategy.

Pearson said the transportation department is looking at communities with transportation issues, specifically those with rural aspects to them.

One feature MOVE Lorain County is working on is a one-call, one-click system which could compile all available transportation services presently available in Lorain County, enabling users quick access to local services and the agencies providing them.

Barb Barna, a MOVE Lorain County board member, said the lack of transportation options in the area is an issue for economic development and employers with key destinations not being served.

As more and more jobs come to the suburbs and fewer people driving, mass transportation is vital for residents getting to and from work.

It's no secret cities with economic growth need employees.

Do the math.

Lorain and Elyria and cities with the largest number of residents in the county, possibly will have the most people looking for work.

And to find employment, they may have to travel to Avon, Avon Lake or North Ridgeville, the cities with the most available jobs.

MOVE Lorain County says the jobs are going unfilled because people don't have transportation to get to them.

There are many reasons people don't own vehicles.

In a Jan. 23 report, MOVE Lorain County said a resident must earn $15 an hour to "effectively own and operate a car and maintain a normal standard of living," but many of the current jobs available in the county only pay $12.85; 15 percent below what is needed.

Owning a car also means that one has to have money for insurance, maintenance and of course, gasoline.

And not everyone can afford ride sharing services such as Uber and Lyft.

Barna said transportation in Lorain County is not very good, and it needs to change.

Lorain County needs to expand transportation alternatives to attract, develop and maintain a workforce.

If there is a good transportation system in the county, Barna said companies want to know about it to get workers to their jobs.

Also, Barna said funding issues have become a central focus with transit losing federal funding due to a lack of matching local investments and limited state funding support with Ohio being one of the lowest states in terms of supporting public transportation.

Stakeholders in attendance for the meeting at LCCC Wellington cited concerns about the ability to get to medical appointments across the county and specialized support for those with mobility issues.

MOVE Lorain has put together a list of goals for improved transportation including to identify community resources for transportation and mobility and to identify the gaps and unmet needs.

The group also is encouraging residents to participate in the Lorain County Transportation Needs Survey, which is available until Aug. 15 and can be accessed at www.moveloraincounty.org .

The survey has 16 questions including asking people if they use public transportation, if they are interested in public transportation and what improvements are needed for better public transportation.

An improved public transit system is crucial for Lorain County.

POSTED ON AUGUST 7, 2018 BY WELLINGTON ENTERPRISE

MOVE: Lorain County needs public transit

LOCAL, NEWS

By Jonathan Delozier - jdelozier@aimmediamidwest.com

Public transportation options aren't meeting the needs of the area's most vulnerable residents, according to one group trying to fill in some of those gaps.

MOVE Lorain County, or Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy, was established in 2016 by area officials including Oberlin City councilwoman Sharon Pearson, county commissioner Matt Lundy, and former commissioner Betty Blair.

The group held its first public meeting in southern Lorain County Aug. 1 at the LCCC Wellington Center.

A survey meant to gauge residents' needs is underway and runs through Aug. 15. It can be found at www.goo.gl/kmSSV9. You can also answer questions by calling Pearson at 440-707-6477 or emailing moveloraincounty@gmail.com.
Results will be used to create what MOVE is calling a coordinated transportation plan, which will be submitted to the state in hopes of expanding Lorain County's options and an avenue toward federal funds over the next five years.

Helping seniors, those with disabilities, and residents in lower income brackets has been MOVE's main focus.

For many residents living paycheck to paycheck, a broken down car can lead to sudden financial ruin, Pearson said — and owning and maintaining a car can prove to be quite difficult for anyone making under $15 an hour.

"Once you factor in payments, insurance, and maintenance, a car can cost you around $9,000 a year," she said. "Data also shows the cost of transportation is higher in rural areas as opposed to urban areas. We just want to ask people what they want and what they need."

Establishing a volunteer network of drivers is one idea Pearson plans to put before state officials.

Other initiatives discussed have involved biking, ride sharing, and car sharing.

In 2016, MOVE lobbied county commissioners to dedicate revenue from a 0.25 percent sales tax increase to expanding Lorain County Transit busing services, but that effort failed.

LCT bus routes have not reached Wellington since at least 2008, according to Pearson.

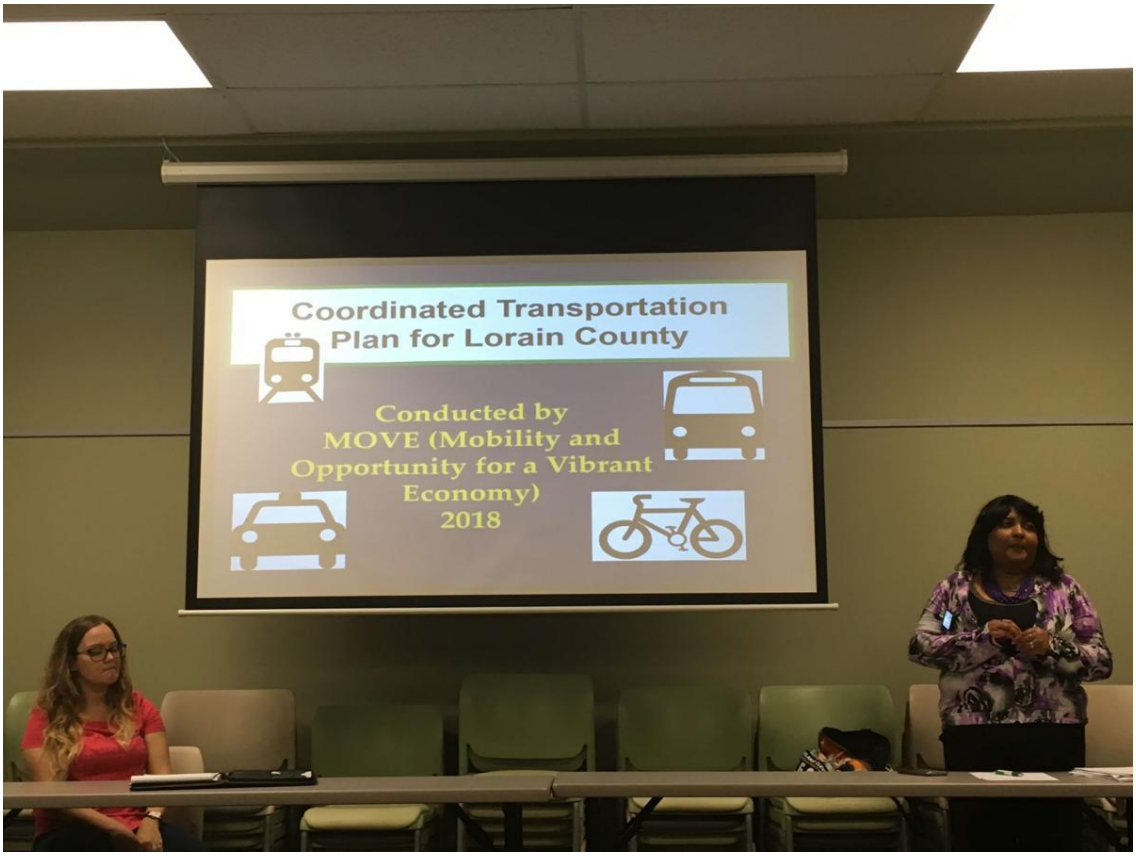
“We don’t want this to be a rural vs. urban discussion,” Pearson said. “Southern Lorain County is a different world compared to an Avon Lake. The issue of mobility is vital in a healthy economy and society and that should apply to all residents.”

Jonathan Delozier can be reached at 440-775-1611 or @DelozierNews on Twitter.

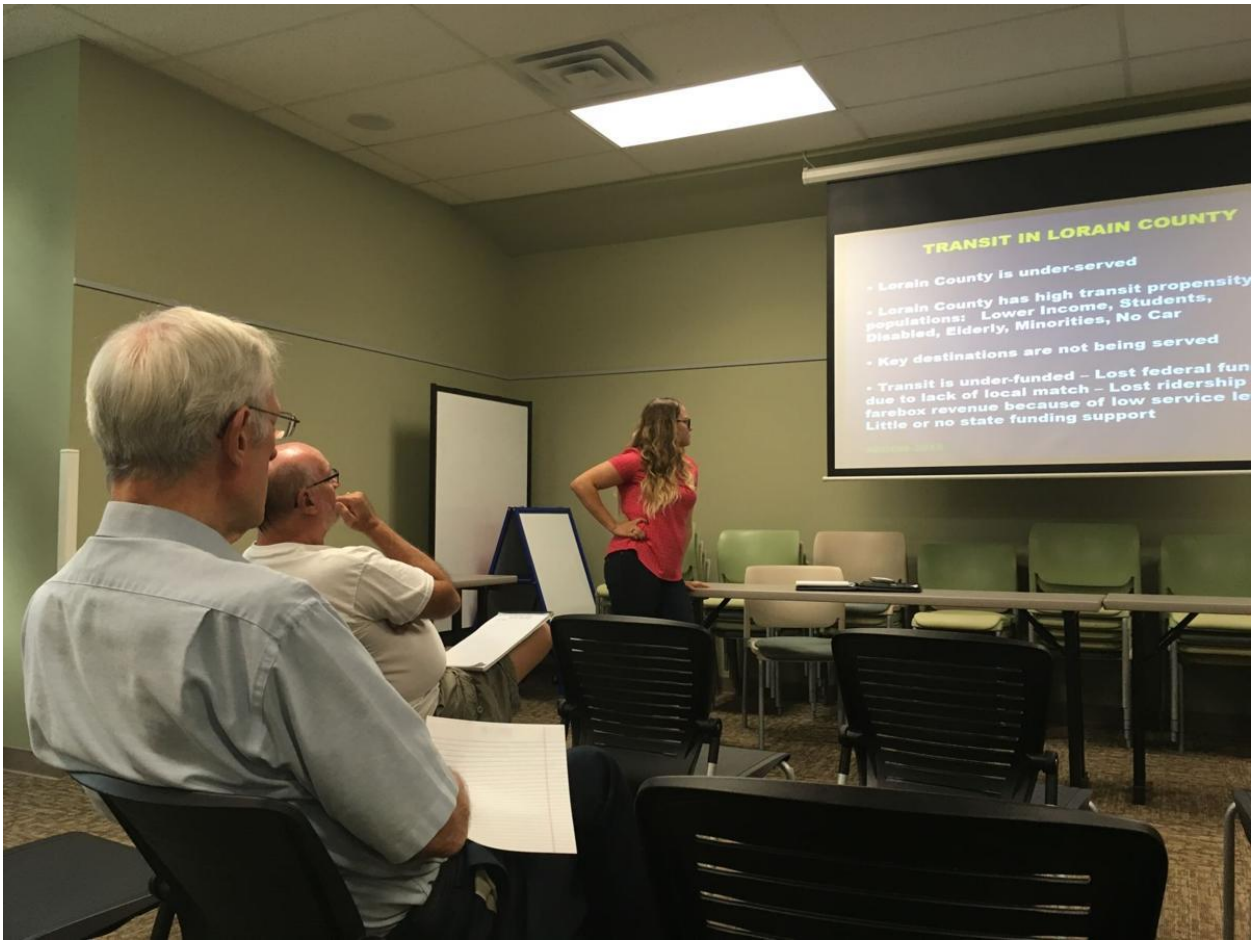
MOVE Lorain County looks for transportation solutions

by Kevin Martin

Sep 13, 2018



MOVE Lorain County hosted a public input session at the Avon Public Library on Sept. 13 focusing on local transportation needs.



MOVE Lorain County hosted a public input session at the Avon Public Library on Sept. 13 focusing on local transportation needs.

MOVE Lorain County held its final public input session seeking feedback on local transportation needs Sept. 13 at Avon Public Library.

With ridership for Lorain County Transit down, the organization funded through the Community Foundation of Lorain County is looking at ways to understand service gaps and diversify local transportation options.

Sharon Pearson, a mobility management consultant with MOVE, said the time is now to take transportation needs seriously with Lorain County growing.

Pearson cited statistics indicating Lorain County is gaining about 1,000 people each year, making it one of the fastest-growing counties per capita in Northeast Ohio, just behind Medina out of counties including Summit, Portage and Cuyahoga.

“The growth is just going to continue. But we only have so many roads so I see the need for transportation is going to grow and it’s not going to lessen,” Pearson said. “So that is something I think is very important for us to consider and take a look at. We can’t wait for other people to get public transit back.”

Ridership with Lorain County Transit has declined from 850,000 annually, down to around 80,000. Following the housing crash, the Lorain County commissioners were forced to cut back on public transit.

Without a dedicated sales tax in support of Lorain County transportation infrastructure, Pearson stressed it was difficult to address dedicated public transit without one and MOVE is instead focusing on building upon transportation services already in existence along with promoting ride-sharing and carpooling.

MOVE will be submitting a plan to the Ohio Department of Transportation in November for a coordinated transportation plan seeking to address gaps over the next two to five years, focusing on underserved populations such as individuals with disabilities and those living in rural areas.

“We are looking at what else we can do in Lorain County. There is such a strong need that we cannot wait for someone else to do it,” Pearson said.

Elyria resident Jeff Baxter saw numerous possibilities for local transit.

“The transportation system I think we need in Lorain (County) is very broad. It’s got to cover the disabled, the low income. It’s got to cover me and you as well. And it’s got to cover employees, shopping centers with shoppers and the return trips as well,” Baxter said.

Baxter stressed transportation funding has always been the real problem and added Lorain County should look at partnerships with larger employers such as The Cleveland Clinic and Lorain County Community College to help fund the system such as surcharges for students who use a dedicated public transit system.

County transportation group starts creating plan

By Carissa Woytach | The Chronicle-Telegram

Published on Aug. 31, 2018 | Updated 11:13 a. m.

ELYRIA — The county's coordinated transportation plan is chugging along, with a group meeting Thursday highlighting the findings from a community-needs survey and presenting available ride-sharing options.

Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy (MOVE) Lorain County is working to fill gaps in the county's transportation services.

After going dormant for two years after controversy with county commissioners over funding transportation through a sales tax, the group is looking to connect residents with services like transit lines and ride-share programs, while possibly adding initiatives to fill residents' needs.

To meet those needs, the group is creating a coordinated transportation plan, with input from residents, nonprofits, businesses and other entities, to be submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation later this year.

"What this plan, what members of this committee tried to do is bring together all of those different ideas, those different leaders, those different organizations that all have a view, all have an idea, all have a thought on what needs to be done and how it needs to be done, bringing together so that we can have an effective, efficient process that helps our community, our people, move forward," facilitator Sherman Jones said.

Survey findings

Residents' needs were identified for the plan through a survey, answered by 691 residents, from children to senior citizens. Mobility management consultant Sharon Pearson presented the results to stakeholders Thursday afternoon at the group's third formal meeting.

Of the close to 700 who took the survey, the largest age groups were 26- to 45-year-olds with 208, then 65-plus with 121 and ages 46 to 55 with 129.

While many aspects of the results weren't surprising to attendees — such as close to half the respondents were unaware of their transportation options in the county — other answers were less obvious. For example, the top five places respondents said they need to go to were the grocery store, doctor,

drugstore, family and friends, and a department store. School and work, though included in the original survey, didn't crack the top results.

"What I'm also finding from my one-on-ones and even through this survey's results is that what is missing is the quality of life," Pearson said. "There's a lot of comments about people wanting to go to the Metro Parks, visit family, without transportation services we're not able to provide that to people."

She said current services, like those through Medicaid or Veterans Affairs, only take people to their doctor's appointments — not shopping or other destinations.

"But yet if you look at this survey, where is the No. 1 place that people need to stop? (Grocery) store," she said. "But they're not going to be able to if they use Medicaid services — that's very, very interesting.

Respondents also answered that the majority of them are using their own cars to get to where they need to go — with walking, calling a family member or friend, or biking, also being used.

The top five ZIP codes to respond to the survey were in Lorain, Elyria, Oberlin, Amherst and Wellington — with the group also receiving between one and 11 surveys from Avon, Vermilion, North Ridgeville, Kipton, Grafton, LaGrange, Sheffield and Sheffield Lake.

In terms of economic status, 145 participants self-identified as low income; 272 respondents listed themselves employed full time, while 61 were part time and 121 preferred not to answer. Another 272 had an unspecified, self-reported disability.

Other presentations

Beverly Burtzlaff, air quality planner for Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, presented the organization's Gohio Commute program.

The NOACA serves as a transportation and environmental planning agency for Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. One of several in

the state, the federally funded organization monitors air quality and sponsors projects to address transportation needs in the area it serves.

Gohio Commute encourages carpooling for work by matching groups of drivers and riders together by location. The online tool, gohiocommute.com, allows users to track the amount of carbon-dioxide emissions in car trips, and calories burned on bike rides, among other features.

Another commuter-focused program, Enterprise Rideshare, gave a short presentation on its services. Rae-Lin Jones, Rideshare sales executive, said the program allows roughly seven to 15 co-workers to meet together at a central location and split a monthly rental fee to commute in a newer-model van or SUV. The group would share driving responsibilities, and it is designed for longer commutes.

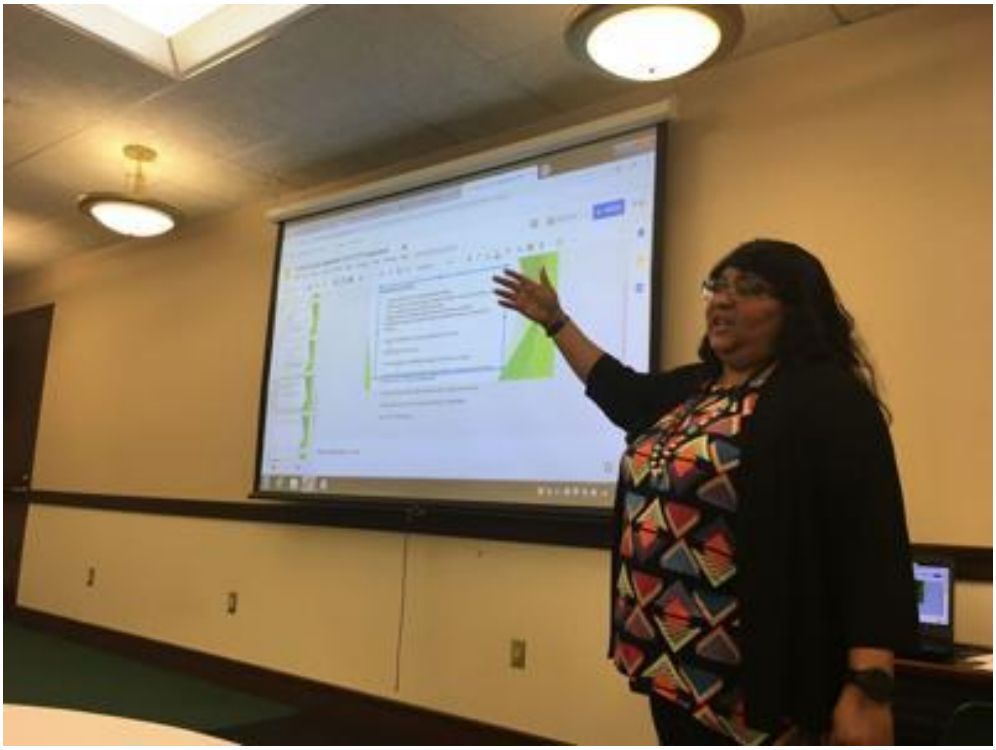
Looking ahead, MOVE will try to prioritize its goals for the next five years, solidifying what will be included in the final coordinated transportation plan. It hopes to have a draft together by Oct. 1, with the final product done a month later. The plan will go to the Ohio Department of Transportation Nov. 18, vying for money to expand or add services and meet goals outlined for the county.

“There’s an African proverb that says, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,’” Jones said. “What we’re trying to do here is to coordinate the plan to go together and not have to re-create any steps along the way and to get where we need to go.”

The next public meetings are 6 p.m. Thursday at the Ohio Business College, 5095 Waterford Drive, Sheffield; 6:30 p.m. Sept. 10 at First Church in Oberlin, 106 N. Main St.; and 7 p.m. Sept. 13 at Avon Public Library, 37485 Harvest Drive. For more information, visit moveloraincounty.org.

MOVE Lorain County's Coordinated Transportation Plan moves forward

By Kevin Martin kmartin@morningjournal.com @MJKevinMartin1 on Twitter
Oct 3, 2018



Sharon Pearson of MOVE Lorain County speaks at LCCC on Sept. 27 at the final Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan meeting.

A plan to improve Lorain County transportation is moving forward.

Mobility and Opportunity for a Vibrant Economy, also known as MOVE Lorain County, hosted its final coordinated transportation meeting Sept. 27 at Lorain County Community College, 1005 N. Abbe Road in Elyria.

The months-long public input process has sought to elicit feedback from a broad and diverse segment of Lorain County on local transportation needs to understand where the gaps in service are.

In the process of developing a five-year plan on Lorain County transportation needs, area stakeholders presented a series of goals in the final opportunity to provide feedback.

The Lorain County Coordinated Transportation Plan wants to build upon present services available and increase public awareness and build toward improvements.

In developing a series of goals in key focus, MOVE wants to establish a Lorain County specific transportation plan targeting: marketing/promotion of transportation options; developing relationships and partnerships between the community and public/private entities; data collection; and modernizing transportation services.

In doing so, Sharon Pearson, a mobility management consultant with MOVE, said the plan is placing emphasis on the elderly, people with disabilities and those living in rural areas.

“How can we work with local leaders," Pearson said. "There’s data collection and planning. We need to continue to gather data on services and information on trips.

"Because that’s when the coordination actually begins; when we have all this data. We’ve been collecting some of this for the Coordinated Transportation Plan, but we’re not done and we will continually work on gathering this data, and we need to figure out how we’re going to do that."

The draft

A draft of the plan will be completed by Oct. 22 at which point a 30-day public review period will open allowing citizens to read the plan and provide additional comments and feedback.

MOVE will seek letters of support from agencies and organizations during this period, Pearson said.

MOVE also has explored looking at integrating local ride sharing options including Gohio Commute and Enterprise Rideshare in expanding on the possibilities of what Lorain County transportation could look like, she said.

"One of the other things that we're going to probably want to do, which is a question that the Coordinated Transportation Plan asks, is what other innovative transportation things can we come up with that is unique to Lorain County?" Pearson asked.

The final draft of the plan will be presented to be the Ohio Department of Transportation in late November and officially submitted by Dec. 1.

A transportation survey sent out to Lorain County residents with 691 respondents provided some unexpected results.

In the category ranking the top five places respondents need to go, work and school did not factor in. The top places were going to the grocery store, visiting a doctor, going to a drug store, visiting family and friends and getting to a department store.

In terms of locations people want to travel to, respondents emphasized social activities, citing parks, including Lakeview Park and Lorain County Metro Parks, in addition to Avon Commons and Oberlin.

Additionally, 335 respondents were unaware of transportation services available in Lorain County.

Appendix K: Letters of Support

AgriNomix

City of Avon

City of Lorain Veterans Council

City of Oberlin

Community Foundation of Lorain County

Educational Service Center of Lorain County

Kendal at Oberlin

The LCADA Way

LEAP, Inc. – Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential

LifeCare Ambulance

Lorain County Board of Mental Health

Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Lorain County Metropolitan Housing Authority

Lorain County Office on Aging

Lorain County Public Health

Lucy Idol Center

MOVE Lorain County Board Resolution

Neighborhood Alliance

The Nord Center

Oberlin Center for the Arts

Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning

Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio

Wesleyan Village

Updated: 11/27/2018