

Allen County Coordinated Public Transit- Human Service Transportation Plan Summary Sheet

The Allen County Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan was undertaken to examine publicly supported transportation in Allen County that is available to the special-needs populations. The Plan was required to recommend strategies by which special-needs groups could be provided with transportation that is appropriate, accessible, and safe. Plan development was mandated by Federal regulations and developed at the request of the Allen County Commissioners and the Allen County Regional Transit Authority. The Plan was prepared by the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission and local stakeholders, members of the Citizens Accessibility Advisory Committee, which included - seven (7) public agencies, eight (8) not-for-profit private agencies, and one (1) for-profit private company. This Summary Sheet is intended to provide the reader with an overview of a larger document.

The Plan was Federally required to examine specific issues regarding publicly supported transportation, as well as, access to it by special-needs groups:

- Provide demographic analyses of the transportationally disadvantaged population;
- Assess the transportation needs of people with disabilities, older adults, non-white minorities, and those in poverty;
- Provide an inventory of all currently available transportation services and to identify gaps or overlaps in those services;
- Identify strategies to address gaps-in-service, reduce overlaps-in-service, increase efficiencies; and
- Prioritize strategies for coordination implementation.

The Plan examined six (6) possible alternatives. The first alternative documented transit and para-transit usage in 2006. The second and third examined the possible results of cutting funding and then eliminating the services of the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Alternative 4 examined the transit/paratransit resources necessary to serve the transportation needs across Allen County using existing agencies. Alternative 5 explored the delivery of such services under a consolidation of transportation service providers. The last alternative studied the implications of undertaking various strategies to coordinate and broker transportation services between and among local service providers.

Alternative 6 provided the most workable local coordination strategies that provided better transportation service, to special-needs groups, by better using existing resources. The following strategies provide opportunities to evolve local transportation coordination through the year 2030, as follows:

- Development of effective partnerships with local stakeholders;
- Identify/acquire the tools necessary to support coordination;
- Address/reduce gaps, as well as, overlaps-in-services;
- Reduce expenses, increase funding;
- Increase public awareness with respect to available services; and
- Implement effective customer care standards.

The Plan will be subjected to ongoing, as well as, periodic reviews, and maintained to meet Federal requirements.

The Plan is available for comment online at the LACRPC website – www.lacrpc.com—
Click on the “What’s New” icon and then the link to “Coordination Plan”
or visit the LACRPC at 130 W. North Street, Lima—weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or
call 419-228-1836.