

Genesee County

"Shaping our Transportation Future Together"

2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN SUMMARY

The Genesee County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) was developed to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, elderly individuals, and individuals with low incomes. It also provides strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. For more detailed information, refer to the entire Coordinated Plan which is available on-line as a Technical Report for the 2035 LRTP.

About the Coordinated Plan



The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) is the law which guides the Federal transportation planning process. SAFETEA-LU requires that projects selected for funding under the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program, the Job Access Reverse Commute, and the New Freedom Program, be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan.

Genesee County's Coordinated Plan was locally developed through a process that included representatives of public, private, non-profit and human services transportation providers and members of the public. It identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, elderly individuals, and individuals with low incomes, provides strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation.

Current Services

The Coordinated Plan was approved in September of 2007 by the Genesee County Metropolitan Alliance, and is not due for an update yet. This section is intended as a brief over-view of the MTA's current services since the plan's approval. The MTA, as the agency authorized to provide public transportation services in Flint and Genesee County, provides public transit service to over 5 million passengers annually through five types of services: primary routes, senior shopper services, peak routes, regional routes and Para transit routes. MTA operates fourteen primary routes seven days a week, except national holidays. The primary routes are augmented with the peak routes during peak periods, with selected stops. These routes operate weekdays, morning and afternoon.

The MTA also provides a demand response Para transit service known as "Your Ride". This service supplements fixed routes and serves those sectors of the public who cannot effectively use the regular fixed route services, due to disability or lack of access to a nearby fixed route. Within the City of Flint, eligibility is limited to persons who have mobility restrictions. Outside the fixed route area, any Genesee County resident can use the Your Ride service. The MTA has eleven (11) Your Ride Service Centers located throughout the county. MTA also provides regional transportation services. Regional service routes provide regular scheduled service to adjoining counties. Service is open to the general public but scheduled to meet the needs of Genesee County residents who need transportation to a work site outside of Genesee County. Regional routes connect with suburban Detroit transit routes. This service is provided seven (7) days a week.

Through an MDOT Specialized Services grant program, the MTA provides various community agencies with funding assistance for those populations with specialized transportation needs, such as the elderly and persons with disabilities. The availability of these specialized services makes daily activities possible for many elderly and disabled citizens in various communities throughout Genesee County.



Many of the local senior centers provide transportation, but these services tend to be limited. Some will only transport their seniors to a certain geographic area, and most have restrictions on the days and times that service is available. Some are unable to offer transportation at all. Many local agencies and faith-based organizations also offer limited transportation services, but usually only to their clients who are traveling to limited geographic areas. There are also several private transportation services available at any time of the day or night, but their costs may be prohibitive to low-income individuals. They also may not be equipped to handle persons with disabilities.

Assessment of Transportation Needs

There are many unmet transportation needs and gaps in services in Genesee County, which were identified by attendees at the Coordinated Plan Workshop. Needs and gaps included areas such as: additional services needed for the three target groups, services needed for parents with young children, services needed for the developmentally challenged, improved bus stops, and expanded transit services and hours. To see a complete listing of these identified needs and gaps, along with a narrative that groups the needs into general categories, refer to page 21 of the Technical Report.

Strategies to Address the Needs and Gaps in Services

To address the identified transportation needs and gaps in services, the workshop participants came up with potential strategies that could be used. Strategies included actions such as: maintaining and increasing funding for services, coordination between organizations and businesses, addressing safety and security needs, and incorporating technology. To see a complete listing of these identified strategies, refer to page 29 of the Technical Report.

Priorities for Implementation

Workshop participants considered all the identified strategies, and by casting votes, prioritized the strategies according to what they thought to be most important. Participants also determined which agencies should be responsible for the implementation of the strategies. By voting, participants decided that the most important strategy was maintaining and increasing funding for services. To see a complete listing of all the prioritized strategies, refer to page 31 of the Technical Report.

Findings of the Coordinated Plan/Next Steps

The Coordinated Plan laid out in detail how many transportation-related needs were still unmet in Genesee County. Much more funding is needed to be able to fill all these unmet needs. Staff will continue working with local transit and human service agencies,

along with FHWA, MDOT and FTA, to help facilitate the Coordinated Plan process with available funding levels. As projects are derived from the Coordinated Plan, staff will participate in helping those projects move forward as necessary. GCMPC has been complimented on its good working relationship with local transit services, and is looking forward to maintaining that relationship while helping to improve transportation services in Genesee County.

