

# Erie County Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan 2018-2022

**Erie County Regional Planning Metropolitan Planning Organization**

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## Executive Summary

This plan is the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Erie County, Ohio and a portion of Lorain County. The plan was originally developed in 2007 and has been updated in 2010, 2013, and 2020. 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 the Erie County Metropolitan Planning region. Transportation provides access to jobs, education, health care and 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

Community resources including what vehicles local human service agencies have available, their hours of operation and who can utilize their services. In total there were eight providers identified and that spend approximately \$3.4 million on transportation locally running 72 vehicles.

### 2. Improve customer satisfaction with the Erie County transportation system

### 3. Establish a clear plan for achieving shared goals

In total, five goals were created and four strategies. A short summary of these are listed below.

#### **Goal #1: Improve Efficiencies and Communication to Minimize Duplication**

Improve customer satisfaction with the Erie County transportation system.

Strategy 1.1: Develop and expand existing partnerships with public and private human service agencies and transportation agencies.

Strategy 1.2: Evaluate opportunities to effectively and efficiently meet the demand for out of county trips for county residents.

## **Goal #2: Improve Customer Service**

Improve customer satisfaction with the Erie County transportation system.

## **Goal #3: Capital and Funding Needs**

Assisting with the cost of capital and funding needs.

Strategy 3.1: Assist with vehicle replacement, preventative maintenance, operating, mobility management, computer/hardware/software and other transportation related equipment as needed for eligible agencies.

Strategy 3.2: Discuss ways to assist with transit costs.

## **Goal #4: Marketing**

Residents in Erie County are not aware of all mobility options that are available in Erie County.

Strategy 4.1: Educate Erie County Residents of all mobility options that are available within the county.

## **Goal #5: Regionalization Coordination**

Make crossing county line easier to maneuver and more affordable by jointly considering connections /transfers with other relevant agencies.

Strategy 5.1: Work with adjoining transit providers to coordinate services.

In order to ensure participation of target groups (those who are low income, considered a minority and/or a senior citizen), a series of public meetings and outreach sessions were conducted by ERPC staff. These meetings were successful in engaging representatives in conversations about their transportation needs. Staff presented information utilizing a PowerPoint in addition to responding to questions throughout the presentations. In addition, staff provided their contact information so participants would be able to contact them with any ideas or suggestions that they may think of after the meeting.

The final plan update was developed and adopted by the Erie County Coordinated Plan Steering Committee. More information about the committee can be found in Appendix A.

## **I. Geographic Area**

Erie County is one of eight coastal counties situated on the eastern border of the Northwestern Ohio region. Erie County is bounded by Lorain County to the East, Huron County to the South, Sandusky and Ottawa Counties to the West and Lake Erie to the North. Erie County has a land area of 255 square miles with a population density of 301 people per square mile.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the county has a water area of 371 square miles with 65 miles of shoreline along the lake and Sandusky Bay.<sup>2</sup> As far as land use, Erie County is 13 percent urban, 53 percent cropland, ten percent pasture, 16 percent forest, two percent open water, five percent wetland, and one percent bare/mines.<sup>3</sup>

The transportation network in Erie County consists of 26 interstate highway miles, 42 US highway miles and 114 state highway miles.<sup>4</sup> There are 622 county, township and municipal road miles, two small commercial airports, two shipping ports and 95 miles of rail line.<sup>5</sup> The area is serviced by the Sandusky Transit Service (STS), Greyhound Bus service and a number of cab companies. Erie County is connected to the surrounding communities and rural areas connected by a system of Federal, State and County Highways. Major transportation routes include US 6, US 250, SR 2, SR 4, SR 13, SR 60, SR 61, SR 99, SR 101, SR 113, and SR 269. The Ohio Turnpike I-80/90 is accessible at two locations within the county and is one of the primary east-west connections. Three elected commissioners govern Erie County with the City of Sandusky, incorporated in 1824, serving as the County Seat. Erie County consists of five villages: Kelleys Island, Castalia, Berlin Heights, Milan and Bay View. In addition, there are three major cities, which include Sandusky, Huron, and Vermilion. There are also nine townships: Perkins, Vermilion, Huron, Margaretta, Oxford, Florence, Groton, Milan and Berlin.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.city-data.com/county/Erie\\_County-OH.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Erie_County-OH.html)

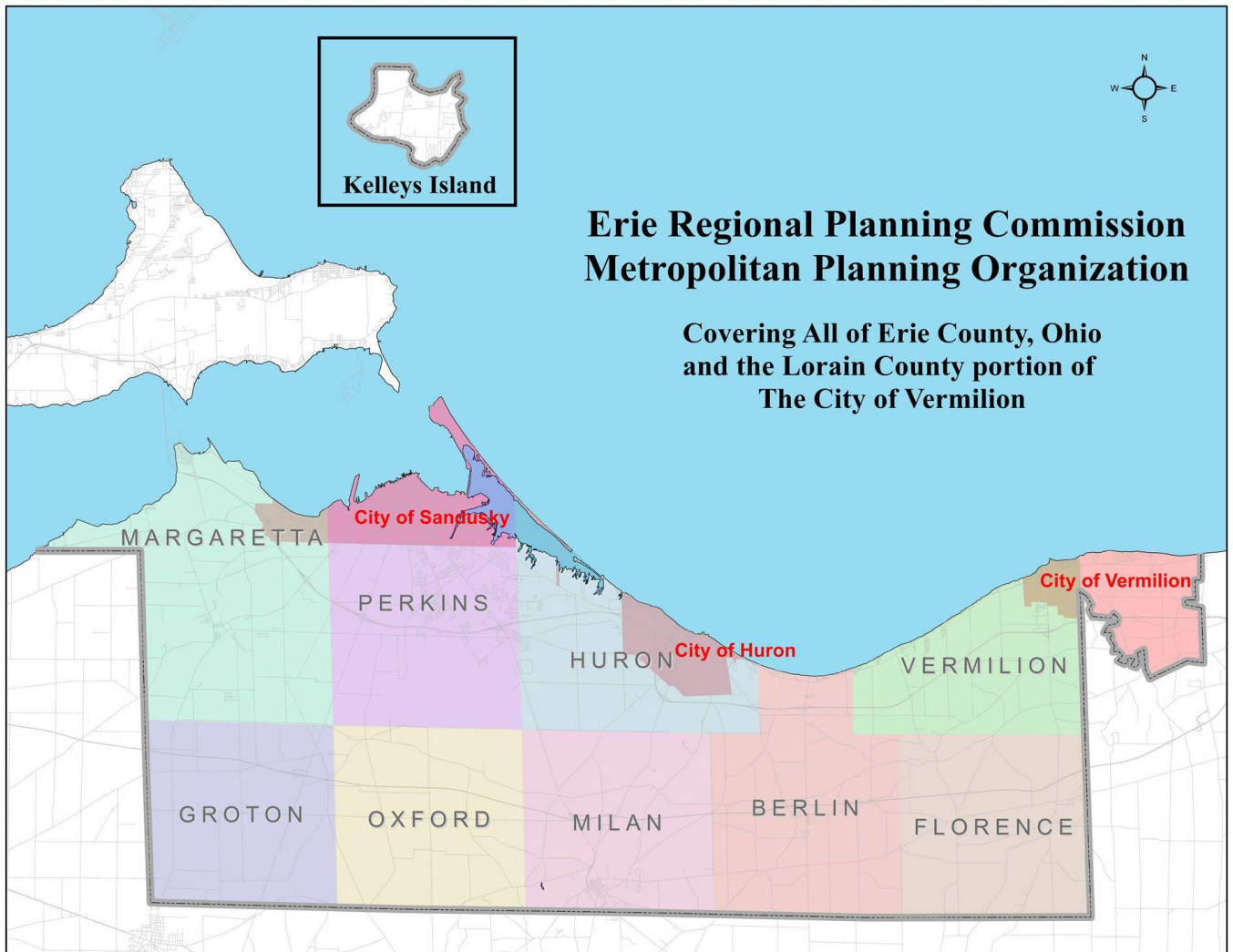
<sup>2</sup> <http://thebeacon.net/local-news/ottawa-outdoors/item/5106-celebrating-lake-erie-on-earth-day> ODNR

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.development.ohio.gov/files/research/C1023.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Erie County 2013 Freight Plan

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.city-data.com/county/Erie\\_County-OH.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Erie_County-OH.html)

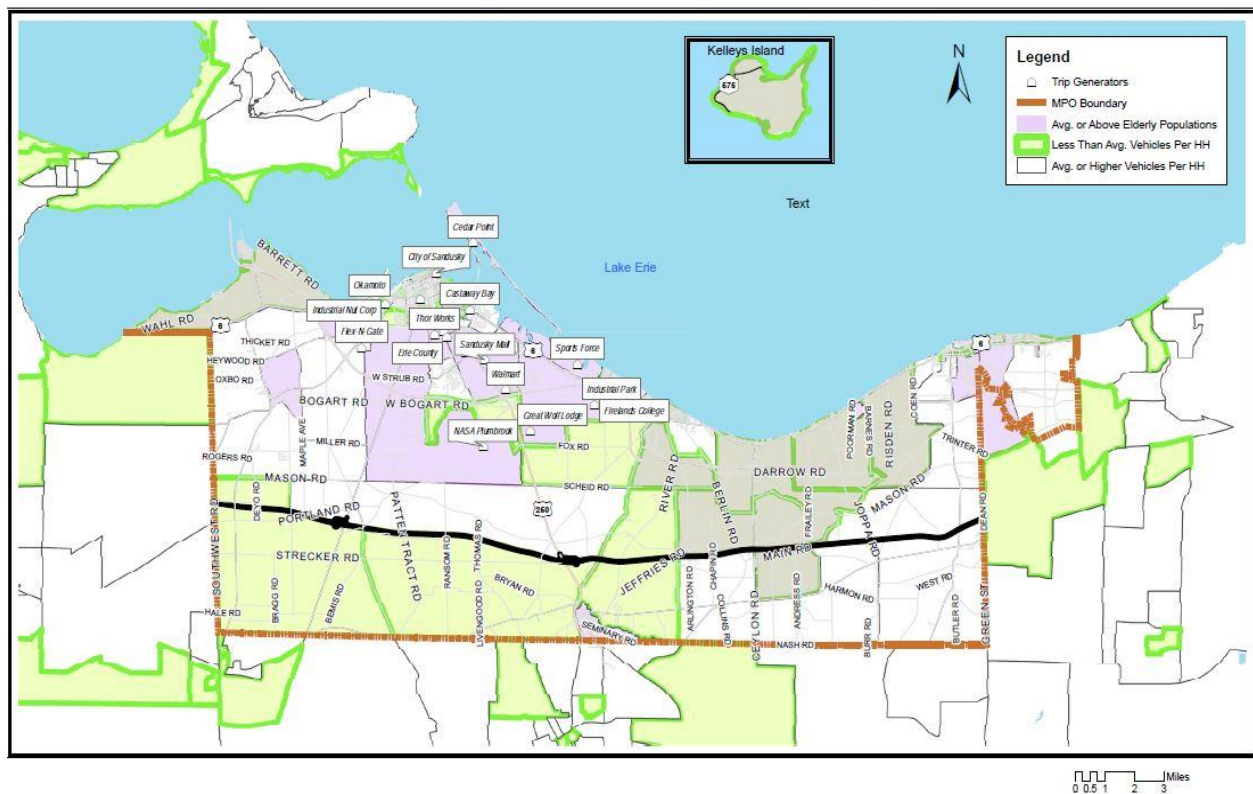
**Map 1: Basic map of the geographic area covered by the plan**



## Map 2: Major trip generators in the geographic area

During the summer and fall months major trip generators for the area include various tourist destinations including Cedar Point off the Cedar Point Peninsula and waterpark resorts along US 250. The majority of trips occur within the urban areas and directly surrounding rural areas.

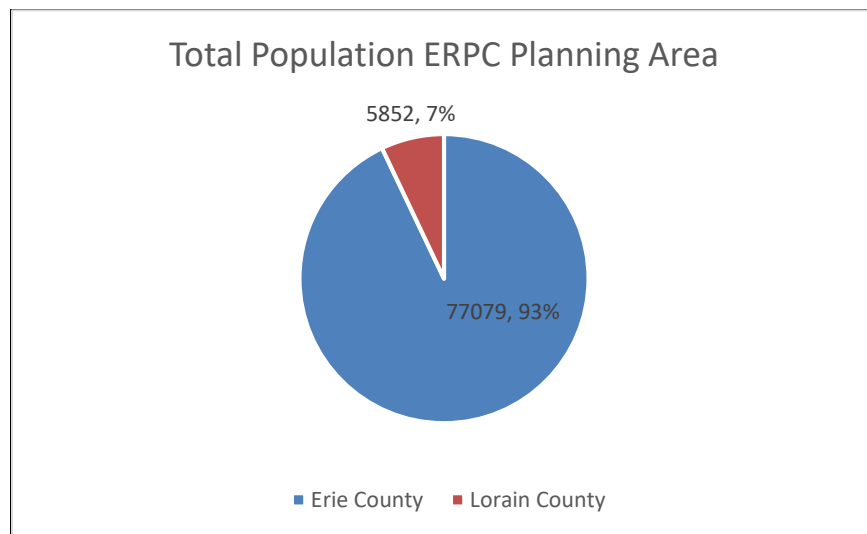
Erie County Coordinated Plan Trip Generator Analysis



## II. Population Demographics

There has been a decrease of 8.3 percent, in population within the MPO planning area which includes a portion of Lorain County in Vermilion. According to the 2010 ACS, the current population total for the planning area is 82,931 people. The decrease in population was felt in fourteen of the seventeen political subdivisions; although, the Village of Berlin Heights and the townships of Groton, Huron and Vermilion did gain some population. The loss of population was felt the most in the City of Sandusky, the County Seat of Erie County. The population of Sandusky has been trending down since 1970 when it reached a population peak of 32,674. However, over the next 40 years the population decreased with the 2010 Census revealing a total of 25,793 people in Sandusky translating to a loss of over seven percent of its population between the 2000 and 2010 Census.

### Total Population ERPC Planning Area



### Population Projections

Population projections were also examined. These projections help determine the expectations of the population that can be used for future planning. They help to determine the ability of Erie County to capture its fair share of public/private grants and government loans.



## Chart 2: Total Population by Age Group and Projected Population'

Population is projected to increase within Lorain County in the coming years. Additionally it is projected that the age cohorts of 0-34 will increase.

AGE COHORTS	TOTAL POP	2015		TOTAL POP	2020		TOTAL POP	2025	
		MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE
0-4	3,860	1,870	1,990	3,770	1,830	1,930	3,420	1,660	1,760
5-9	4,250	2,190	2,070	3,870	1,870	2,000	3,800	1,860	1,940
10-14	4,460	2,290	2,180	4,310	2,230	2,080	3,780	1,830	1,940
15-19	4,270	2,170	2,100	4,360	2,270	2,090	3,910	2,020	1,890
20-24	4,570	2,340	2,230	3,660	1,820	1,850	4,060	2,090	1,970
25-29	3,950	1,970	1,980	4,020	2,040	1,980	3,630	1,810	1,820
30-34	4,110	2,030	2,080	3,970	1,980	1,990	4,030	2,050	1,990
35-39	3,940	1,950	1,980	4,120	2,050	2,070	3,980	2,010	1,970
40-44	4,390	2,170	2,220	3,950	1,970	1,980	4,090	2,020	2,060
45-49	4,840	2,380	2,450	4,360	2,150	2,210	3,920	1,950	1,970
50-54	5,790	2,810	2,980	4,770	2,330	2,440	4,290	2,100	2,180
55-59	6,170	2,960	3,220	5,620	2,710	2,910	4,630	2,260	2,380
60-64	5,660	2,800	2,860	5,910	2,820	3,090	5,330	2,560	2,780
65-69	5,020	2,420	2,600	5,180	2,520	2,670	5,440	2,550	2,890
70-74	3,460	1,620	1,850	4,280	1,980	2,300	4,450	2,080	2,370
75-79	2,450	1,150	1,300	2,780	1,260	1,520	3,420	1,530	1,900
80-84	1,790	780	1,000	1,880	850	1,030	2,040	880	1,170
85+	2,090	810	1,280	2,070	810	1,260	2,120	840	1,280
TOTAL	75,070	36,700	38,370	72,900	35,510	37,400	70,350	34,080	36,270

Population is projected to decrease within Erie County in the coming years. Additionally it is projected that the population that remains will increase the 65+ age cohorts.

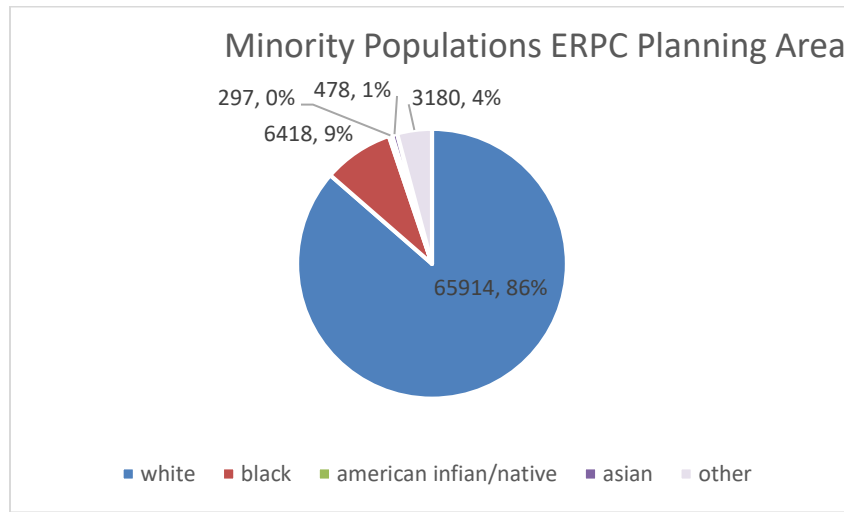
### DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE AND SEX

AGE COHORTS	TOTAL POP	2015		TOTAL POP	2020		TOTAL POP	2025	
		MALE POP	FEMALE POP		MALE POP	FEMALE POP		MALE POP	FEMALE POP
0-4	16,830	8,250	8,580	17,720	8,690	9,030	19,520	9,570	9,950
5-9	17,720	9,070	8,650	16,770	8,240	8,530	17,370	8,510	8,870
10-14	20,690	10,620	10,080	17,460	8,930	8,530	17,640	8,660	8,980
15-19	24,120	12,450	11,670	22,710	11,610	11,100	20,900	10,850	10,060
20-24	22,840	12,210	10,630	26,180	13,990	12,200	24,240	12,980	11,260
25-29	15,940	8,310	7,640	22,380	12,170	10,210	24,900	13,350	11,550
30-34	15,990	7,980	8,020	15,650	8,090	7,560	22,250	12,020	10,230
35-39	17,440	8,770	8,670	15,880	7,860	8,020	15,560	7,960	7,590
40-44	19,200	9,420	9,780	17,280	8,630	8,650	15,670	7,670	8,010
45-49	20,520	10,260	10,260	18,990	9,260	9,730	17,020	8,420	8,600
50-54	22,680	10,980	11,700	19,900	9,780	10,120	18,440	8,820	9,630
55-59	23,200	11,330	11,880	21,810	10,400	11,410	19,280	9,330	9,950
60-64	20,070	9,700	10,360	22,050	10,540	11,510	20,710	9,660	11,050
65-69	16,830	7,970	8,860	18,430	8,730	9,700	20,140	9,440	10,700
70-74	10,870	4,960	5,920	14,460	6,670	7,790	15,610	7,190	8,420
75-79	7,780	3,400	4,380	8,470	3,680	4,790	11,240	4,990	6,250
80-84	6,180	2,530	3,650	5,720	2,310	3,410	6,760	2,810	3,960
85+	7,480	2,860	4,620	8,370	3,560	4,820	8,480	3,720	4,760
TOTAL	306,400	151,060	155,340	310,230	153,120	157,110	315,760	155,960	159,800

## Ethnicity

**Chart 3: Total Population by Race<sup>9</sup>**

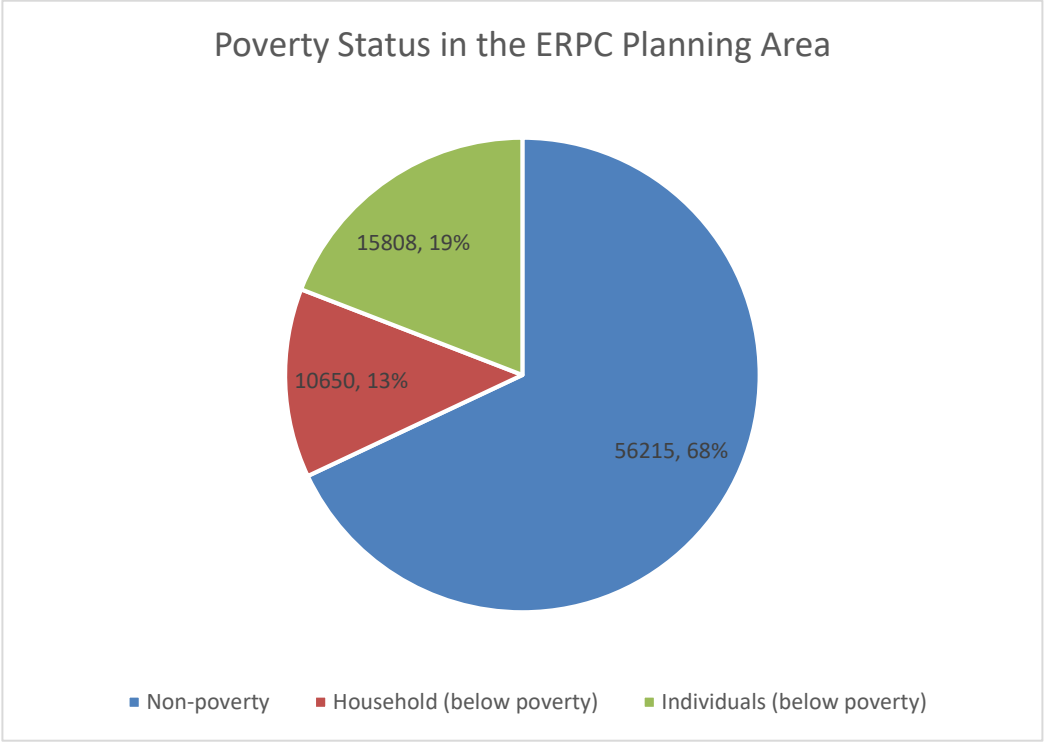
Persons belonging to any of the following groups: Black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander are considered minorities.<sup>8</sup> A majority (86%) of the planning area identifies as white while a smaller cohort (9%) identifies as black.



## Income Below the Federal Poverty Level

The Brookings Institute conducted a study in which low-income families who participated in federal housing voucher programs were examined. The study focused on the correlation between these groups and transportation availability. The end result of the study was that many of the opportunities that come with better schools, lower poverty and less crime still require a car to be successful even with other methods of federal assistance being provided. It was suggested that a car-sharing service to low-income populations or an expansion in federal programs be designed to help the poor who could facilitate car ownership helping those with lower incomes improve their quality of life. It was also found that those with access to cars were twice as likely to find a job and four times as likely to remain employed.

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



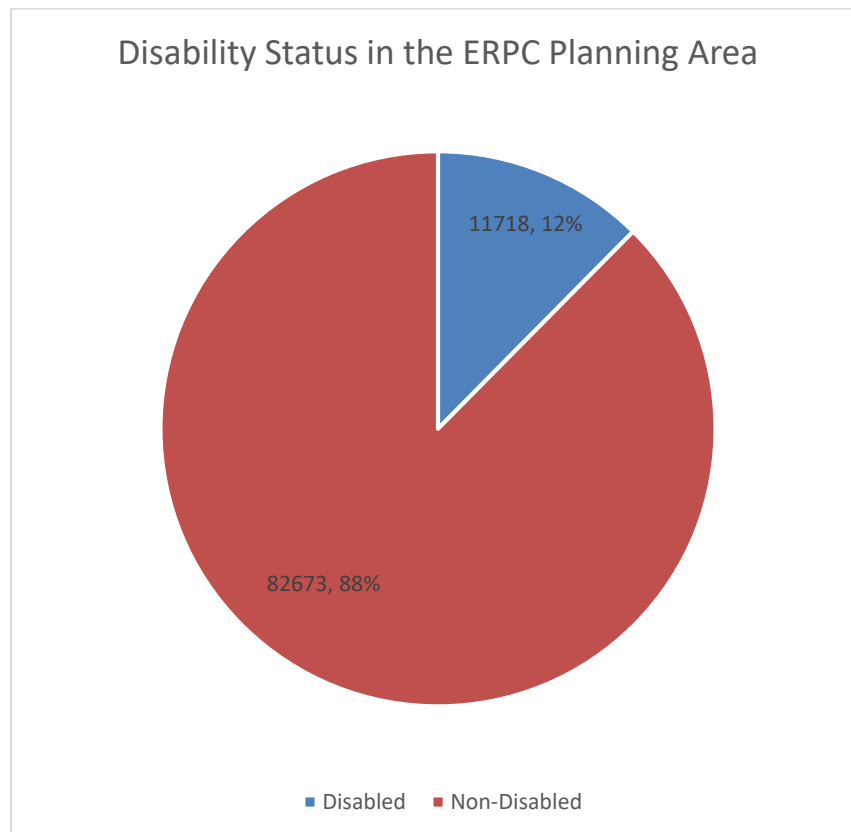
32% of the population's households are considered at or below poverty level.

## People with Disabilities

The US Census defines a disability as a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or a business. The definition when applied to public transportation applications is designed to permit a functional approach to disability determination rather than a strict categorical definition.

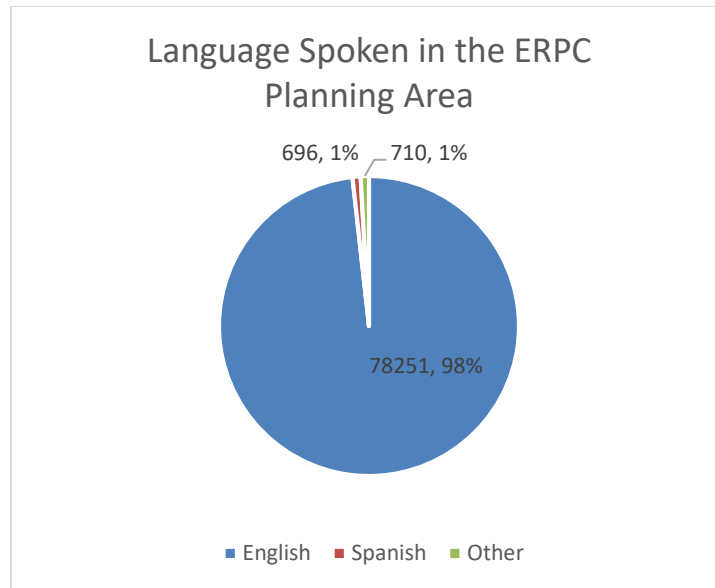
**Chart 4: Number and percentage of people with disabilities<sup>6</sup>**

Roughly 12% of the population in the planning area is reported as having a disability.



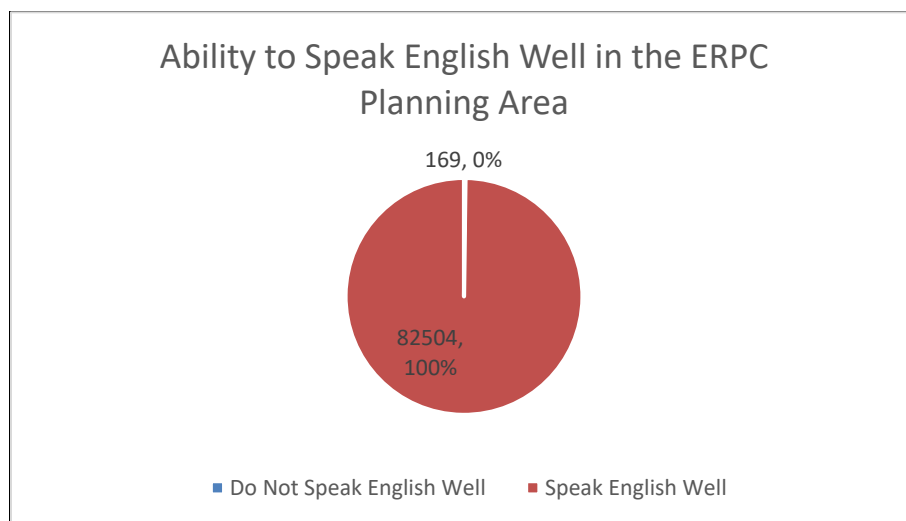
## Communication Barriers

A person with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) is one who does not speak English as their primary Language and who has a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English.



### Charts 6: Percent of population that speak English “Less than very well”<sup>7</sup>

English is the most commonly spoken language in the area. Less than 1% of the population speaks Spanish and the majority of the population self-reported that they speak English well.



### **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 Erie 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.

#### **Inventory of Transportation Providers**

The description of individual transportation providers includes organizations that subsidize transportation at the local level, administer transportation or mobility programs, directly operate vehicles, and/or arrange transportation on behalf of an individual; those who are active in this arena are described under the "Existing Transportation Services."

#### **Existing Transportation Services**

The following information is based on tabulations from the survey and interview results. A total of eight organizations provided information about their services. The table below provides a summary of the organizational characteristics of the participating transportation providers and organizations that purchase transportation on behalf of consumers.

## List of Transportation Service Providers

**Agency Name:** Ability Works Inc.

**Transportation Service Type:** Transportation services are provided for Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD) consumers. Consumers travel to and from the Ability Works, Inc. facility for employment, or for other community events.

**Other Services Provided:** Ability Works, Inc. is the provider of choice for individuals with disabilities pursuing interests in employment, recreation, leisure, and personal development.

**Contact Information:** 419.626.1048

**Hours:** As needed

**Service Area:** Erie County

**Eligibility Requirements:** Disabled

**Web-site:** <http://ability-works.com/>

**Agency Name:** Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**Transportation Service Type:** Transportation for patrons who are eligible for Board Services; Individuals that need transportation to get to and from work.

**Other Services Provided:** Service ranges from early intervention, which can begin the day a child comes home from the hospital to senior care.

**Contact Information:** 419.626.0208

**Hours:** As needed

**Service Area:** Erie County

**Eligibility Requirements:** Disabled

**Web-site:** <http://www.eriecbdd.org/index.php/board-info>

**Agency Name:** The Meadows/Erie County Care Facility

**Transportation Service Type:** Activity bus and lift van.

**Other Services Provided:** The Meadows offers a full spectrum of services, including but not limited to: Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation, Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy, Hospice/Palliative Care, Long-Term Care, Secured Memory Care Unit, Wound Care Specialist, IV Therapy and Respite Stays.

**Contact Information:** Phone: 419.627.8733

**Hours:** As needed

**Service Area:** Erie County

**Eligibility Requirements:** Resident

**Web-site:** <https://www.eriecounty.oh.gov/TheMeadowsatOsbornPark.aspx>

**Agency Name:** The Lucy Idol Center

**Transportation Service Type:** Services are for clients of the Lucy Idol Center and others who do not have access to transportation service because of a disability. Rides may be for medical, dental, work, volunteer and recreational activities.

**Other Services Provided:** Creates opportunities for people with diverse challenges to enhance their personal growth, develop relationships and have life experiences that they choose to promote positive mental and physical health.

**Contact Information:** 440.967.6724

**Hours:** Typically week days but vary depending on need

**Service Area:** Erie and Lorain Counties

**Eligibility Requirements:** Have a disability or barrier that requires a specialized transportation service.

**Web-site:** <https://www.lucyidolcenter.org/>

**Agency Name:** Erie County Job and Family Services

**Transportation Service Type:** Erie County JFS also purchases tickets from Sandusky Transit System (STS). Erie County JFS also purchases transportation through private taxis and gives gas vouchers to Medicaid eligible individuals who use their own car or have a family or family member take them to their medical appointment. The private taxis are used for trips to help with the volume of service.

**Other Services Provided:** Serves individuals in Erie County who need child support, children services, family and workforce development, fiscal help, and investigation and legal services.

**Contact Information:** 1.888.399.6065

**Hours:** As needed

**Service Area:** Erie County

**Eligibility Requirements:** Minor

**Web-site:** <https://www.eriecounty.oh.gov/JobFamilyServices.aspx>

**Agency Name:** Sandusky Transit System (STS)

**Transportation Service Type:** Transit

**Other Services Provided:** None

**Contact Information:** 419.627.0740

**Hours:** 5AM-12AM Monday-Saturday

**Service Area:** Erie County

**Eligibility Requirements:** None

**Web-site:** <http://www.sanduskytransit.com>



**Agency Name:** Serving Our Seniors

**Transportation Service Type:** Coordinates a contract with Erie STS for the use of nine vehicles as well as two vehicles purchased by Serving Our Seniors.

**Other Services Provided:** As an organization created for the purpose of advocating for older adults without duplicating existing services, Serving Our Seniors seeks every opportunity to work with existing community programs and agencies to fill gaps in services for older adults.

**Contact Information:** 800.564.1856

**Hours:** 8AM-5PM Monday-Friday

**Service Area:** Erie County

**Eligibility Requirements:** Erie County resident 60 years or older

**Web-site:** <http://www.servingourseniors.org>

**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 disabilities. Our programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities include a 36-bed intermediate care facility (Seneca County); supportive living homes (Seneca, Erie and Lorain Counties); Non-Medical Transportation Program (Seneca, Sandusky and Huron Counties); Adult Day Support Program (Locations in Seneca and Sandusky Counties and providing services to residents of Seneca, Sandusky and Huron Counties). We provide Vocational Training, Employment Services, and Community Integration Programs for adults living at the Tiffin Development Center. Further, we provide Vocational Training and Employment Services to adults with disabilities (i.e. vision, hearing, mobility, mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities) through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities program (Seneca, Sandusky, Erie, Lorain, Huron, Crawford, Richland, Wyandot, Knox and Morrow Counties).

**Contact Information:** 419.483.7330 ext. 1104 or 1420; visit website: [www.flatrockhomes.org](http://www.flatrockhomes.org)

**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.

**Web-site:** [www.flatrockhomes.org](http://www.flatrockhomes.org)

Flat Rock provides all 24/7/365 transportation needed by individuals living in a home or residential facilities owned or served by Flat Rock. Additionally, Flat Rock provides scheduled transportation as needed to individuals who are served by our Adult Day Support, Non-Medical Transportation, Community Integration, Vocational Training and Employment Services Programs who do not live in a Flat

Rock owned or operated home or residential facility. Destinations may include medical appointments, school, employment, social events and other activities. All transportation services are billed to Medicaid either through the ICF per diem rate or through the waiver program for all other transportation. Funds are raised by the agency to fund all needs beyond funding provided by the Medicaid program.

**Agency Name:** Erie County Senior Center

**Transportation Service Type:** Transportation services are provided for Erie County senior citizens to events and other activities.

**Other Services Provided:** The Erie County Senior Center is a multi-faceted service and activity center providing opportunities for the senior citizens of Erie County. Educational and recreational programs are provided for active individuals, as well as essential services to home bound seniors.

**Contact Information:** 419.626.2560

**Hours:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Service Area:** Erie County

**Eligibility Requirements:** senior citizen

**Web-site:** [www.eriecountyseniorcenter.org](http://www.eriecountyseniorcenter.org)

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

**Table [3.1]: 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)*
Lucy Idol	Y	No	Private Non-Profit	24,000	0	N
Erie County JFS	N	STS & private taxi companies	Public Non-Profit	100	5	Y
Ability Works	Y	No	Private Non-Profit	20,870	0	Y
The Meadows	N	EMS as needed	Public Non-Profit	0	0	Y
Erie County Board of DD	Y	Private contracts	Public Non-Profit	2662	0	Y
Serving Our Seniors	N	STS & volunteer sys.	Private Non-Profit	13,496 local 910 out of town	1.5/ out of town 2.4/ local	N
STS	Y	No	Public Non-Profit	325,559	NA	N
Flat Rock Homes, Inc.	Y	No	Private Non-Profit	45,727	0	Y

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 routes, ADA paratransit, and demand response through the Sandusky Transit System. The other local transit providers provide on immediate response or on demand services. Nine of the participating organizations provide services on weekdays, evening service after 5 PM, Saturdays and seven on Sundays. The following table depicts the transportation service characteristics by agency.

**Table [3.2]: Ridership Characteristics**

Agency Name	What are the Eligibility Requirements to use Transportation Services	Are Vehicles Only Available for Human Service Agency Clients (Y/N)*	Number of Annual One-Way Passenger Trips	Average Number Trip Denials per Week
Lucy Idol	Elderly, Disabled	Y	24,000	0
Erie County JFS	Low Income	N	100	5
Ability Works	Disabled	Y	16,980	0
The Meadows	Elderly, Disabled	Y	0	0
Erie County Board of DD	Disabled	Y	2646	0
Serving Our Seniors Weekday Transportation Program	Elderly	N	PRE-COVID 16,217 One-Way Trips/Week	N/A
Serving Our Seniors Out of Town Transportation Program	Elderly and Destination is beyond STS Jurisdiction	Y	PRE-COVID 804 One-Way Trips/Day	3
STS	General Public	N	325,559	NA
Flat Rock Homes, Inc.	Yes	N	45,727	0

\* Answering "Yes" indicates that your agency is closed door. An example of an agency that is closed door is a sheltered workshop that only provides transportation to individuals who are enrolled in the sheltered workshops programs. 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 anyone in the community regardless of enrollment in agency programs can request transportation services you are considered open door.

\*\* Human Service Agency Transportation is defined as transportation services provided by or on behalf of a human service agency to provide access to agency services and/or to meet the basic, day-to-day mobility needs of transportation-disadvantaged populations, especially individuals with disabilities, seniors, and people with low incomes.

**Table [3.3]: 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	Driver Training Instructors &/or Resources
Lucy Idol Center	demand response	24/7 as needed	Y	Door-door	OH. Depart. Of Disabilities (ODODD) training, Vehicle specific training	Emerg. Drill/ Evacuations, Behavior Support/ Medical & Physical training
Erie County JFS	immediate response	24/7 as needed	Y	Curb-curb	DD	NA
Ability Works Inc.	demand response	24/7 as needed	Y	Wheelchair accessibility, Ambulatory seating	OH. Depart. Of Disabilities (ODODD) training, Vehicle specific training	Emerg. Drill/ Evacuations, Behavior Support/ Medical & Physical training
Erie County Board of DD	immediate response	24/7 as needed	Y	Independent-wheelchair	OH. Depart. Of Disabilities (ODODD) training, Vehicle specific training	Emerg. Drill/ Evacuations, Behavior Support/ Medical & Physical training
Serving Our Seniors Weekday Transportation Program	Elderly	6 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Yes Via STS	Door-door	Via STS	Via STS
Serving Our Seniors Out of Town Transportation Program	Call 1 Week In Advance	6 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Only when it is not a duplication of service. We do not invoice Medicaid.	No assistance other than the ride to the destination.	No	No
STS	demand response, fixed route	Demand Response: M-Sat (6 AM-10 PM), Fixed Route: 7 Days/Week (5 AM-12 AM)	Y	Door-door, bus stops	DD, ODA & ODODD	Driver policy & procedure manual, securing wheelchair/ hospital discharge EAP drug & alcohol annual training
Flat Rock Homes, Inc.	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	<b>Training for all Drivers:</b> "Driver Safety V4" video offered on online training system at orientation. <b>Additional Training is provided for DOT Certified Drivers;</b> These drivers must also pass a DOT physical and road test.	<b>Training for all Drivers:</b> "Drive Smart: Cars, vans, and Lifts" video shown at orientation. <b>Additional Training for DOT Certified Drivers;</b> How to Do a Pre-trip

Agency Name	Fare Structure	Donations Accepted (Y/N)	# of Full-Time & Part-Time Drivers	# of Full-Time & Part-Time Schedulers/Dispatchers	Revenue Sources (most recent Fiscal Year)	Total Annual Transportation Expenses
Lucy Idol Center	Medicaid, Service fees	Y	8 P/T	0	Medicaid waivers, Services Fees, Donations, Lorain CO. Board of Mental Health, Lorain Community Foundation, Fed./State grants & Fundraising	\$105,588
Erie CO. JFS	Gas Vouchers	Y	NA	NA	Fed. & State grants, Donations	\$78,444
Ability Works, Inc.	Medicaid	N	1F/T 8 P/T	0	Medicaid, Local taxes	\$94,000
Erie CO. Board of DD	Medicaid, levy funding	N	6 P/T	0	Levy, Medicaid waiver	\$118,403
STS	\$1.25-\$5.00 bus tickets, Medicaid	Y	32 F/T 5 P/T	5	Local, State & Fed. Transit Funds, Various Contract Revenue, Services Fees, Donations & Medicaid waiver	\$2.8 mil.
Serving Our Seniors	\$1.50/One-Way	Y	1 F/T	NA	Levy, Donations	\$210,000

Flat Rock Homes, Inc.	N/A	Yes, Funds are raised by the agency to fund all agency needs beyond Medicaid billing	79 FT includes staff that drives as part of their overall duties. 31 PT includes staff that drives as part of their overall duties. 12 dedicated DOT-certified drivers	0	Medicaid, donations, Program/Services Revenue, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Program	\$243,717
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Transportation-related expenses and revenues also differ by organization. Medicaid, donations and service fees are common revenue sources for transportation operators in the ERPC Planning Area. The table below provides a summary of expenses and revenues for public and non-profit transportation programs.

**Table [3.4]: Transportation-Related Expenses and Revenues**

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 [3.5]: Alternative/Active Transportation Options**

Transportation Option	Availability	Cost	Usage	Service Area
Uber	Varies	UberX \$6.05 mile + other costs	NA	USA
Caddy Shack Bike Rental	Seasonally	\$3/hr.	NA	Kelleys Island
Portside Marina Bike Rental	Seasonally	\$4/hr.	NA	Kelleys Island
Jett Express Ferry	Seasonally	Varies	NA	Lake Erie Islands
Goodtime I Ferry	Seasonally	Varies	NA	Lake Erie Islands
Kelleys Island Ferry	Seasonally	Varies	NA	Lake Erie Islands
Amtrak Rail	Varies	Varies	NA	Washington DC, Pittsburgh and Chicago & New York, Boston, Albany and Chicago
Greyhound Bus	5:30 AM - 8:00 PM daily	Varies	NA	Nationally
Majestic Transportation	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
Cruisin City Taxi	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
AM/PM Taxi	24/7	\$5-8	200 rides/day	Erie CO.
Trinity Taxi	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
Dependable Shuttle	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
Terminal Taxi	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
A Sandusky Taxi	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
D & D Rides	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
Turbo Taxi	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio
Squeaky Wheel	24/7	NA	NA	All of Northern Ohio



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

**Table [3.6]: Transportation Resources**

Transportation Resource	Availability	Cost	Usage	Service Area
Websites	Everyone	\$0	NA	Everyone
Hotlines ex:2-1-1	Everyone	\$0	NA	Everyone

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

**Table [3.7]: 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)
STS	CTS	N, underway	CTS	Y
STS	EZfare	Y	N/A	N
Flat Rock Homes Inc.	N/A	N	N/A	N/A

## **Assessment of Community Support for Transit**

The Sandusky Transit System has a website and Facebook page which is used for outreach efforts.

### **Safety**

Locally, Erie County has an Emergency Management System Plan. The transit system training includes Driver policy & procedure manual, securing wheelchair/ hospital discharge EAP drug and alcohol annual training.

### **Vehicles**

Survey/Interview participants listed a combined total of 72 vehicles. Approximately 67% of the vehicles are wheelchair accessible. A vehicle utilization table is provided at the end of this chapter.

Not every transportation provider had wheelchair accessible vehicles, while some organizations have an entire fleet of wheelchair accessible vehicles. Almost every agency (but one which has access to other county vehicles that are wheel chair accessible) had wheelchair accessible vehicles available for use. 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 [3.81] Vehicle Utilization Table**

Veh #	Make	Model	Year	VIN #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Veh is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
<b>Erie County DJFS</b>											
1	GMC	Sierra Pickup	2006	2GTEC13VX61279285	4	N/A	M-F	N/A	Fair	JFS	Erie Co.
2	DODGE	Grand Caravan	2014	2C4RDGBG3ER432562	7	N/A	M-F	N/A	Good	JFS	Erie Co.
3	DODGE	Grand Caravan	2014	2C4RDGBG1ER432557	7	N/A	M-F	N/A	Good	JFS	Erie Co.
4	DODGE	Grand Caravan	2014	2C4RDGBG1ER432558	7	N/A	M-F	N/A	Good	JFS	Erie Co. & Other Counties
5	DODGE	Grand Caravan	2014	2C4RDGBG1ER432561	7	N/A	M-F	N/A	Good	JFS	Erie Co.
6	DODGE	Grand Caravan	2014	2C4RDGBG1ER432560	7	N/A	M-F	N/A	Good	JFS	Erie Co.
<b>Lucy Idol</b>											
1	Mercedes	Sprinter	2010	WDZPE8CC4A5498843	6	2	7 days per week	weekends as needed	Good	Lucy Idol Center	Erie and Lorain Counties
2	Ford	E350	2011	1FDEE3FS9BDA29733	8	4	7 days per week	weekends as needed	Fair	Lucy Idol Center	Erie and Lorain Counties
3	Ford	E350	2013	1FDEE3FS1DDB21714	8	4	7 days per week	7 AM-4 PM, M- F, evenings & weekends as needed	Good	Lucy Idol Center	Erie and Lorain Counties
4	Ford	E350	2013	1FDEE3FL6DDB04853		2	7 days per week	7 AM-4 PM, M- F, evenings & weekends as needed	Good	Lucy Idol Center	Erie and Lorain Counties
5	Chevy	E450		1GB6G5BL9E1196987	8	4	7 days per week	7 AM-4 PM, M- F, evenings & weekends as needed	Excellent	Lucy Idol Center	Erie and Lorain Counties
6	Chevy	E450	2016	1GB3G3CLOF1262642	8	4	7 days per week	7 AM-4 PM, M- F, evenings & weekends as needed	Excellent	Lucy Idol Center	Erie and Lorain Counties
<b>Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities</b>											
1	Dodge	Caravan	2020	2C4RDGBG1LR239260	7	0	Sun.-Sat.	24/7	Excellent	Erie Co. Board of DD	Erie Co.
	Dodge	Caravan	2019	2C4RDGBG0K778564	7	0	Sun.-Sat.	24/7	Excellent	Erie Co. Board of DD	Erie Co.
2	Dodge	Caravan	2010	2D4RN4DE2AR260867	7	0	Sun.-Sat.	24/7	Fair	Erie Co. Board of DD	Erie Co.
3	Ford	Transit	2016	1FMZK1CM5GKB33899	7, 5	0, 1	Sun.-Sat.	24/7	Excellent	Erie Co. Board of DD	Erie Co.
4	Ford	Cutaway	2013	1FDEE3FLXDD803317	8, 4	1, 4	Sun.-Sat.	24/7	Good	Erie Co. Board of DD	Erie Co.
5	Ford	Flex	2017	2FMGK5B84JBA09914	7	0	Sun.-Sat.	24/7	Excellent	Erie Co. Board of DD	Erie Co.
6	Ford	Escape	2017	1FMCUOF73HJD82675	5	0	Sun.-Sat.	24/7	Excellent	Erie Co. Board of DD	Erie Co.
Veh #	Make	Model	Year	VIN #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Veh is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
<b>Ability Works</b>											
1	Ford	E350	2009	1FDEE35L59DA44086	8	2	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	Poor	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
2	Ford	Transit	2017	1FBU4XM9HKA68862	14, 12	0, 6	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	Excellent	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
3	Ford	Transit	2017	1FDZX2CM5HB11149	8	2	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	N/A	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
4	Ford	Transit	2018	1FBVU4XM1JKA87900	8	2	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	N/A	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
5	Ford	Transit	2018	1FDVU4XM0JKB25964	8	2	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	N/A	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
6	Ford	WSD	2008	1FBNE31L78DB25751	10	0	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	Good	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
7	Chevy	MOD. Bus	2013	1GB3G2CG0D1166634	8	2	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	N/A	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
8	GM	Transit	2005	1FVACWDC55HU55362	0, 2	0, 2	Mon.-Fri.	24/7	Excellent	Ability Works	Erie, Huron, Ottawa Co
<b>Erie Senior Center</b>											
1	Ford	Transit	2020	1FBAX2C85KA15409	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	Excellent	Senior Center	Erie Co.
<b>The Meadows</b>											
1	Ford	E350	2009	1FDEE35LX9DA01301	4	4	Mon.-Fri.	8 AM - 1 PM	Fair	Residents	Erie Co.
2	Ford	Transit	2017	1FTYR2CM8HKA98262	4	2	Mon.-Fri.	8 AM - 1 PM	Good	Residents	Erie Co.

Veh #	Make	Model	Year	VIN #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Veh is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
<b>Sandusky Transit System</b>											
1	Ford	E-450	2010	1FDFE4FS7ADA65736	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Poor	N/A	Erie Co.
2	Ford	E-450 Goshen	2010	1FDFE4FS0ADA65738	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Poor	N/A	Erie Co.
3	Ford	E-450	2015	1FDFE4FSXFDA00726	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Poor	N/A	Erie Co.
4	Ford	E-450	2015	1FDFE4FS3FDA00728	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
5	Ford	E-450	2015	1FDFE4FS9FDA03083	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
6	Ford	E-450	2015	1FDFE4FS3FDA00731	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
7	Ford	T-250	2017	1FTYR2CMXKA57132	6	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
8	Ford	T-250	2017	1FTYR2CMOHKA36953	6	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
9	Ford	T-250	2017	1FTYR2CM2HKA36954	6	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
10	Ford	T-250	2017	1FTYR2CM4HKA36955	6	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
11	Ford	T-250	2017	1FTYR2CM3HKA57134	6	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
12	Ford	T-250	2017	1FTYR2CM6HKA36956	6	1	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
13	Ford	T-250	2017	1FTYR2CM5HKA57135	6	1	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
14	Ford	T-250	2017	1FDEE3FS9HDC03146	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Fair	N/A	Erie Co.
15	Ford	E-350	2017	1FDEE3FS3HDC57416	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Poor	N/A	Erie Co.
16	Ford	E-450	N/A	1FDFE4FS1ADA65733	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
17	Ford	E-450	N/A	1FDFE4FS3ADA65734	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
18	Ford	E-350 Starcraft	N/A	1FDEE3FS2HDC70882	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
19	Ford	E-350 Starcraft	N/A	1FDEE3FS7HDC70893	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
20	Ford	E-350 Starcraft	N/A	1FDEE3FS1HDC70890	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
21	Ford	E-350 Starcraft	N/A	1FDEE3FSXHDC70905	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
22	Ford	E-350 Starcraft	N/A	1FDEE3FS0HDC70881	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
23	Ford	E-450 Champion	N/A	1FDFE4FS0HDC55677	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
24	Ford	E-450 Starcraft	N/A	1FDFE4FS5JDC09784	16	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
25	Ford	E-450 Glaval	N/A	1FDFE4FS0KDC60708	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
26	Ford	450 Glaval	N/A	1FDFE4FS2KDC6079	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
27	Dodge	Caravan	N/A	2CW7DGBG5KR801164	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
28	Dodge	Caravan	N/A	2C7WDGBG1KR801159	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
	Dodge	Caravan	N/A	2C4RDGCG7HR750736	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
Veh #	Make	Model	Year	VIN #	Capacity	WC Capacity	Days of the Week Veh is in Service	Service Hours	Vehicle Condition	Program to which Vehicle is Assigned (if applicable)	Service Area
<b>First Transit (Via STS)</b>											
1	Ei Dorado	XHF-40	2007	1N9HJAC867C084213	40	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Poor	N/A	Erie Co.
2	Ei Dorado	XHF-40	2007	1N9HJAC857C084218	40	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Poor	N/A	Erie Co.
3	M2	Freightliner	N/A	1FVACWDT2BHAZ4834	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
4	Dodge	Caravan	N/A	1D8HN4159B500369	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
5	Ford	F550	N/A	1FDGF5G9CEC27051	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
6	Ford	Fusion	N/A	3FA6P0G72HR235090	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
7	Ford	250	N/A	1FTBF2B67HEE85840	N/A	N/A	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
<b>Serving Our Seniors (Via STS)</b>											
1	Ford	E-350	2014	1FDEE3FLOEDA72080	8	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	Poor	N/A	Erie Co.
2	Ford	E-350	N/A	1FDEE3FS8HDC57411	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
3	Ford	E-350	N/A	1FDEE3FS3HDC57414	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
4	Ford	E-350 Starcraft	N/A	1FDEE3FS3HDC70874	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
5	Ford	E-350 Starcraft	N/A	1FDEE3FS2HDC70896	12	2	Mon. - Sat.	6 AM - 10 PM	N/A	N/A	Erie Co.
<b>Flat Rock</b>											
1	Dodge	Ram 2500 S	2012	3C6LD5AT3CG242389	2	0	M	8 AM - 7 PM	Good	Care Center	Erie Co.
2	Ford	Fusion SE	2009	3FAHP07169R117436	5	0	7	8 AM - 7 PM	Good	Care Center	Erie Co.
3	Dodge	Grand Caravan	2013	3C4RDBG8DR694415	7	0	7	8 AM - 7 PM	Good	Care Center	Erie Co.
4	Ford	E150 4x2	2000	1FMRE11L6THA03582	9	0	M	8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Good	Care Center	Erie Co.
5	Buick	Tarrasa Extended	2006	GADV23L06D180779	7	No Lift or WC Positions	7	8 AM - 7 PM	Good	Care Center	Erie Co.
6	Dodge	Grand Caravan	2013	2C4RDGBG1DR699911	7	0	M	8 AM - 7 PM	Good	Care Center	Erie Co.
7	Ford	Club Wagon	1998	1FBSS31LOWHB26385	9	0	M	8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Good	Care Center	Erie Co.
8	Ford	E350 Star trans	2005	1FDWE55535HB44766	10	2	M	8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Fair	Community	Erie Co.
9	Chevy	G30 Express	2002	1GBJG31F421191668	10	2	7	8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Fair	Care Center	Erie Co.
10	Ford	Club Wagon	1994	1FBJS31HXRHC07065	9	0	M	8:30 AM-2:30 PM	Poor	Community	Erie Co.
11	Chevy	Venture Cargo	2004	1GNDX03E74D203266	8	0	7	8 AM - 7 PM	Poor	Care Center	Erie Co.
12	Chevy	C30 Fleetside	1988	1GCGC34K9JE130530	N/A	N/A	N/A	Out of Service	Not Repairable	Care Center	Erie Co.
13	Chevy	G350 Express	2000	1GBJG31R9Y1223582	N/A	N/A	N/A	Out of Service	Not Repairable	Care Center	Erie Co.

## **Summary of Existing Resources**

In the Erie County Regional Planning area the transportation network is fairly robust as there is a wide variety of human service agency options for older adults, individuals with disabilities, people with low incomes and the general public to choose from for emergency transportation situations, work related trips or medical related appointments.

The exception to this is weekend travel which is available on a more limited basis especially on Sundays. It was noted that those with disabilities and/or who are elderly have more options available than those who do not have vehicles and do not fit either of these categories.

- For everyday activities the options are narrower, but are still available through the local transit systems and alternate transportation methods. Although these do cost money, they are at a lower cost as opposed to operating and maintaining a private vehicle. For those who are not disabled (located within in the City of Sandusky) have the greatest amount of alternate options as they are able to utilize the existing sidewalk network which spans the majority of the city through walking. Bicycles are also an option county-wide with the exception of traveling to Kelley's Island.
- When considering geography the majority of the transportation network is located within the urbanized area. Those situated in the western area of the planning area have more access to transportation as they are closer to transportation providers. It was noted that rural residents have higher transportation costs when utilizing private transportation. This deduction was based on the fact that these trips take more time and resources to carry out as opposed to urban based trips which have higher density and lower travel times which reduce costs.

## **IV. Assessment of Transportation Needs and Gaps**

### **Local Demographic and Socio-Economic Data**

In an effort to better understand the local needs of the planning area, the stakeholder committee examined research and data, as well as solicited input from the community in an effort to gather information about needs and gaps in transportation services. 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 from the perspective of the targeted populations, transportation providers and the general public.

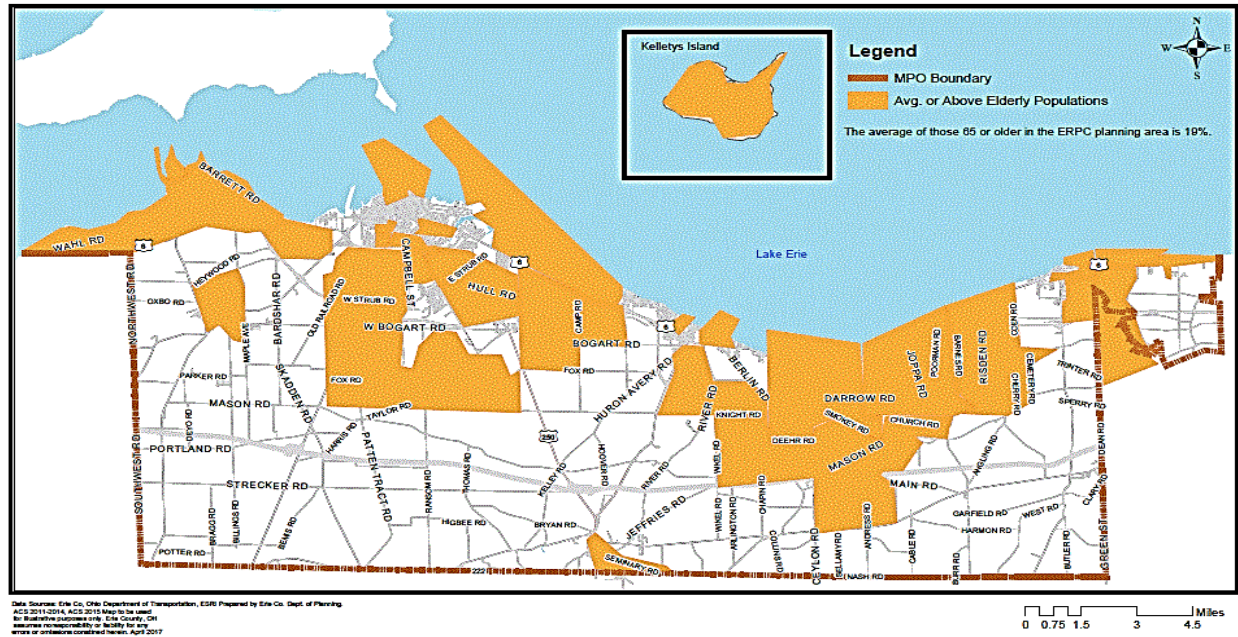
The Erie County Regional Planning Metropolitan Planning Organization and a variety of stakeholders in the area attempted to solicit input and requested participation from any organization that could potentially be impacted by the coordinated transportation planning process. More information on how the lead agency engaged stakeholder and the general public is available upon request. The following methods were used to assess transportation needs and gaps.

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 [4.1] illustrates the areas where the number of older adults (age 65 and older) is at or above for the MPO planning area average. The ERPC MPO planning area average for those 65 or older is 19%.

**Exhibit [4.1]: Map of Population Density of Individuals Age 65 and Older  
Coordinated Transportation Plan Elderly Populations**



The elderly are concentrated in adjoining rural areas of the county that typically surround urban clusters.

The following exhibit 4.2 illustrates the areas where the number of older adults (age 65 and older) is at or above the Erie County's average.

**Kelletts Island**

**Legend**

- ERPC MPO Boundary
- Less Than Avg. Vehicles Per HH
- Avg. or Higher Vehicles Per HH

Map of Kelletts Island, Ohio, showing the ERPC MPO Boundary and vehicle density. The map is color-coded: red for areas with fewer vehicles per household than the average, and white for areas with an average or higher number of vehicles per household. The map includes a legend, a north arrow, and a scale bar. The map shows the island's location relative to Lake Erie and the surrounding land. The map is titled 'Kelletts Island' and 'ERPC MPO Boundary'.

Map Source: Erie Co. Ohio Department of Transportation, ERPC, Provided by Erie Co. Dept. of Planning  
ACS 2011-2014 Map to be used for Redistricting purposes only. Erie County, OH assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions.

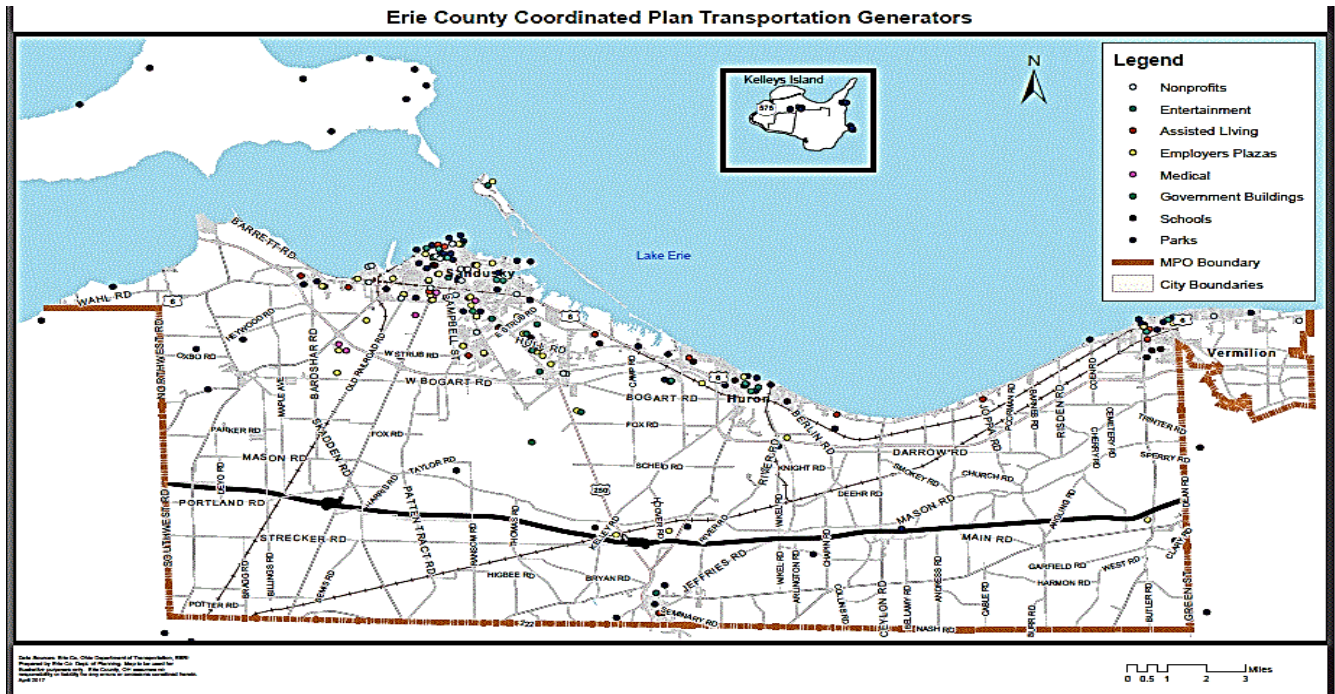
0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 Miles

31



### Exhibit [4.3]: Map of Major Trip Generators

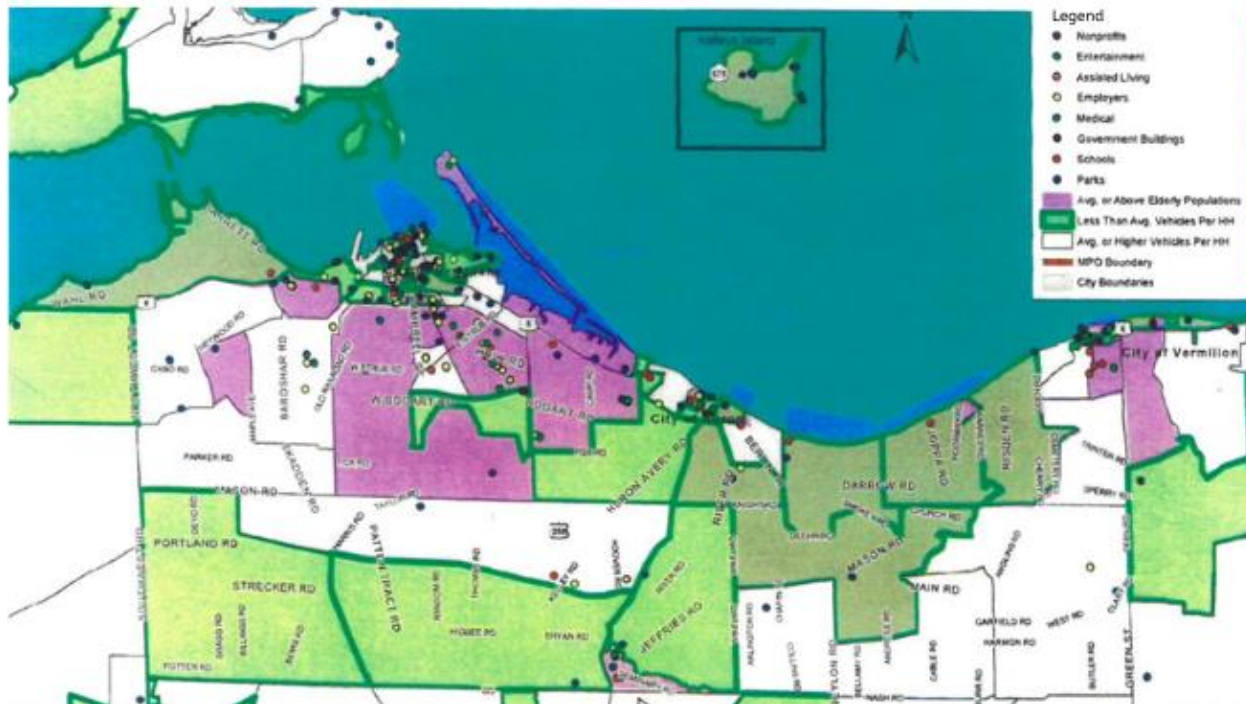
The next exhibit illustrates the location of the top destinations for the existing transportation providers as well as major trip generators for anyone in the area, including those who drive a personal vehicle.



During the summer and fall months, major trip generators for the area include various tourist destinations, including Cedar Point off the Cedar Point Peninsula and waterpark resorts along US Route 250. Destinations also include local marinas and the Erie Islands. The majority of trips occur within the urban areas and directly surrounding rural areas.

#### Exhibit [4.4]: Analysis Combined Demographic Data

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.



## **Analysis of Demographic Data**

- The majority of those who are elderly are located in either urban areas or on the urban fringes.
- The groups that have the least mobility options are those who do not have access to a vehicle and are not considered elderly or disabled. For this group the area of employment may be impacted as many of the major employers and shopping plazas are located in the urban fringes. This deduction was made by the fact that many of the people who do not have access to a vehicle are located outside the urban areas where most employers are located.
- There is a prominent overlap of households that do not have access to a vehicle and who are elderly around the City of Huron and Berlin Township. This overlap is apparent again in more isolated areas of the planning area including the Village of Bayview and Kelleys Island.
- The majority of transportation generators are located in the City of Sandusky, Perkins Township followed by the Cities of Huron and Vermilion.
- The majority of the area's non-profits, entertainment, top employers and shopping plazas are located within the City of Sandusky and Perkins Township.
- Assisted living facilities, medical facilities, parks, government buildings and schools are located near or outside all the urban areas and are focused within the major cities (Sandusky, Huron and Vermilion)

## **General Public and Stakeholder Meetings/Focus Groups**

The Erie County Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization hosted and facilitated seven local meetings and focus groups to discuss the unmet transportation needs and gaps in mobility and transportation. One hundred and six people participated in these meetings. Survey takers at these sessions were asked to self-identify if they considered themselves as elderly or having a disability. In total, 17 survey takers self-identified as older adults and 11 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, the Erie County Regional Planning Metropolitan Planning Organization staff presented highlights of historical coordinated transportation in the Erie County/City of Vermilion. They also discussed 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. After the changes to the needs/gaps list were completed and new needs/gaps were added, each participant was asked to rank the needs/gaps using a ranking system.

Participants discussed more than nine mobility issues to achieve, preserve, avoid, or eliminate through coordination during the meetings. 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.

**Exhibit [4.6]: Initial Outreach Sessions Summary**

<b>Main Topic</b>	<b>Common Concern</b>
<b>Service/Timing</b>	The frequency of buses is not accurate, predictable
	If commuters miss a bus there is a long wait time
	There is a lack of evening/weekend service
	There is a lack of wheelchair transportation providers
	There is a lack of driver/dispatch procedure
	Communication is poor
<b>Demand Response</b>	There is no paratransit service, just demand response
	Scheduling trips is difficult and cumbersome
	There is a lack of flexibility in the system
<b>Cost/Funding</b>	There is not enough funding to meet transportation needs/keep the current system running efficiently
	Private providers are expensive for individuals
<b>Coordination</b>	It is difficult to go out of the county
	There is a lack of coordination of transportation between human service agencies
	There is a lack of agencies willing to share vehicles with other agencies
	Transit (fixed route) does not serve all areas
<b>Safety</b>	Waiting environments and pathways are not always safe (poor condition, snow)
	Bus stop locations and amenities need increased
<b>Education</b>	There needs to be more travel training for riders/drivers
	Website/marketing improvements are needed
	Improved interaction with disabled clients is needed

## Surveys

The following survey summary includes the information gained from the following surveys that were performed. 300 surveys from the general public: 11% of individuals with disabilities completed the survey; 17% of older adults completed the survey.

**Initial Survey:** In addition to the outreach group sessions a survey was also implemented. The results of the survey assisted in creating the list of unmet transportation needs. In total, 300 surveys were generated and reviewed from the general public.

**Additional Survey:** Staff also assisted the Sandusky Transit System and Serving Our Seniors in contacting and conducting a phone survey of elderly transit riders (approximately 16) whom no longer ride the transit system. Staff spoke with seniors about their transportation needs and concerns during the survey sessions. It was noted that the majority of seniors were happy with service they experienced while riding transit, but their transportation options/needs had changed and that is why they no longer utilized it. Staff had a table at the Seniorfest event (100+ attendees) during the Erie County Fair where seniors aged 65 or older could participate.

### Exhibit [4.7]: Initial Survey Summary

Main Topic	Answer	%
<b>Perceived Least Important Needs</b>	Decreasing the cost of services for users	20
	Hiring a transportation mobility manager	12
	Improving customer service	12
	Reducing travel time	12
	Private volunteer service	12
	Expanding hours	11
	Improving accessibility	12
<b>Perceived Greatest Needs</b>	Encouraging public leaders to promote transit use	69
	Focusing on increasing services in areas that have low income, elderly, disabled or minority populations according to Census data	67
	Installing more bus shelters	62
	Applying for more funding sources to purchase more transportation related equipment	61
	Creating a smart phone application system so that buses can be tracked in real time	61
<b>Comments Received</b>	Communication needs improved	13
	Extended service hours	9
	Improve financial gap in system	6
	Other	18
<b>Other Survey Stats</b>	Survey takers fit into a target group (elderly, disabled, lower income and/or minority)	50+
	Survey takers were occasional transit riders	50+

### Exhibit [5.1]: Summary of Unmet Needs Survey Takers Descriptions

% Disabled	% Elderly	% No vehicles	% Fitting more than one group	Group
4%	6%	0%	6%	General Population (49 total)
58%	12%	0%	30%	Focus Groups (26 total)

## 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:

- Transit timing for demand response has an extended wait time which is not compatible with many users' needs
- The transit system's future funding sources remain unclear and is currently unsustainable
- It is perceived that those with a disability are not always treated as those who are not disabled.
- It is perceived that service availability/hours need changed
- Traveling across the region is difficult as many services only provide transportation to their predetermined service area
- Transit stop infrastructure could be improved to show better visibility and provide a more comfortable waiting area

**Exhibit [5.2]: Unmet Mobility Needs Survey**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Target Group Category</b>	<b># of Surveys Received</b>
Bayshore Counseling	Disabled	6
Firelands Recovery Center	Disabled	7
Steering Committee	NA	11
General Public	Disabled, Elderly & Low Income	49
Alliance Abroad Group	Low Income/ No Vehicle	4
Goodwill Industries	Disabled	1
Erie County Self-Advocates	Disabled	1
Erie Metro Housing	Low Income/No Vehicle	4
Erie Senior Center	Elderly	3
Family Information Network	Disabled	0
	Total	86



## Summary of Unmet Mobility Needs

The following table describes the identified 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 [5.3]: Summary of Unmet Needs**  
See Annual Review

Rank	Unmet Need Description	Method Used to Identify and Rank Need
1	Quality customer service	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
2	Maintained fleet and facilities	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
3	Extended service ( Sundays, earlier than 6 AM and later than 10 PM on weekdays )	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
4	Easy and affordable out of county trips	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
5	Communication/collaboration between agencies	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
6	Funding for transportation services	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
7	Technology/communication methods kept up to date	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
8	Mobility management and education	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.
9	Reduced duplication of services	Online survey, focus groups, committee mtgs.

## **V. Goals and Strategies**

### **Developing Strategies to Address Gaps and Needs**

From a summary of initial outreach sessions, initial surveys and the steering committee meetings a list of unmet transportation needs was created. The list contained more than 26 mobility issues that were identified locally. The list was converted into a survey so the needs could be ranked appropriately. The survey was available for approximately three weeks and was distributed using numerous methods to collect data including electronically and through paper copies. Outreach methods included social media, e-mails and oral announcements. The survey was given to the outreach groups separately so their needs could be distinguished from the general public. Surveys that were received as incomplete were discarded.

Strategies for improving transportation for Erie 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 Erie County Coordinated Transportation Steering Committee developed a list of strategies to address the gaps and unmet transportation needs.

Priority levels were 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 identify 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. The timeline was established by the Erie County Coordinated Plan Steering Committee:

Strategy Completion Estimates:

*Immediate: Within 6 months*

*Medium: Within 1 year*

*Long Term: With 3 years*

Action Steps: **In process, Completed or Continuing and ongoing**

### **Goal #1: Improve Efficiencies and Communication to Minimize Duplication**

**Need(s) Being Addressed:** Increase the transit service area through interagency communication/collaboration; strive consistently for more timely pickup and delivery of clients; coordinate services for client's transportation services to avoid duplication

**Strategy 1.1:** Develop and expand existing partnerships with public and private human service agencies and transportation agencies.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Medium

#### **Action Steps:**

- Resurrect the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) —**In process**
- Create a greater partnership between transportation providers within Erie County - **In process**
- Explore how new Medicaid rules will impact non-emergency transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low income county residents-**In process**
- Reduce duplicated transportation services where feasible-**In process**
- Ensure that the Sandusky Transit System website stays updated – **Completed, Continuing and ongoing**
- Maintain and update the mobility management website – **Completed, Continuing and ongoing**
- Improve communication between transportation related groups – **Continuing and ongoing**
- Meet with TAC quarterly

**Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation:** Mobility Manager, STS, and Planning Committee

**Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation:** Local jurisdictions, political leaders, non-profits, all public, private and human service agency transportation providers, planning organizations, and stakeholder committee members that participate in the planning effort

**Resources Needed:** Mobility manager, political leaders, stakeholder members, and operational funds

**Potential Cost Range:** \$350,000

**Potential Funding Sources:** Local jurisdictions, human service agencies, transit systems, and grants

**Performance Measures/Targets:**

- Engage in conversations with adjoining transit providers to see where coordinated services would be feasible and create a MOU documenting the relationship
- Collaborate with other agencies to improve efficiencies through shared training and resources through employment, education etc.

**Strategy 1.2** Evaluate opportunities to effectively and efficiently meet the demand for out of county trips.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Medium

**Action Steps:**

- Assess the feasibility of scheduling out of county medical trips (to Norwalk and other facilities such as Cleveland and Toledo etc.)- **In process**
- Assess opportunities to establish a transit transfer center in target counties — **In process**
- **Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation:** STS

**Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation:** Mobility Manager, Local jurisdictions, all transportation service providers, political leaders, planning committee

**Resources Needed:** Staff time, vehicles, matching software to coordinate services, capital and operating funds

**Goal #2: Improve Customer Service; See Annual Review**

**Need(s) Being Addressed:** Improve customer satisfaction with the Erie County transportation system.

**Strategy 2.1:** Explore how to improve and address the unmet needs.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Medium

**Action Steps:**

- Set up a comment/feedback system — **Completed**

- Implement ways to make scheduling demand response more flexible – **In process**
- Ensure transit is accessible to all users —**Continuing and ongoing**
- Study extending hours-**In process**
- Undergo a facilities and fleet assessment-**Continuing and ongoing**
- Establish cultural sensitivity training –**Continuing and ongoing**
- Encourage best practices of customer service-**Continuing and ongoing**

**Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation:** STS and human service agencies

**Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation:** Mobility Manager, STS, Planning Committee, and local human service agencies.

**Resources Needed:** Staff time, contract services with adjoining transit systems, vehicles, and matching software to coordinate services.

**Potential Cost Range:** \$400,000

**Potential Funding Sources:** Local jurisdictions, STS, 5310 funds and grants

**Performance Measures/Targets:**

- Action steps have been taken to ensure scheduling processes are efficient
- Ensure all transit vehicles are accessible-**Completed**
- Explore the feasibility of extending hours
- Encourage Travel Trainings when necessary— **Provided by GLCAP Mobility Management Advocate**
- Explore Google Maps application for STS fixed route locations

### **Goal #3: Capital and Funding Needs**

**Need(s) being addressed:** Assisting with the cost of capital and funding needs.

**Strategy 3.1:** Assist with vehicle replacement, preventative maintenance, operating, mobility management, computer/hardware/software and other transportation related equipment as needed for eligible agencies.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Immediate

**Action Steps:**

- Create a process of vehicle fleet replacements and updates — **Continuing and ongoing**
- Explore ways to maintain fleet vehicles to extend usefulness- **Continuing and ongoing**
- Continue to explore options to upgrade transit communication technology-**Continuing and ongoing**
- Upgrade communications technology- **Completed**

**Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation:** Individual Transportation Providers

**Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation:** Mobility Manager, Erie County Planning Committee

**Resources Needed:** Capital for purchase of new and replacement vehicles

**Potential Cost Range:** \$500,000

**Potential Funding Sources:** 5310 ODOT Grant, other grant opportunities

**Performance Measures and Targets:**

- Eligible capital improvement applications are received
- STS has upgraded its software
- Create a process of vehicle fleet replacements and updates
- Continue to explore options to upgrade communications
- STS, Erie County Senior Center, Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Erie County Job and Family Services, Erie County Care Facility, Ability Works Inc., Lucy Idol Inc., Serving Our Seniors, Flat Rock Homes Inc. or any other social service agencies identified in the plan have applied for 5310 funds
- Create a one-call one click center for all transportation in Erie County

**Strategy 3.2:** Discuss ways to assist with transit costs.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Medium

**Action Steps:**

- Explore ways to reduce costs associated with operating Sandusky Transit System-**In process**
- Research if there can be changes in billing methods or other non-conventional forms used-**In process**

**Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation:** Sandusky Transit System

**Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation:** Mobility Manager, Erie County Planning Committee

**Resources Needed:** Capital

**Potential Cost Range:** \$50,000

**Potential Funding Sources:** Adjoining transit agencies, jurisdictions

**Performance Measures and Targets:**

- Research a long-term agreement with local transit agencies and jurisdictions to supplement the Sandusky Transit System
- Expand contracts
- Increase revenue (STS)

**Goal #4: Marketing; See Annual Review**

**Need(s) being addressed:** Residents in Erie County are not aware of all mobility options that are available in Erie County.

**Strategy 4.1:** Educate Erie County Residents of all mobility options that are available within the county.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Immediate

**Action Steps:**

- Create an inclusive transportation provider list for the county that displays agency contact information, services provided, service area, number of vehicles available, cost for one way trip, eligibility, and comparison — **Completed**
- Ensure that transportation providers and citizens understand how Medicaid rules work - **In process/ongoing**
- Provide easy access to information through various means — **Completed**
- Distribute transportation information to public — **Continuing and ongoing**
- Meet with entities that have existing and potential transportation users - **In process**
- Eliminate the stigma that public transportation is only for the disadvantaged — **Continuing and ongoing**
- Generate a list of all transportation services in Erie County - **Completed**
- Distribute STS transit brochures — **Continuing and ongoing**

- Utilize social media to showcase services – **Continuing and ongoing**
- Have Erie County transportation information updated on the mobility website - **Completed**
- Explore regional coordination discussions with SCAT, OCTA, TRIPS, First Transit and Huron County Transit regarding coordinating services on outlying areas (Bellevue, Milan, Vermilion etc.)

**Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation:** Mobility Manager, STS and Planning Committee.

**Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation:** Local jurisdictions, political leaders, non-profits, all public, private and human service agency transportation providers, planning organizations, and stakeholder committee members that participate in the planning effort

**Resources Needed:** Staff time, contract services with adjoining transit systems, vehicles, and matching software to coordinate services

**Potential Cost Range:** \$600,000

**Potential Funding Sources:** Local jurisdictions, human service agencies, transit systems, and grants

**Performance Measures/Targets:**

- Engage in conversations with adjoining transit providers to see where coordinated services would be feasible and create a MOU documenting the relationship if feasible
- Create a plan showing if it is cost effective to cross county lines and how much it would cost to implement
- Work collaboratively with the mobility manager to communicate how to use the combined systems

Consider and analyze the feasibility and expense of transfer points with adjoining counties

**Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation:** Mobility Manager and STS

**Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation:** Planning Committee, Erie County Senior Resources, and all local human service agencies

**Resources Needed:** Staff time, transit agency coordination, brochures and other marketing materials

**Potential Cost Range:** \$16,000

**Potential Funding Sources:** 5310 ODOT Grant, STS, Erie County Department of Job & Family Services, and other grant opportunities

**Performance Measures/Targets:**



- Steps will be taken to create an Erie County Transportation List
- Steps will be taken to update the Mobility Management Website
- Distribution of all Erie County Transit (STS) brochures in key locations

**Goal #5: Regionalization Coordination; See Annual Review**

**Need(s) Being Addressed:** Make crossing county line easier to maneuver and more affordable by jointly considering connections /transfers with other relevant agencies.

**Strategy 5.1:** Work with adjoining transit providers to coordinate services.

**Timeline for Implementation:** Medium

**Action Steps:**

- Make crossing the county line more affordable and easier to accomplish
- Consider connections and transfers for out-of-county and near border hubs-**In proc**

## VI. Plan Adoption

### Draft and Final Review Processes

The final portion of the planning process involved follow-up public outreach sessions in which the draft plan was presented to the targeted groups. Staff met with the groups in person and discussed the overview of the plan and focused on the goals and strategy section.

### Follow-up Outreach Sessions

During the second series of outreach sessions Erie County staff discussed the draft plan and major findings. Staff asked for input and suggestions from the outreach groups. At the outreach groups 53% of attendees signed a letter of support of the draft plan. From the 43 signatures of support regarding the plan, 14% self-identified as older adults and 32% self-identified as being a person with a disability. The information presented was available prior to the meetings and was made available to the focus groups. More information about what meetings were held and attendance at those meetings is available upon request. Staff was available to these groups to answer any questions they may have had. No significant comments were received at these meetings either from the outreach sessions or from the public.

Group Name	Target Group	# of Attendees	Meeting Date
Alliance Abroad Group	Low-income	22	6/5/17
Erie County Self-Advocates	Disabled	20	6/5/17
Erie Metro Housing	Low-income	30	6/5/17
Erie Senior Center	Elderly	9	7/5/17
Public meeting	NA	2	6/28 & 6/29/17
	Total:	83	

### Formal Adoption and Consideration

The final plan was approved by the plan steering committee on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The plan was also presented to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and presented at the MPO Policy Committee meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for consideration. The final plan will be placed on Erie County Regional Planning's website after its formal adoption. Hard copies of the plan are also available by request.

## 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.

### Agency Representation 2018-2019

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Nicole DeFreitas	Sandusky Transit System
Sue Daugherty, Chris Ferguson	Serving Our Seniors
Laura LaGodney, Jim Roth, Celeste Hillman	Ability Works Inc.
Carrie Bier, Diane Corso	Erie CO. Board of Developmental Disabilities
Kristen Gerwin	Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
Angie Byington, Tom Horsman and Greg Voltz	City of Sandusky
Diane Chevalier	Citizen
Pamela Hartle, Elizabeth (Libby) Boros	Goodwill Industries
Crystal Bunts	Alliance Abroad Group
Sammi Beverick, Jennifer Yingling	Erie County Self-Advocates
Ralph Chamberlain	Erie CO. Metro Housing, Erie CO. Senior Center
Mary Wade-Jones, Henrietta Whalen	Sandusky Artisans/Bayshore Counseling
Tad Peck	Lucy Idol Foundation Inc.
John Schwartz	Christy Lane Industries Inc.
Gary Boyle, Megan Sherlund	Perkins Township
Jim Forthofer	City of Vermilion
Matt Old	Erie County Commissioners
Bob England, Craig Ward	Erie County Health Department
Sue Reamsnyder	Volunteers of America
Nicole Grohe, Steve Poggiali	Erie County Regional Planning Commission
Karen Balconi Ghezzi, Brian Bixler	Erie County Job and Family Services
Henrietta Whalen	Bayshore Counseling
Paul Moore	Terminal Taxi
Barbara Kluding	AM/PM Taxi
Tim Bergeman	OCTA
Karen Kilgo	Flat Rock Homes, Inc.
Diane Corrao	The Meadows at Osborn Park

### Agency Representation 2020

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Tom Horsman (Interim)	Sandusky Transit System
Sue Daugherty, Anthony Poole	Serving Our Seniors
Laura LaGodney, Jim Roth, DeMar Moore	Ability Works Inc.
Diane Corso	Erie CO. Board of Developmental Disabilities
Holly Kidd	Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
Ralph Chamberlain	Erie CO. Metro Housing, Erie CO. Senior Center
John Schwartz	Christy Lane Industries Inc. (CLI)
Craig Ward	Erie County Health Department
Sue Reamsnyder	Volunteers of America
Nicole Grohe, Steve Poggiali	Erie County Regional Planning Commission
Brian Bixler	Erie County Job and Family Services
Henrietta Whalen	Bayshore Counseling
Karen Kilgo, Margaret (Meg) Larkin-Downing	Flat Rock Homes, Inc.
Elizabeth (Libby) Boros	Goodwill Industries
Diane Corrao	The Meadows at Osborn Park

In addition to participants listed above, the planning committee also included representation of older adults, people with disabilities, and members of the general public. The Erie County Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization 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 the efforts that occurred is available upon request. To request additional information please contact:

**Name:** Nicole Grohe or Steve Poggiali

**Agency:** Erie County Regional Planning Commission

**Phone Number:** 419.627.7792

**E-mail Address:** [Planning@ErieCounty.OH.Gov](mailto:Planning@ErieCounty.OH.Gov)

## Appendix B: List of Annual Reviews and Plan Amendments

It is required that this plan be reviewed by the planning committee annually.

### Annual Review 2018

4 — Reset || Previsualize —>

### Vote for your choice

To vote you will receive an email with the proper link.

You can also enter your vote identifier and personal vote ticket here:

Vote identifier:	<input type="text"/>
Personal Vote ticket:	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="button" value="Go to vote"/>

Vote Machine

Welcome to the anonymous survey: **Erie County**

**Coordinated Plan Update 2018**

Created by: **Nicole Grohe**

Vote identifier Od2241d2a8dccc477c705f05b05483e

The vote question is:

**Do you approve of the 2018 Erie County Coordinated Plan Review?**

**One vote please per agency/organization.**

In the time zone (UTC-05:00) New York v accounting for winter/summer time change:

Present time is **Tuesday 6 November 2018 at 09h 18min 32s** Refresh

The vote started Tuesday 30 October 2018 at 13h 01min 00s. This was 6 days 21 h 17 min 32 s ago.

The vote **ended Monday 5 November 2018 at 15h 11min 00s**. This was **18 hours 7 min 32 s ago**.

#### Table of results

This is a single choice vote (radio buttons) so the sum of cast vote percentages is 100%.

Choice	Votes	Fraction of 4 cast vote forms	Fraction of 16 voters
Yes	4	100%	25%
No	0	0%	0%

#### Table of participation

Voters	16	100%
Have voted	4	25%
Are attentive but have not voted	0	0%
Are inattentive	12	75%

### Detailed explanations of the results

Number of votes-for-choice **Yes** = 4 i.e. 100% of 4 cast vote forms i.e. 25% of 16 total voters

Number of votes-for-choice **No** = 0 i.e. 0% of 4 cast vote forms i.e. 0% of 16 total voters

Number of votes/voters = 4/16 i.e. 2

## **Annual Review 2019**

The Annual Review of the Erie County Coordinated Transportation Plan occurred in October 2019. The purpose of the annual review is to amend the 2017 Erie County Coordinated Transportation Plan, keeping the plan current and in a state of motion. The stakeholder agencies and planning committee members attended scheduled meetings and approved by vote the updates made to this plan. The Agency Characteristics Tables, Fleet Vehicle Inventory, Goals and Strategies and Planning Committee Participants sections of the plan were updated by stakeholders during the Annual Review process.

### **Erie County Coordinated Transportation Plan Annual Review 2019**

At its meeting on October 24, 2019 the Erie County Transportation stakeholder and planning committee reviewed the Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan in its entirety and have approved the following amendments. An E-Vote was taken one week after the meeting to gain input from all committee members. Revisions were open to comments from committee members for over 60 days. All comments and approvals are on file.

- Transportation Providers & Organization Characteristics Charts; Pgs. 14-23
- Fleet Vehicle Information Inventory Tables were updated; Pgs. 25-32
- Goals & Strategies; Pgs. 44-50
- Planning Committee Participants / Agency Representation; Pg. 52

## **Goal #2: Improve Customer Service**

**Strategy (2.1)** Explore how to improve and address the unmet needs identified in the plan.

Sandusky Transit System recently began using EZ Fare as a means of collecting fares from transit riders. They added a seasonal fixed line for Cedar Point that operates from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. from April 1 to November 1. They also operate the Blue Line seven days per week along with the corresponding paratransit service. This line runs all the way along the Route 250 Corridor and is the Line that the Ability Works pilot project riders will tie into at the Kalahari stop. Riders will then have access all the way into the city of Sandusky as well as access to the other fixed lines, enabling them to travel all over Sandusky and Perkins Township for employment and other trips. Additionally, STS has a new user friendly “rider’s guide with map” available for the public to use. The lines are color coded to make it simpler for riders to navigate the system.

#### **Goal #4: Marketing**

**Strategy (4.1):** Educate Erie County Residents of all mobility options which are available within the county. All action steps listed under this goal are completed or continuing and ongoing. 700 copies of the Erie County Getting around Guide have been distributed. The STS brochure as well as the Travel Training and PCA brochures from GLCAP are being distributed. Individual and small group Travel Trainings are being conducted in Erie County. Mobility Management staff has been conducting presentations on what Mobility Management is with schools, agencies and the public. Both the STS and Mobility Management websites are updated regularly.

#### **Goal #5: Regionalization Coordination**

**Strategy (5.1)** Work with adjoining transit providers to coordinate services.

Currently Huron County Transit is operating trips up and down the Rt. 250 Corridor and transporting Erie County residents into Huron County for medical appointments and for employment Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. CLI is providing rides to individuals across county lines, primarily for employment during the day, along the corridor. The Ability Works pilot project will move people across Huron and Erie county lines, primarily for employment but after the hours the other providers no longer offer service and on weekends. Ability Works is partnering with Sandusky Transit System by using STS fixed lines stops including Kalahari resort as a transfer hub for riders. This will increase employment options for individuals working with Boards of DD and OOD all the way from the southern part of Huron County to and throughout the city of Sandusky and Perkins Township.



## **Annual Review 2020**

The Annual Review of the Erie County Coordinated Transportation Plan occurred in October 2020. The purpose of the annual review is to amend the 2017 Erie County Coordinated Transportation Plan, keeping the plan current and in a state of motion. The stakeholder agencies and planning committee members attended scheduled meetings and approved by vote the updates made to this plan. The Agency Characteristics Tables, Fleet Vehicle Inventory, Goals and Strategies and Planning Committee Participants sections of the plan were updated by stakeholders during the Annual Review process.

### **Erie County Coordinated Transportation Plan Annual Review 2020**

At its virtual meeting on October 8, 2020 the Erie County Transportation Stakeholder & Planning Committee reviewed the Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan in its entirety and have approved the following amendments that were provided prior to the meeting. Revisions were open to comments from committee members for over 60 days. All comments and approvals are on file.

- List of Transportation Providers; Pgs. 15-16
- Organization, Ridership, & Transportation Service Characteristics, Transportation-Related Expenses & Revenues, & Technology Charts; Pgs. 18-24.
- Vehicle Utilization Table; Pgs. 26-27.
- 2020 Agency Representation; Pg. 51.

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:

**Name: Nicole Grohe or Steve Poggiali**  
**Agency: Erie County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Phone Number: 419.627.7792**  
**E-mail Address: [Planning@ErieCounty.OH.Gov](mailto:Planning@ErieCounty.OH.Gov)**

## 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.

**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. Sub recipients 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.