

COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Washington County 2025-2029

July 2025

This document was produced by Buckeye Hills Regional Council, the Way2Go Committee of Washington County, and Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission.



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July 2025

Please direct all questions and comments regarding this document to:

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Buckeye Hills Regional Council

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**Department of
Transportation**



Executive Summary

The Coordinated Transportation Plan for Washington County, Ohio, was initially developed in 2007 and is updated annually to meet the Ohio Department of Transportation's guidelines. This plan complies with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) guidance under the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities programs. Its purpose is to provide a framework for administering the transit assistance program under 49 U.S.C. 5310 and preparing grant applications. This plan incorporates provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), ensuring alignment with federal regulations and priorities. It focuses on improving mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities through effective planning, coordination, and resource allocation. By addressing local transportation needs and leveraging federal guidance, the plan supports the development of a reliable, accessible, and inclusive transit network for Washington County residents.

Transportation is a critical component of the communities in Washington County. Transportation provides access to jobs, education, healthcare, 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 identify the following:

1. Identify all community resources including:
 - WASCO
 - O'Neill Senior Center
 - RHDD
 - Washington Job and Family Services
 - Marietta/Belpre Health Department
 - Washington County Health Department
 - Washington Morgan Community Action
 - Buckeye Hills Regional Council
 - Washington Morgan Community Action Cable
 - Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 - Faithlink
 - Washington County Veterans Services
 - RSVP/Senior Wheels

2. Identify and prioritize community transportation needs:
 - Promotion of existing services
 - Extend morning, night and weekend hours
 - Funding for expansion of services
 - Reliable transportation for medical/dialysis appointments
 - Coordination of services
 - Additional transportation providers
 - Continuation of Washington County Mobility Management Program.
3. Establish a clear path for achieving shared goals:

Washington County remains committed to coordinating efforts with all transportation providers to address the goals and priorities outlined in the coordinated transportation plan. Through strategic partnerships and shared objectives, the county, along with its cities, villages, residents, businesses, social service agencies, and transportation providers, will collaborate to achieve the plan's stated objectives. The Washington County Mobility Management program will leverage this plan as a comprehensive roadmap to guide future transportation initiatives, fostering connectivity and accessibility across the county and the broader region.

The active and meaningful involvement of stakeholders is fundamental to the Coordinated Transportation Plan process. To ensure the success of projects funded under the Section 5310 program, planning activities must include, at a minimum, the participation and/or representation of the following stakeholders:

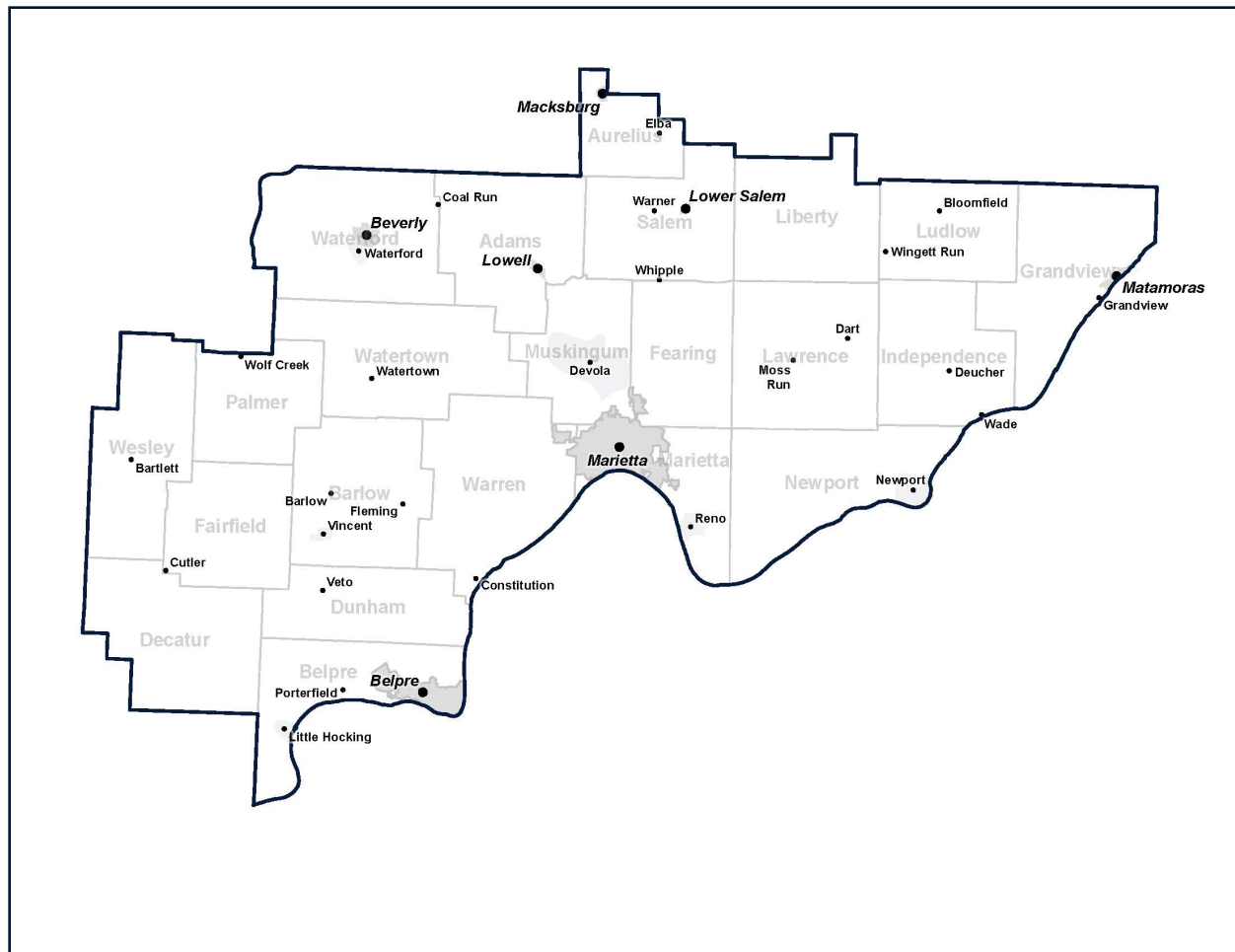
- Seniors
- Individuals with Disabilities
- People with Low Income
- Public, Private and Non-Profit Transportation Providers
- Human Service Providers
- The General Public

To foster collaboration among these individuals, the Way2Go Committee leverages stakeholder involvement to ensure active participation and engagement.

Physical copies of this plan are available at the Buckeye Hills Regional Council, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the WWW Interstate Planning Commission website, and various locations throughout the county through participating Way2Go Committee representative sites.

This plan was developed and adopted by the Way2Go committee. More information about this planning committee can be found in Appendix A.

Geographic Area



There are two cities identified:

Belpre Marietta

The city of Marietta is the largest municipality in the county and serves as the county seat.

There are five villages identified:

Beverly Lower Salem Lowell
Matamoras Macksburg

There are six census-designated places identified:

Devola
Newport

Little Hocking
Waterford

Vincent
Reno

There are twenty unincorporated communities:

Elba
Wingett Run
Duecher
Wade

Coal Run
Wolf Creek
Grandview
Cutler

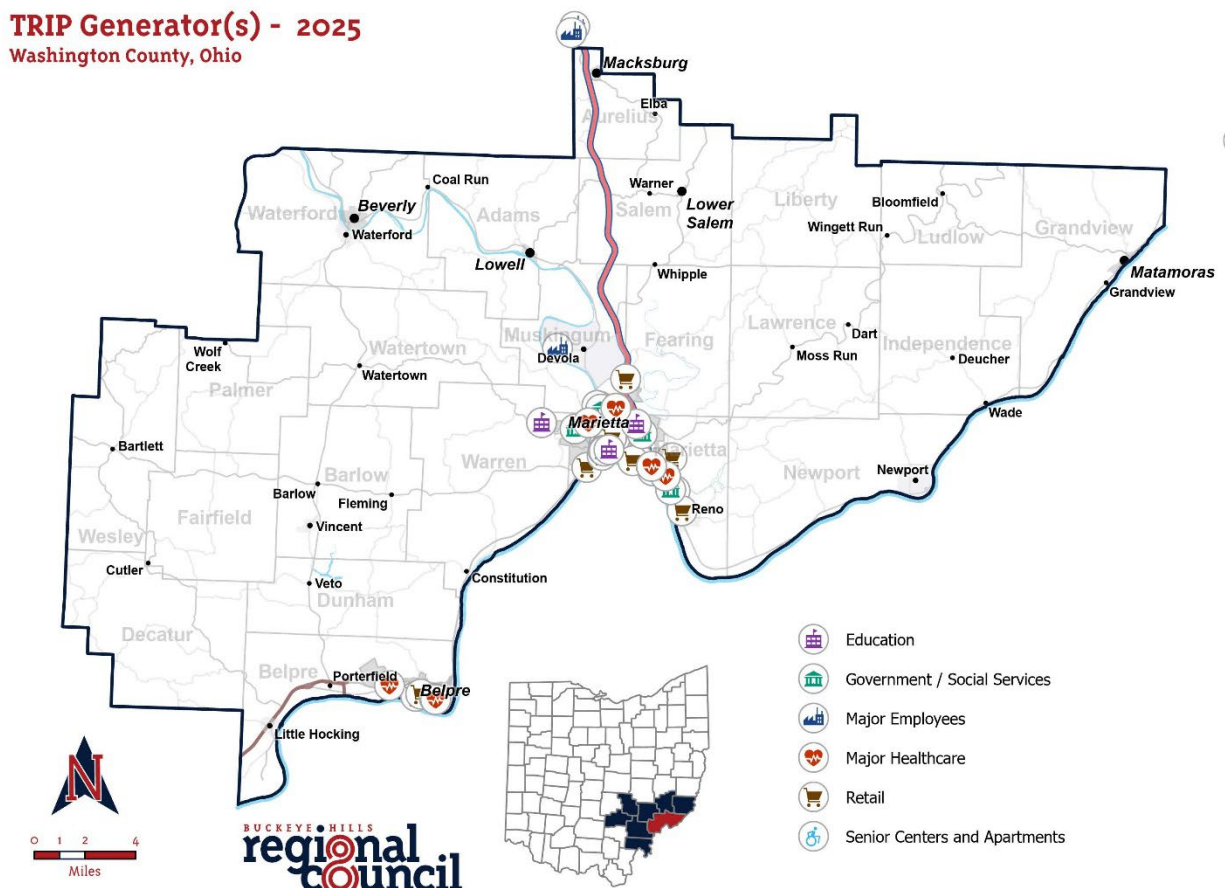
Warner
Watertown
Bartlett
Veto

Bloomfield
Moss Run
Barlow
Constitution

Whipple
Dart
Fleming
Porterfield

TRIP Generator(s) - 2025

Washington County, Ohio



Cartography by Eric Wade | March 2025
<http://www.buckeyehills.org> | 740.374.9436
 For information about data sources, please contact a GIS Specialist at Buckeye Hills

Major education facilities in the county include:

Marietta College

Washington State College of Ohio

Washington County Career Center

Major Senior Centers and Apartment complexes in the county include:

Gate Green Village
Apartments

Ridgewood Court
Apartments

Colonial Terrace
Apartments

Norwood Greene
Senior Living

The Glenwood
Community

Win Beri Place
Apartments

Washington County
Home

O'Neil Senior Center

Belpre Senior Center

Elison Assistant Living
& Memory Care

Jaycee Estates

Putnam Place
Apartments

Putnam Village

Major shopping centers in the county included:

Walmart

Kroger's Belpre

Kroger's Marietta

Giant Eagle

Frontier Shopping
Plaza

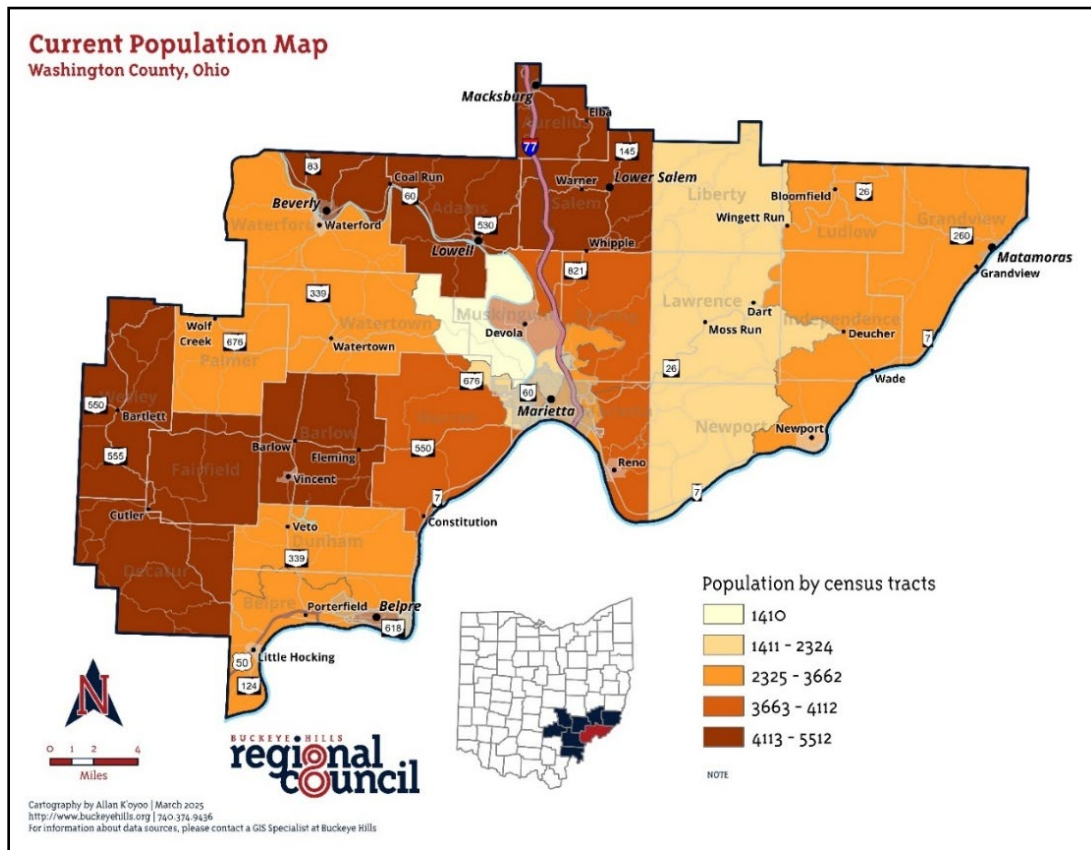
Lafayette Shopping
Center

Washington County
Square

Major social service agencies in the county included:

- Marietta/Belpre Health Department
- Washington County Health Department
- Washington County Children's Services
- Washington County Court House
- Washington County Job and Family Services
- Washington-Morgan Community Action
- U.S. Social Security Administration
- Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Population Demographics

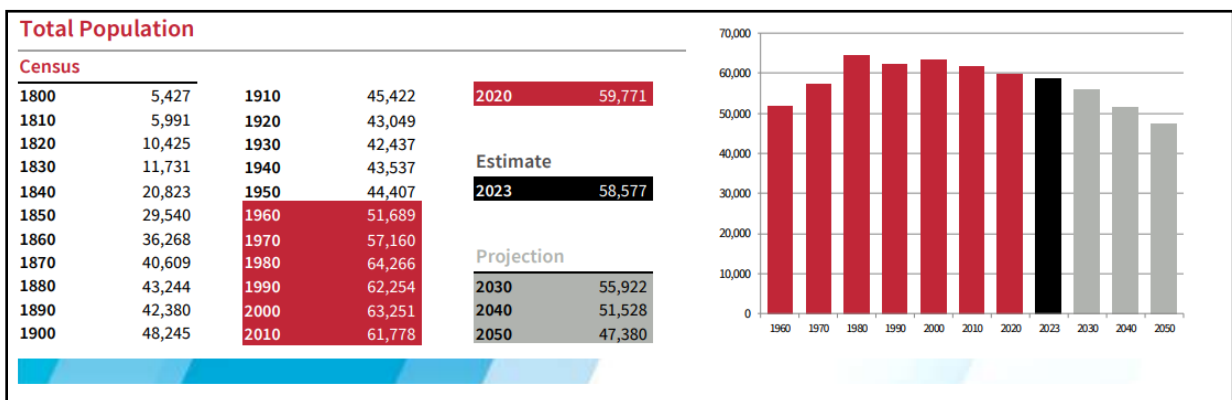


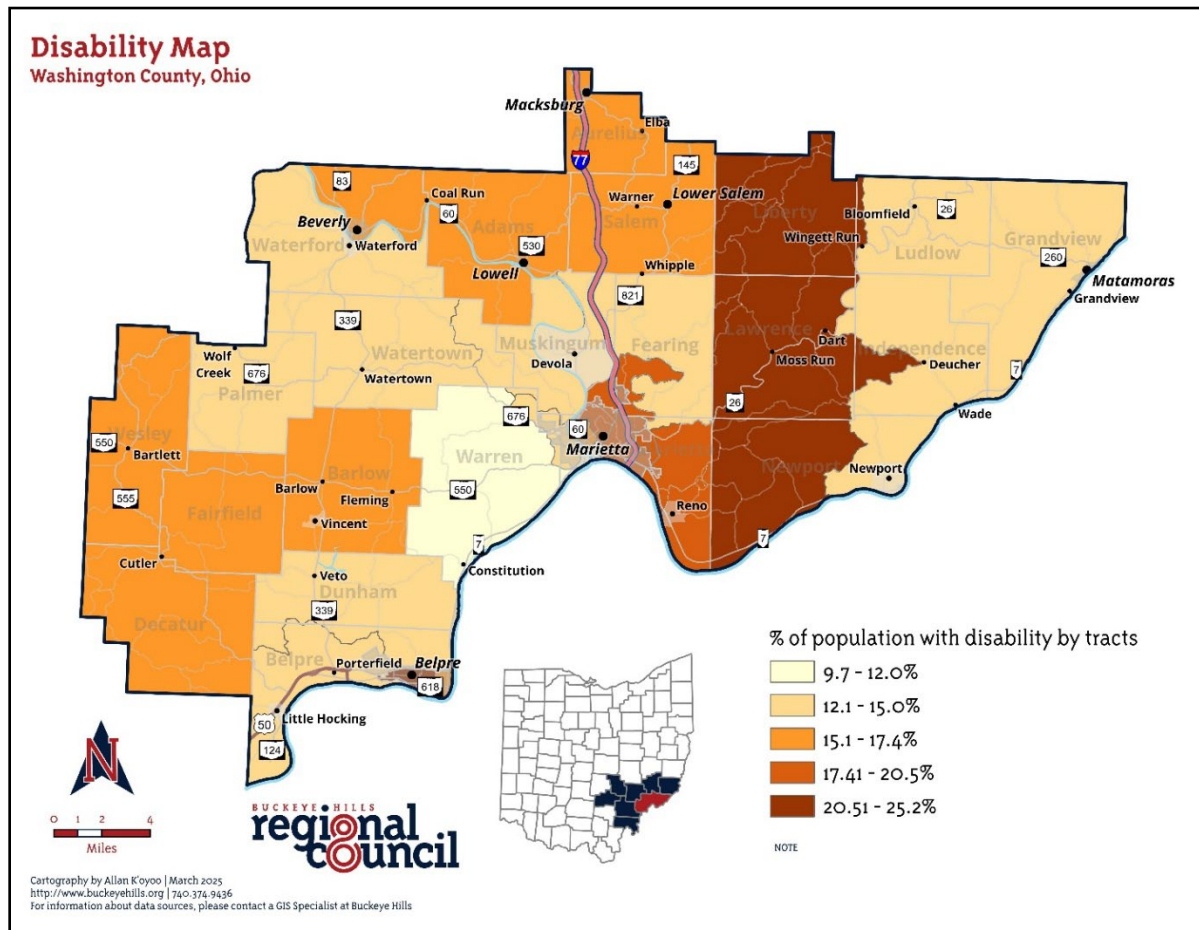
As 2023, Washington County, Ohio, has an estimated population of 58,577. This reflects a decrease from the 2020 census count of 59,771. The county seat is Marietta, and it covers a land area of approximately 635.2 square miles. Approximately 2.0% of Washington County, Ohio residents aged 5 and older speak a language other than English at home.

Population by Age	Number	Percent
ACS Total Population	59,639	100.0%
Under 5 years	2,923	4.9%
5 to 17 years	8,827	14.8%
18 to 24 years	5,200	8.7%
25 to 44 years	13,415	22.5%
45 to 64 years	16,562	27.8%
65 years and more	12,712	21.3%
Median Age	44.1	

Population by Race	Number	Percent
ACS Total Population	59,639	100.0%
White	56,574	94.9%
African-American	721	1.2%
Native American	117	0.2%
Asian	465	0.8%
Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
Other	226	0.4%
Two or More Races	1,536	2.6%
Hispanic (may be of any race)	685	1.1%
Total Minority	3,438	5.8%

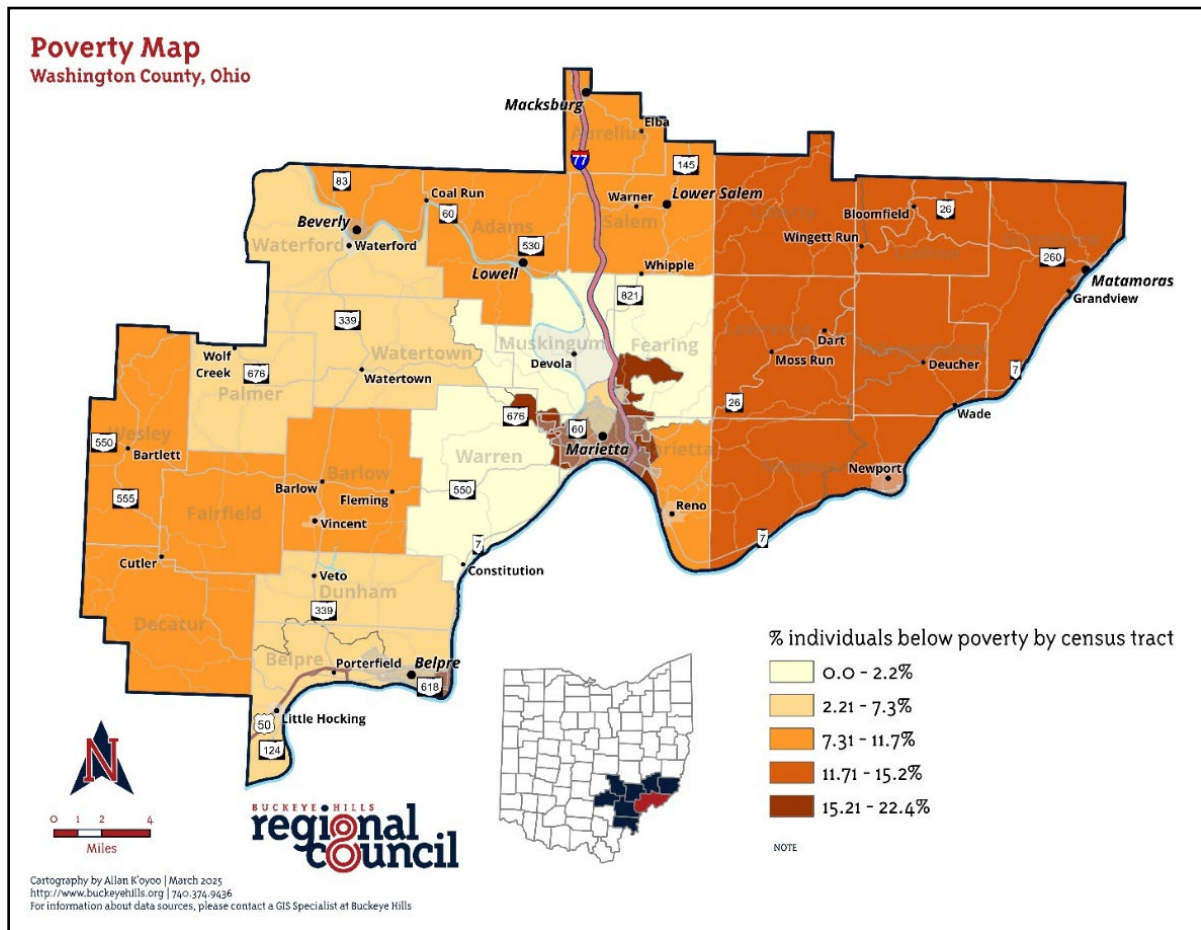
Ratio of Income To Poverty Level	Number	Percent
Population for whom poverty status is determined	57,956	100.0%
Below 50% of poverty level	3,517	6.1%
50% to 99% of poverty level	4,681	8.1%
100% to 124% of poverty level	2,721	4.7%
125% to 149% of poverty level	2,587	4.5%
150% to 184% of poverty level	3,839	6.6%
185% to 199% of poverty level	1,789	3.1%
200% of poverty level or more	38,822	67.0%





The disability rate in Washington County, Ohio, is approximately **15.3%** of the total population. This is higher than both the state and national averages. The national average disability rate is approximately **12.6%**, while the state average disability rate in Ohio is around **13.5%**.

Disability by type		
Hearing		2987
Vision		1687
Cognitive		3332
Ambulatory		4678
Self-Care		1988
Independent Living		3383



Washington County, Ohio, has a poverty rate of approximately **12.9%**, slightly below the Ohio state average of **13.3%** and just above the national average of **12.6%**.

The median household income in Washington County is **\$61,355**, which is lower than the Ohio state median of **\$69,680**.

These figures suggest that while Washington County's poverty rate is slightly below the state and national averages, the median household income is lower than state levels, indicating economic challenges within the county.

Assessment of Available Services

Conducting a comprehensive evaluation of service provider capabilities and analyzing existing gaps and duplications in transportation resources empowers transportation planners with the insights needed to implement meaningful changes. These changes aim to strengthen the network of transportation resources and services within Washington County and across county lines.

The Way2Go Committee identified key stakeholders to participate in the assessment of available services. These stakeholders included individuals who had been involved in current or past planning committees, as well as others deemed appropriate by the committee. Each identified stakeholder was provided with opportunities to comment and actively participate in the planning process.

The primary goal of this engagement was to allow stakeholders to discuss specific transportation services, gaps, needs, and priorities relevant to their service areas or communities. When applicable, data and findings from the previous coordinated plan were incorporated to supplement the information gathered during this planning effort, ensuring a comprehensive and informed approach.

INVENTORY OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

- Transportation providers participating in this plan include:
- O'Neill Senior Center
- Residential Home for the Developmentally Disabled (RHDD)
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Senior Wheels Program
- WASCO Inc.
- Washington Morgan Community Action Marietta Demand
- Washington Morgan Community Action Dial-A-Ride
- Washington County Veterans Services
- Go Bus

Each program manages riders and vehicles uniquely, utilizing a variety of transportation methods such as buses, 5310-purchased LTVs, mini-vans, and volunteer-provided services. Detailed information about each program is presented in the charts and tables on the following pages, which are based on data compiled from survey responses and interview results. A total of seven organizations contributed information about their services, providing a comprehensive overview of available resources.

LIST OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PROVIDERS

Agency Name: O'Neill Senior Center

Transportation Service Type: Non-Emergency Medical

Other Services Provided: Adult Day Care Services; Living Assistance; Prescription Assistance; Social Services and Life Enrichment Activities

Contact Information: Connie Huntsman, Director; 740.373.3914

Hours: 8am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday

Service Area: Washington County; Medical transportation goes outside of Washington County, but serves residents of Washington County.

Eligibility Requirements: Services - Age 60 and reside in Washington County; Activities - Age 50

Website: <http://www.oneillcenter.com>

Agency Name: Residential Home for the Developmentally Disabled (RHDD)

Transportation Service Type: Per-trip; Private; Contract with Public Coordinator

Other Services Provided:

Contact Information: Lisa Reed, Executive Director

Hours: 24 hours/day; 7 days/week

Service Area: Southeastern Ohio

Eligibility Requirements: Developmental Disability

Website: <http://www.rhdd.org>

Agency Name: Washington County Veterans Services

Transportation Service Type: Non-Emergency Medical

Other Services Provided: N/A

Contact Information: Darren Shearlock; 740-568-9009

Hours: 8am – 5pm, Monday- Thursday, 8am – 12pm Friday

Service Area: Washington County

Eligibility Requirements: Veterans

Website: <https://www.washingtongov.org/ss-veteranservices.htm>

Agency Name: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Transportation Service Type: Volunteer based Local and Long-Distance Non-Emergency Medical, Personal transportation

Other Services Provided: Provide volunteers for food distribution, meal delivery, free lunch programs and other vital services

Contact Information: Carla Westfall, Director; 740-373-3107

Hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday

Service Area: Washington County

Eligibility Requirements: 55 years or older and unable to drive

Website: <https://americorps.gov/serve/amicorps-seniors>

Agency Name: WASCO, Inc.

Transportation Service Type: Non-Medical Transportation

Other Services Provided: Will contract with community groups for events (i.e., Sternwheel Festival)

Contact Information: Alicia Simms, CEO, (740) 373-3418

Hours: Monday -Friday 8am-4pm

Service Area: Washington

Eligibility Requirements: Non-Medical Transportation through DODD Waiver Funding

Website: <http://www.wascoinc.org>

Agency Name: Washington-Morgan Community Action Dial-A-Ride

Transportation Service Type: Out of City Transportation

Other Services Provided: N/A

Contact Information: Stephen Collins; 740-373-7671

Hours: 9am – 4pm, Monday - Friday

Service Area: Out of city of Marietta, Washington County

Eligibility Requirements: Washington County Resident

Website: <http://www.wmcap.org/transportation>

Agency Name: Washington-Morgan Community Action Marietta Demand

Transportation Service Type: City of Marietta (See Map)

Other Services Provided: N/A

Contact Information: Stephen Collins; 740-373-7671

Hours: 7am – 5pm, Monday – Friday; 8am – 1pm, Saturday

Service Area: City of Marietta

Eligibility Requirements: City of Marietta

Website: <http://www.wmcap.org/transportation>

Agency Name: Go Bus/HAPCAP

Transportation Service Type: Fixed-route, Intercity bus

Other Services Provided: ADA Accessibility

Contact Information: 888-954-6287

Hours: 8am-4pm, Monday – Friday (varies by county)

Service Area: Greater Ohio

Eligibility Requirements: N/A

Website: <https://ridegobus.com/>

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

Organizational Characteristics						
Agency Name	Directly Operates Transportation	Purchases Transportation	Legal Authority	# one-way Passenger Trips Annually	Avg. Weekly Trip Denials	Vehicles Only Available for HS
Marietta On-Demand	Yes	No	Private Non-Profit	9000	3	No
Dial-A-Ride	Yes	No	Private Non-Profit	4000	5	No
O'Neill Senior Center	Yes	No	Private Non-Profit	N/A	N/A	No
RHDD	Yes	No	Private Non-Profit	N/A	N/A	Yes
RSVP	Yes	No	Washington County Commissioner	917	N/A	No
WASCO	Yes	No	Private Non-Profit	N/A	N/A	HS
Washington County Veterans Services	Yes	No	Government	42,694 miles with 195 Round Trips	N/A	Yes
Go Bus	Yes	Yes	Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP)	N/A	N/A	No

*Answering "Yes" indicates that the agency is closed door. An agency is considered closed door if they only provide transportation to their facility as a courtesy or if they only serve a particular clientele that are enrolled in their agency programs (i.e., members of a sheltered workshop, or residents in a nursing home). Answering "No" indicates that the 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;" an individual who is 60 or over can request transportation to a doctor's appointment or the grocery store regardless of their affiliation with the agency.

The participating organizations provide a wide range of transportation options. All the participating organizations provide services on weekdays, with two operating on Saturdays and/or Sundays. There are no services that operate after 5:00 pm at this time. The next table depicts the transportation service characteristics by agency.

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
Marietta On-Demand	Marietta City Public On Demand	Monday-Friday 7am-5pm Sat 8am-1pm	No	Curb to Curb, Door to Door upon Request	Drive; Defensive Driving; CPR/First Aid
Dial-A-Ride	Out of City Public Transportation	Monday-Friday 9am-3pm	No	Curb to Curb, Door to Door upon Request	Drive; Defensive Driving; CPR/First Aid
O'Neill Senior Center	Demand Response	Monday- Friday 8am-4:30pm	Yes	Door to Door Assistance	Drive; Defensive Driving; CPR/First Aid, Bloodborne Pathogens; Wheelchair Securement
RHDD	Adult Day Care	24/7	Yes	Up to Total Assist	N/A
RSVP	Demand Response	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm or by appt.	No	Door to Door Assistance	Corsa Self Defense Driving
WASCO	Non-Medical Transportation	Monday-Friday 8am-4pm	Yes	Wheelchair assisting ambulator on/off vehicle	First Aid/CPR; Defensive Driving (when available)
Washington County Veterans Services	Veterans Medical Facilities	Monday- Thursday 8am-5pm Friday 8am-12n	No	Door to Door, Wheel Chair	Driving Record Checked/Verified through County Commissioners
Go Bus	Fixed-route, Intercity Bus	Monday-Friday 8am- 4pm Varies by County	No	ADA Accessibility	Emergency Evacuation Procedures, Defensive Driving, Sensitivity Training, Passenger Assistance Training, Drug and Alcohol, CPR, First Aid, Bloodborne Pathogen, Wheelchair Securement

Transportation related expenses and revenues also differ by organization. The Federal Transit Administration, Ohio Department of Transportation, County and City resources, grants, fares, and donations are common revenue sources for transportation operators in Washington County. The table below provides a summary of expenses and revenues for public and non-profit transportation programs

Transportation-Related Expenses and Revenues						
Agency Name	Fare Structure	Donation 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
Washington-Morgan Community Action	Marietta On-Demand \$1.00 general .50 cent elderly & disabled (one-way) Dial-A-Ride \$2.00 general \$1.00 elderly & Disabled (one-way)	Yes	7	3	FTA, ODOT, Washington County Commissioners, City of Marietta	800,000
O'Neill Senior Center	Suggested Donation	Yes	1 Full-time, 6 Part-time	1 Full-time	Title II-B, United Way, Passport, senior Services Levy	N/A
RHDD	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	DODD, Private Pay	N/A
RSVP	Suggested Donation	Yes	11 Drivers & 3 Long Distance drivers (Volunteers)	3 Dispatchers	Title XX, Senior Services Levy, Private Grants, and Donations	N/A
WASCO	N/a	Yes	N/A	N/A	DODD Waiver Funding	N/A
Washington County Veterans Services	None	No	1 Part Time	2 Full Time	Government	11,000.00
Go Bus	Varies by distance	No	Contract services	Contract Services	5311 (F)	5,917,606

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.

Alternative/Active Transportation Options				
Transportation Option	Availability	Cost	Usage	Service Areas
RSVP-Senior Wheels	Demand Response	Donation Basis	N/A	Washington County

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

Transportation Resources				
Transportation Resources	Availability	Cost	Usage	Service Area
Washington County Mobility Manager	5 days a week Monday-Friday	Free	Community Members	Washington County

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

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)
Marietta On-Demand	CTS	Yes	CTS	N/A
Dial-A-Ride	CTS	No	CTS	N/A
O'Neill Senior Center	Paper Based	No	N/A	N/A
RHDD	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
RSVP	Paper Base	No	N/A	N/A
WASCO	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
Washington County Veterans Services	Access	No	Access	Yes
Go Bus	TBN Drives	Yes	TBN Drives	Yes

ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR TRANSIT

Lack of transportation has long been a significant challenge for individuals living in poverty, particularly in rural areas like Washington County, where public transportation options are limited. Recognizing this critical issue, Washington County has a longstanding commitment to supporting transportation initiatives and addressing the region's transportation needs.

To further these efforts, Washington County partnered with the Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission (WWW), Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC), and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), launched the Washington County Mobility Management program in March 2020. This program is led by the Washington County Mobility Manager, a position focused on:

- Increasing understanding and awareness of community transportation needs.
- Promoting awareness of existing transportation options and programs.
- Expanding transportation services within the region.
- Assisting individuals in accessing all available community transportation resources.
- Building partnerships with local transportation agencies, veteran services, and hospitals.

With strong support from the County and the Way2Go Committee, a strategic plan has been set into motion to achieve the program's goals. Washington County's enduring recognition of transportation challenges, combined with the partnerships and collaborations established over the years, continues to foster widespread support for transportation initiatives. These efforts are paving the way for meaningful improvements in the region's transportation network, benefiting residents and enhancing access to essential services.

SAFETY

The safety of transporting is a top priority for the agencies providing transportation in Washington County. To ensure the well-being of clients, all drivers undergo thorough screening and comprehensive training to deliver the safest possible transportation.

Driver training programs include:

- **First Aid/CPR:** Equipping drivers to respond effectively to medical emergencies.
- **Defensive Driving:** Teaching strategies to prevent accidents and navigate roads safely.
- **DRIVE:** Enhancing overall driving skills and operational awareness.
- **Bloodborne Pathogens:** Educating drivers on proper protocols to handle potential exposure safely.

- **Passenger Assistance Training (PAT):** Focusing on client care and support during transit.
- **Wheelchair Securement:** Ensuring passengers using mobility devices are transported safely.
- **Sure-Lok System:** Training on securement systems to enhance safety for passengers with special needs.
- **Corsa Self Defense Driving:** focuses on staying alert, anticipating risks, maintaining your vehicle, and practicing emergency maneuvers to ensure safety on the road.
- **SAFETY:** equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to identify hazards, prevent accidents, and respond to emergencies in various environments.
- **Safe Driving:** focuses on responsible driving habits, hazard awareness, and defensive driving techniques to prevent accidents and ensure road safety for all users.

By implementing these robust training programs, transportation agencies in Washington County demonstrate their unwavering commitment to the safety and security of their passengers.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RESOURCES

O'Neill Center

333 Fourth St., Marietta, OH 45750

740.373.3714

www.Oneillcenter.com

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

1400 Pike St., Marietta, OH 45750

800.331.2644

www.buckeyehills.org

Social Security Administration

1301 Greene St., Marietta, OH 45750

855.433.5872

www.ssa.gov

Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities

1701 Colegate Dr., Marietta, OH 45750

740-373-3781

www.wcbdd.org

Washington County Department of Job and Family Services

1115 Gilman Ave., Marietta, OH, 45750

740-434.0499

www.wcdjfs.com

The Community Action Program Corporation of Washington-Morgan Counties (Marietta)

218 Putnam St., Marietta, OH 45750

740-373-3745

www.wmcap.org

Marietta-City-Belpre Health Department

304 Putnam St., Marietta, OH 45750

740-373-0611

www.mareittabelprehealth.org

Marietta Community Foundation

100 Putnam St., Marietta, OH 45750

740-373-3286

www.mcfohio.org

Washington County Health Department

340 Muskingum Dr., Suite B, Marietta, OH 45750

740-374-2782

www.washingtongov.org/137/Health-Department

Veterans Services

706 Pike St., Suite 1, Marietta, OH 45750

740.568.9009

www.wcvsc.com

Washington County BMV

142 Gross St., B, Marietta, OH 45750

740.374.6824

www.bmv.ohio.org

Washington County Courthouse

205 Putnam St., Marietta, OH 45750

740.373.6623

www.washingtongov.org

WASCO

210 Mill Creek Rd., Marietta, OH 45750

740.373.3418

www.wascoinc.org

RHDD

245 Co. Rd. 9, Marietta, OH 45750

740.376.9264

www.rhddinc.org

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

333 4th St., Marietta, OH 45750

740.373.3107

www.americorps.gov/serv/american-corps-seniors

Assessment of Transportation Needs and Gaps

To gain a comprehensive understanding of transportation needs in Washington County, the planning committee analyzed research and data while actively seeking community input to identify gaps in transportation services. The demographic and socio-economic conditions of the study area are detailed in the Demographics Chapter of this plan.

This overview evaluates service gaps based on geographic data, as well as insights from targeted populations, transportation providers, and the general public. The Way2Go Committee engaged a variety of stakeholders, reaching out to organizations and individuals who could potentially be impacted by the coordinated transportation planning process.

Efforts to solicit input included outreach to stakeholders across the region, encouraging participation and fostering collaboration. Additional details on how the lead agency engaged stakeholders and the public are available upon request.

The following methods were employed to evaluate transportation needs and identify service gaps:

- **Data and Demographics Analysis:** Examined regional data and demographic trends to understand transportation challenges.
- **Virtual Public Meetings:** Hosted online forums to gather input and feedback from community members.
- **Targeted Surveys:** Collected responses from older adults, individuals with disabilities, and the general public to gain diverse perspectives on transportation needs.

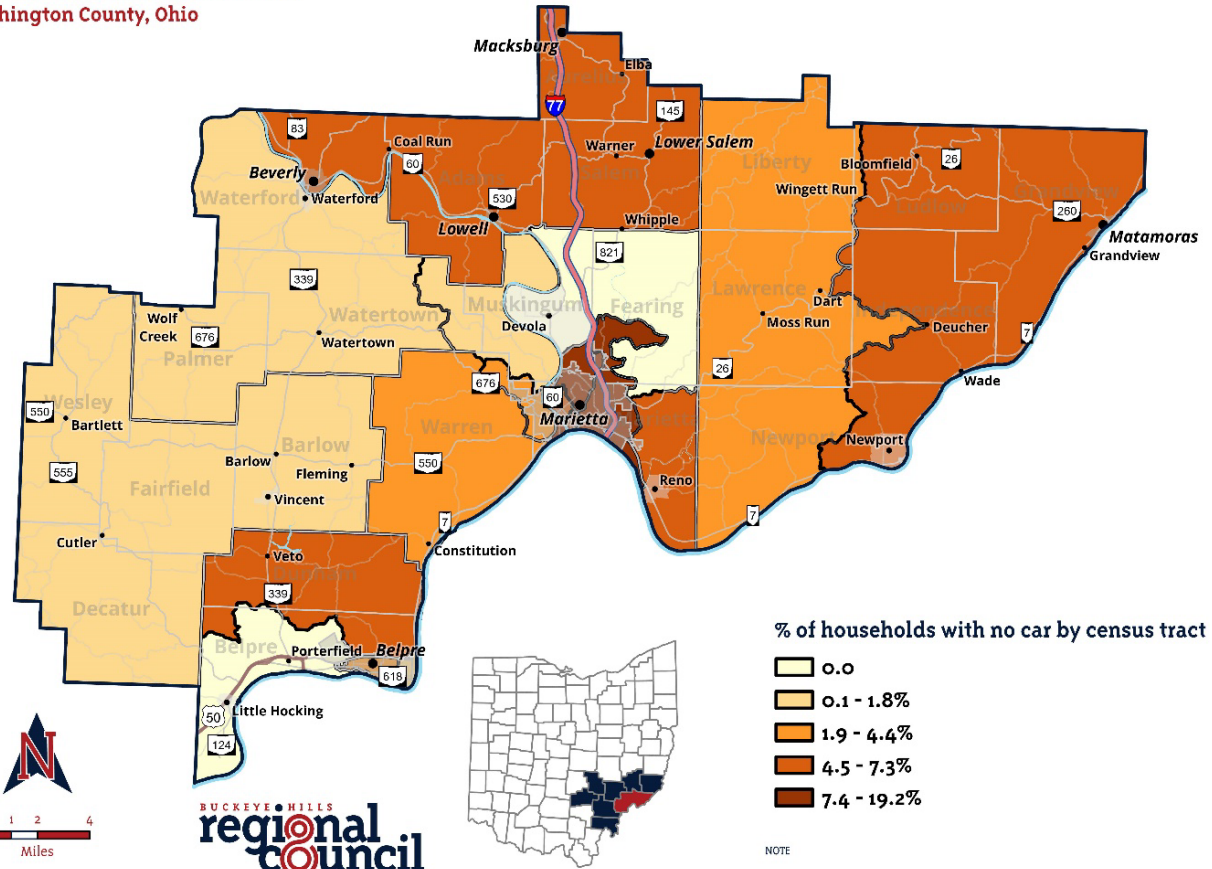
LOCAL DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

Data for each target population group was aggregated by Census Block Group to facilitate transportation analysis. Demographic and socio-economic data provide valuable insights, enabling comparisons between areas with the highest and lowest population densities of individuals most likely to require transportation.

This information can then be analyzed alongside:

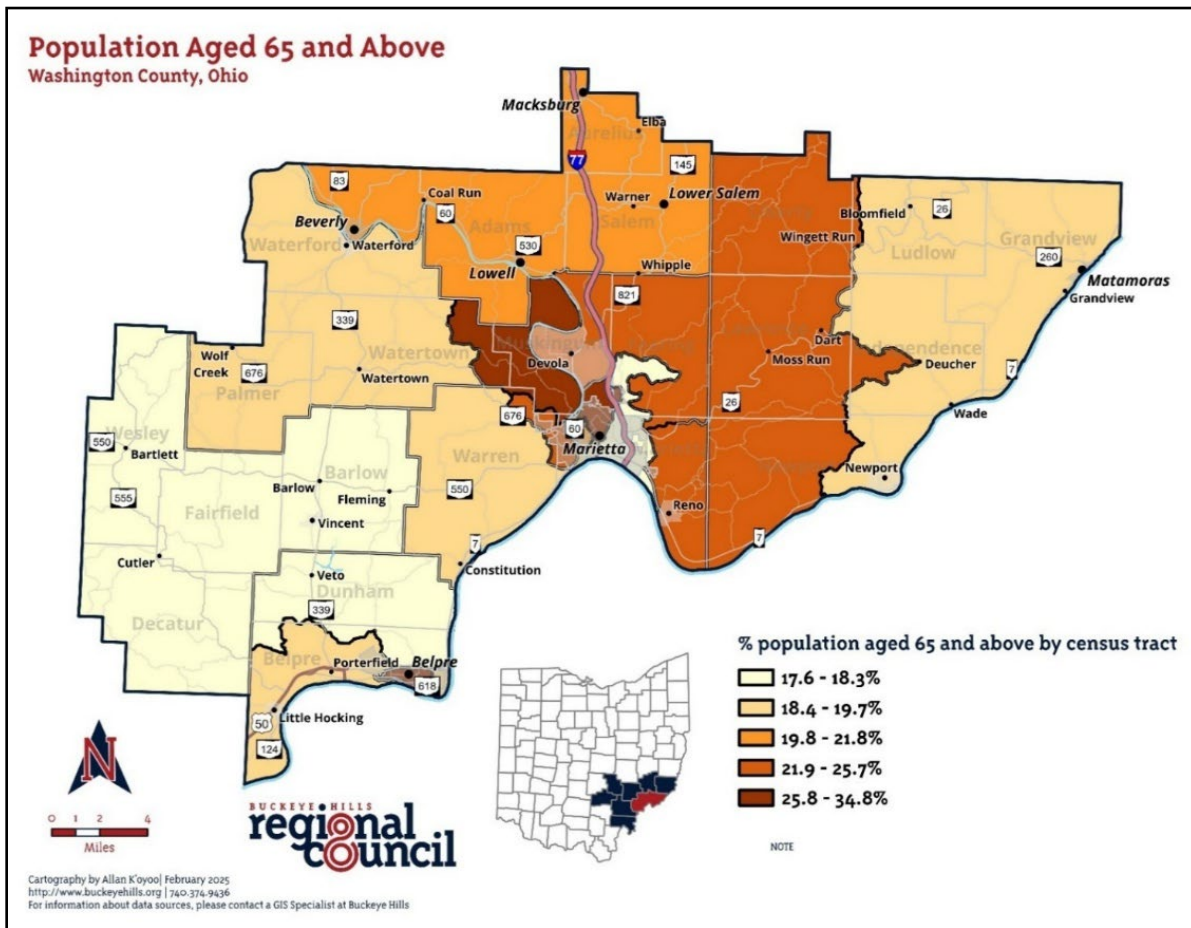
- **Major Trip Generators:** Identifying key destinations that drive transportation demand.
- **Available Transportation Services:** Assessing service coverage and accessibility in relation to population needs.

Households with no car Washington County, Ohio



Cartography by Allan K'oyoo | February 2025
<http://www.buckeyehills.org> | 740.374.9436
 For information about data sources, please contact a GIS Specialist at Buckeye Hills

Approximately **5.2%** of households in Washington County, Ohio, do not have access to a vehicle. This figure is below the national average of **8.7%**. The highest percentages of households without a vehicle in Washington County, Ohio, are found in more urban or densely populated areas. In Washington County, the **city of Marietta** and areas surrounding the county tend to have the highest concentration of households without a vehicle, reflecting a greater reliance on public transportation or proximity to essential services.



Washington County, Ohio, has **21.9%** of its population aged 65 and older, which is higher than Ohio's average of **17.8%**. The highest concentrations of seniors are found in the **central area**, including the county seat of Marietta, with significant percentages extending southeast of the county seat. This demographic trend highlights the need for targeted services and programs for the aging population in these regions.

ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Older adults are likely to use transportation services when they cannot or choose not to drive. Many are on limited retirement incomes, making transit a more economical alternative to vehicle ownership. Consequently, the older adult population is a strong indicator of potential transit demand.

As the post-WWII "baby boom" generation (born 1946–1964) ages, more individuals are reaching 65 and are likely to rely on transportation services if available. The Administration on Aging reports that longevity is increasing, and younger seniors are healthier than ever, allowing them to remain independent longer. This trend puts growing pressure on transit systems to provide mobility options for this population.

In Washington County, senior populations are evenly distributed, with some areas, like those north of Marietta and in Belpre, comprising up to 25% seniors. Even areas with the lowest proportions have over 10% elderly residents.

Assessing transportation needs for individuals with disabilities presents challenges, as disability is defined functionally under ADA regulations (49 CFR Part 37.3). This approach focuses on an individual's ability to perform life functions rather than categorizing them strictly by medical condition. While the U.S. Census does not directly measure transportation-related disabilities, the 2018 ACS Five-Year Estimates provide the best data for Washington County.

As with seniors, the population density of individuals with disabilities is highest in and around Marietta and Belpre, indicating increased demand for transit services in these areas.

GENERAL PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS/FOCUS GROUPS

In 2024, the Way2Go Committee hosted and facilitated four in-person meetings to address unmet transportation needs and gaps in mobility across Washington County. While attendance varied, an average of 16 representatives from community agencies participated in each meeting.

During these discussions, the committee focused on identifying and addressing gaps in transportation services as part of the development of an updated transportation plan. After each meeting, stakeholders were asked to review the previous plan's transportation gaps and needs, identifying any that were no longer relevant and any new gaps to be included in the revised plan.

The discussions centered on transportation for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low-income populations, while also considering the broader mobility needs of the general public. Once the updated list of needs and gaps was finalized, stakeholders reviewed the revised goals and strategies for the new plan.

The exhibit at the end of this section provides a summary of the unmet mobility needs discussed during the meetings, as well as those identified through the survey results.

SURVEY

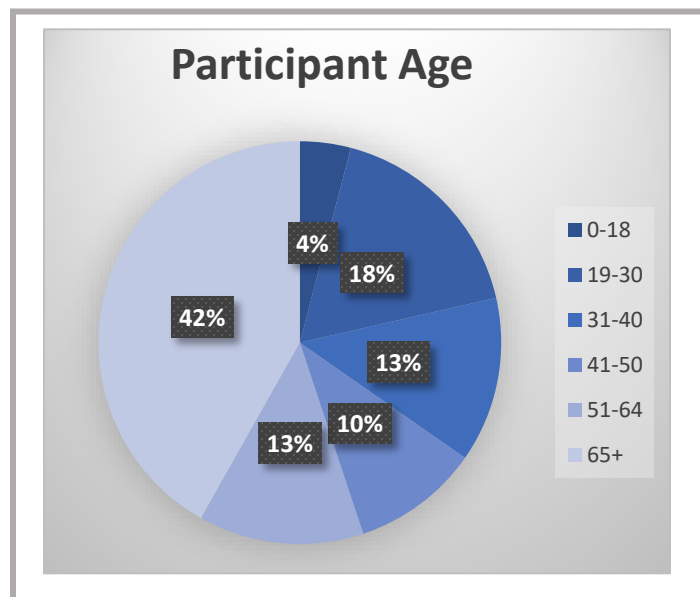
In 2022, the Way2Go Committee designed a survey to better understand the transportation needs of Washington County residents, with a focus on capturing data from older adults and individuals with disabilities. The survey received 100 responses, providing valuable insights into local mobility challenges.

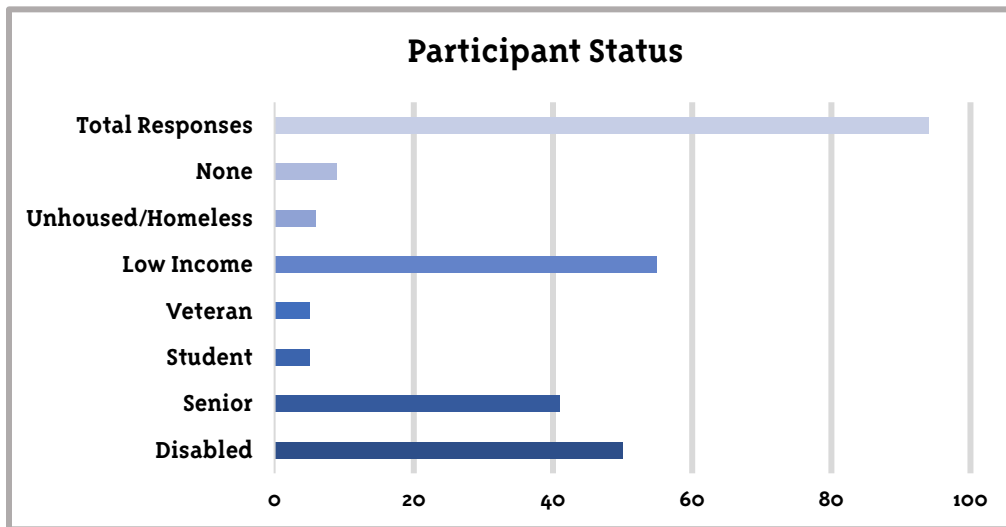
To ensure the data remains current, a new survey is planned for distribution in 2025 to update information for the 2026 transportation plan. A copy of the 2020 survey is available in the appendix of this document, and both collective and individual responses can be provided upon request.

Although the survey primarily targeted populations likely to include older adults, it captured a diverse range of ages. The distribution of respondents, shown in the chart on the right, reveals a plurality of individuals aged 65 and older, but also a fairly even representation of those aged 18–64. Very few respondents were under 18, with the next largest group being individuals aged 19–30.

The committee believes that this age distribution provides a comprehensive view of the needs of the senior population, while also capturing the transportation needs of those younger than 65.

Respondents were asked to identify themselves from a list of categories. The chart below illustrates the diversity of respondents across all identified groups. Over half of the participants identified as low-income, while a significant portion also identified as seniors and/or individuals with disabilities. This response aligns with the earlier finding that a large number of respondents were 65 years or older, highlighting the high representation of seniors in the survey.





Given the high number of senior and disabled respondents, it was essential to assess the use of assistive devices in daily activities. Approximately 60% of respondents reported not using any assistive device. However, it is noteworthy that 16% use a cane, 12% use a walker, and 6% rely on a wheelchair for daily mobility. This information is crucial for understanding the challenges residents face when accessing public transit stops and the need for handicap-accessible transportation options.

It was essential to understand which public transportation services residents of Washington County are using. The survey revealed that the majority rely on CABL or transportation provided by the O'Neill Senior Center, with the Department of Job and Family Services coming in third. Fewer respondents mentioned using other service providers.

The survey also sought to explore why some residents do not use existing public transportation. Given the survey's distribution, most respondents indicated that they do use public transportation, but the second most common response was "Unsure/I don't know." This suggests that increased outreach could raise awareness and usage of available transportation options.

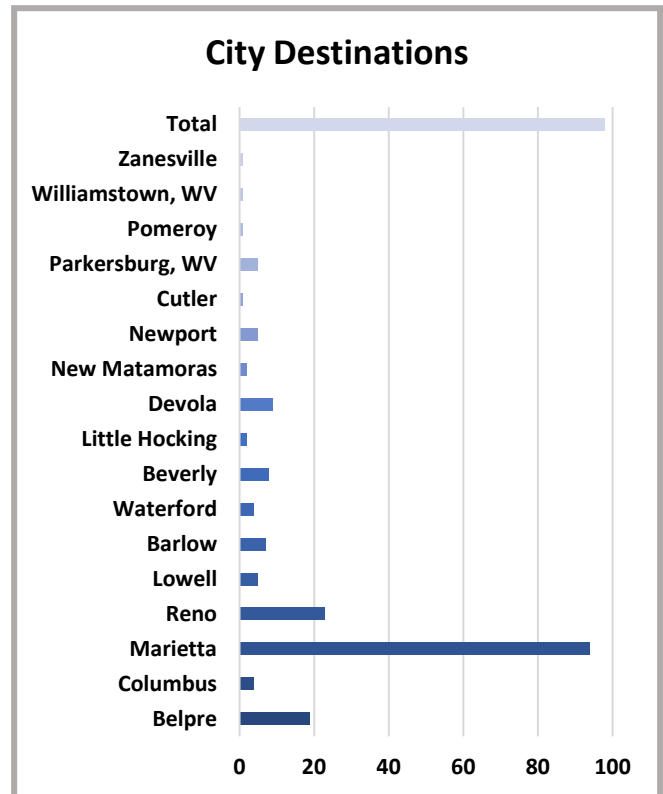
Among respondents, 85% do not use public transportation for employment-related travel, while 4% were unsure. Additionally, 26% typically drive themselves for regular activities, and 32% rely on family or friends. However, 19% use public transportation for all their trips.

To capture both highly desired destinations and optimal times for transit, respondents selected preferred destinations and times. The results, displayed in the heat chart below, show that medical/health care was the most frequent destination, especially between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., followed by grocery stores and work. Predictably, transportation needs were lowest between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for trips to and from work.

To fully understand the community's transportation needs, it's crucial not only to identify destinations and preferred times of day for transit, but also to examine the cities people travel to. The chart on the left illustrates the most frequently visited cities by respondents. The data shows that 95% of respondents visit Marietta. However, it's worth noting that 20% of respondents also travel to Belpre, and 23% visit Reno. Additionally, some respondents indicated travel to out-of-county locations.

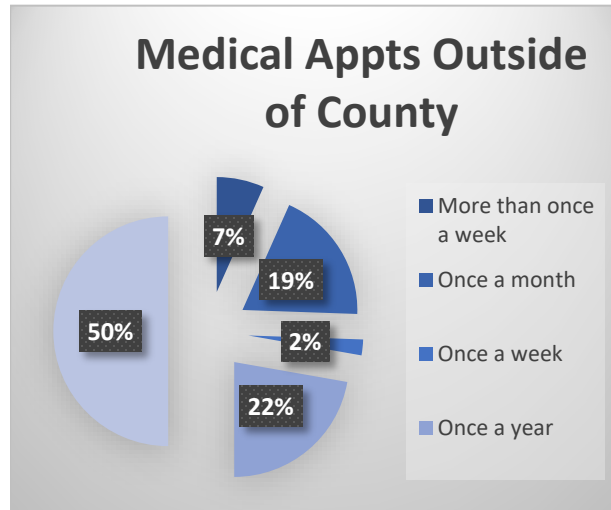
With the upcoming relocation of a key service provider to Belpre, we anticipate that future survey results will show a shift in travel patterns, with Belpre likely becoming an even more prominent destination. The chart at right illustrates the pattern of travel within the county and surrounding area.

Non-emergency medical transportation often emerges as a top concern when discussing transportation needs and barriers. To address this, it's essential to understand where medical appointments are located, how frequently individuals have them, and whether transportation poses a barrier.



The chart at right shows that half of the survey respondents reported rarely or never having medical appointments outside of Washington County. Additionally, 22% indicated they have out-of-county medical appointments once a year, while 18% have them once a month. This suggests that most non-emergency medical appointments requiring transportation are within the county.

Non-emergency medical appointments are critical for the individuals we serve. When asked if they had ever missed a medical appointment, 19% of respondents said they had missed appointments due to a lack of transportation. However, it's unclear whether these missed appointments were due to transportation providers being at full capacity or a lack of awareness about available non-emergency transportation options.



To enhance public transportation and better meet the needs of residents, it's important to identify potential changes. Survey responses revealed several key suggestions. The most common request was for more reliable on-time and drop-off schedules. Additionally, many respondents expressed a desire for transportation services to be available on Saturdays and Sundays. A smaller group indicated they would like more destinations, extended hours of operation, and shorter advance notice required for reservations.

One of the key responsibilities of the Washington County Mobility Manager is to educate the community about available transportation options. For this role to be effective, it must be accessible and trusted by residents. When asked how familiar they were with the Mobility Manager program, only 22% of respondents reported being familiar with it. While this percentage is low, it highlights the need for increased outreach, public engagement, and collaboration among transportation providers. It's also important to note that the program was in its first year of service at the time of this survey.

To ensure the Mobility Manager can effectively connect with individuals and assist them with transportation resources, it's essential to understand where people are currently getting their information. The majority of respondents reported obtaining information by calling transportation providers, with some using provider websites. A number of respondents also cited "other" sources, including brochures, case managers, word of mouth, and phone directories. These alternative sources are valuable insights, offering potential avenues for targeted marketing and outreach efforts for mobility management.

FINAL INSIGHTS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA: GENERAL PUBLIC SURVEYS

Many clients reside in the rural areas of Washington County, where affordable transportation options are limited. A significant number of these individuals are either unaware of the available services or unsure of how to access them. The lack of affordable transportation options, particularly in rural areas, significantly impacts residents' ability to access essential services such as employment, medical appointments, and shopping.

Public transportation options are often not usable for many clients due to limited-service hours—either running too late, too early, or not operating on weekends, which poses a particular challenge for second-shift workers. In response, some clients have expressed willingness to pay more per trip in exchange for expanded service hours to better meet their needs.

Additionally, transportation to medical appointments, particularly those outside the county, is a critical issue. Washington County offers very few options, for most, for out-of-county travel. As a result, many respondents have reported missing medical appointments due to the lack of available transportation.

CHALLENGES TO COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION

In addition to identifying community needs, the planning committee gathered insights from stakeholders and drew on their own professional experience to pinpoint key challenges in providing coordinated transportation services.

These challenges include:

Public awareness

Funding for expansion of services

Lack of capacity of service provision

The surveys were distributed online in the following locations:

Twitter

Instagram

Facebook

Buckeye Hills Regional Council Website

Physical copies of the surveys were distributed at the following locations:

Buckeye Hills Regional Council
 Goodwill Training Industries
 National Church Residences
 O'Neill Senior Center
 RHDD
 59 Green Cab LTD
 RSVP Senior Wheels
 WASCO, Inc
 Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 Washington County Community Action
 Washington County Public Transit

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.

Summary of Unmet Mobility Needs		
Rank	Unmet Need Description	Method Used to Identify & Rank Need
1	Expand and Improve Accessible Transportation	Use Surveys, Washington County Transportation Providers & Advisory Committee
2	Increase Community Awareness and Knowledge of Transportation Options	Use Surveys, Washington County Transportation Providers & Advisory Committee
3	Support Economic and Work Force Development through Accessible Transportation	Use Surveys, Washington County Transportation Providers & Advisory Committee
4	Enhance Safety and Sustainability for Vulnerable Populations	Use Surveys, Washington County Transportation Providers & Advisory Committee
5	Strengthen Mobility Management and Service Coordination	Use Surveys, Washington County Transportation Providers & Advisory Committee

Goals and Strategies

DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS GAPS AND NEEDS

Effective strategies for improving transportation in Washington County must directly address the service gaps and user needs identified in this plan. These gaps and unmet needs were determined through geographic analysis, feedback from meeting participants, and public survey responses.

Using this information, the Way2Go Committee developed a series of strategies aimed at resolving these challenges. Priority levels were assigned based on the availability of potential funding sources and the importance of addressing specific unmet needs as expressed by the public and stakeholders.

It is important to note that not all strategies or activities are currently eligible for funding under existing programs, nor is there a guarantee of sufficient funding to implement every identified initiative. Furthermore, local stakeholders must actively support and commit to pursuing these strategies for them to be successfully achieved.

Despite these challenges, the strategies have been carefully tailored to align with the primary gaps and needs identified during the planning process, ensuring they are relevant and impactful.

Outlined below are the prioritized strategies designed to address each of the identified unmet transportation needs and service gaps for Goals 1 through 5.

Goal 1: Expand and Improve Accessible Transportation:

Description: Expanding and improving accessible transportation by assessing gaps involves identifying unmet needs and enhancing community connectivity:-

Timeline for Implementation: Present to completion of goals

Parties Responsible for leading Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Way2Go Committee

Resources Needed: Continued funding of the Mobility Management program

Potential Cost Range: Varies

Potential Funding Sources: Ohio Department of Transportation, Washington County and Department of Job and Family Services

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Quarterly mobility management reports.
- Increased utilization of transportation assets and programming.
- Completion of goals as listed in Washington County Coordinated Plan.

Strategy 1. Assessing Transportation Gaps:

Action Steps:

- **Assessing Transportation Gaps:** Surveys and focus groups will be conducted to identify the transportation challenges faced by individuals needing services, including special accommodations. (Ex: bariatric transport, hearing-impaired, cot service) This will involve engaging with community members to gather insights on their experiences and needs.
- **Developing a Transportation Network:** Partnering with neighboring counties to create a comprehensive transportation system that connects individuals to medical facilities, specialists, and essential services across county lines. This network will include scheduled shuttle services, ride-sharing options, and partnerships with local transportation providers.
- **Promoting Awareness and Education:** Continuation of outreach campaigns to inform residents about available transportation options and how to access them. This will involve distributing educational materials through community centers, healthcare providers, and social services organizations.
- **Advocate for funding** at the local, state, and federal levels to support driver recruitment, training programs, and additional vehicles, highlighting transit needs and community impact.

Strategy 2. Improving Wait, Comfort and Accessibility

Action Steps:

- **Identify Key Locations:** To determine optimal bus stop/bench locations, analyze ridership data provided by transportation providers, conduct community surveys, and assess high-traffic areas near essential services.
- **Conduct Accessibility Review:** Ensure proposed sites are accessible for all users, including individuals with disabilities and seniors, meeting ADA compliance.
- **Coordinate with Local Authorities:** Work with city planners, zoning departments, and transportation agencies to approve sites and address permitting or regulatory requirements.
- **Plan Safety Measures:** Include features like benches, shelters, lighting, and signage; ensure stops are safe and well-lit.

Strategy 3: Cross-County Connections:

Action Steps:

- Map key destinations in other counties such as hospitals, large employers, and shopping centers, and determine the best routes to connect these with local communities.
- Develop partnerships with employers, healthcare providers, and educational institutions to connect rural and underserved areas to essential services.
- Collaborate with neighboring counties and transit authorities to assess the feasibility of cross-county routes, while advocating for these services through a targeted communication campaign to inform residents about expanded transportation options.

Strategy 4: Extend service hours and days:

Action Steps:

- TAC Focus Groups: Organize a focus group with key demographics (e.g., seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income families) to discuss their transportation challenges and preferences regarding service hours.
- Collaborate with Transportation Providers: Meet with local transit agencies and transportation providers to discuss findings and explore the feasibility of extending service hours/days.
- Involve Community Organizations: Engage local healthcare providers, social service agencies, and community groups to gather input and support for the initiative.
- Explore funding sources to support the extended hours, such as grants, partnerships, or community fundraising through the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG).

Strategy 5. Preservation and Expansion of Existing Transportation Services in County:

Action Steps:

- Support Public Transportation Providers and assist in potentially identifying local match funding for sustainability.
- Promote the success of the programs through community events, and outreach to raise awareness of its benefits and gather additional support for sustaining vital transportation services.
- Evaluate Current Ridership Patterns: Work with transportation providers to gather data on ridership, popular routes, peak times, underserved areas, and denial rates to identify service strengths, gaps, and opportunities.

Goal 2: Increase Community Awareness and Knowledge of Transportation Options

Description: Increasing community awareness and knowledge of transportation options is a vital strategy for ensuring that all residents, especially seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income populations, can easily access available transit services

Timeline for Implementation: Present to completion of goals

Parties Responsible for leading Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Way2Go Committee

Resources Needed: Continued funding of the Mobility Management program

Potential Cost Range: Varies

Potential Funding Sources: Ohio Department of Transportation, Washington County and Department of Job and Family Services

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Quarterly mobility management reports.
- Increased utilization of transportation assets and programming.
- Completion of goals as listed in Washington County Coordinated Plan.

Strategy 1. Launch Public Awareness Campaigns and Develop Accessible Resources:

Action Steps:

- Utilize local media outlets such as community newspapers, radio stations, social media, and TV channels.
- Promotion during community events health fairs, senior expos, and local gatherings where targeted populations are likely to attend.
- Distribute posters, brochures, and flyers in strategic locations.
- Collaborate with community leaders and influencers who can spread awareness through word of mouth, especially within senior and disability advocacy groups.
- Monitor and Update Resources: Regularly review and update the transportation information resources to reflect any changes in services, hours, or policies. Ensure that all formats remain accessible and relevant.

- Transportation training programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities, teaching them how to navigate the transit system.
- Continue service partnerships with healthcare providers and social services to ensure coordinated transit for medical appointments, especially for seniors and those with mobility challenges.

Strategy 2. Engage in Community Surveys and Outreach:

Action Steps:

- Design surveys that ask about transportation preferences, challenges, and unmet needs.
- Conduct outreach at community hubs such as senior centers, health clinics, and food banks to directly gather feedback from targeted populations.
- Partner with social service agencies to distribute surveys and engage clients, helping to increase response rates and gather comprehensive data.
- Analyze feedback with TAC to identify common transportation barriers and opportunities for improvement, using this data to inform decision-making.

Strategy 3. Collaborate with Community Organizations:

Action Steps:

- Increase partnerships: that align with transportation goals, such as Area Agency on Aging, senior centers, Doctor's offices, disability advocacy groups, and local nonprofits.
- Monitor and Evaluate Collaboration: Regularly assess the effectiveness of partnerships and programs, gathering feedback from both organizations and community members to make necessary improvements.

Goal 3: Support Economic and Workforce Development through Accessible Transportation

Description: Accessible transportation plays a crucial role in supporting economic and workforce development by providing reliable and affordable transit options that connect individuals to job opportunities, education, job training, and essential services.

Timeline for Implementation: Present to completion of goals

Parties Responsible for leading Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Way2Go Committee

Resources Needed: Continued funding of the Mobility Management program

Potential Cost Range: Varies

Potential Funding Sources: Ohio Department of Transportation, Washington County and Department of Job and Family Services

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Quarterly mobility management reports.
- Increased utilization of transportation assets and programming.
- Completion of goals as listed in Washington County Coordinated Plan.

Strategy 1. Access Employment Opportunities:

Action Steps:

- Partner with workforce development agencies to discuss transportation options needed for individuals attending job training or skill-building programs outside traditional hours.
- Provide collected data from the assessments to transportation providers.
- Collaborate with local employees/employers to identify the transportation challenges, particularly those who work non-traditional hours or live-in underserved areas.
- Educate employers about the benefits of reliable transportation options for employee retention and productivity, encouraging them to participate in transportation programs.

Goal 4: Enhance Safety and Sustainability for Vulnerable Populations

Description: Enhancing safety and sustainability for vulnerable populations, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents, is crucial for creating equitable, inclusive communities.

Timeline for Implementation: Present to completion of goals

Parties Responsible for leading Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Way2Go Committee

Resources Needed: Continued funding of the Mobility Management program

Potential Cost Range: Varies

Potential Funding Sources: Ohio Department of Transportation, Washington County and Department of Job and Family Services

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Quarterly mobility management reports.
- Increased utilization of transportation assets and programming.
- Completion of goals as listed in Washington County Coordinated plan.

Strategy 1. Promote Safety with CarFit and Road Awareness Program:

Action Steps:

- Organize CarFit events in partnership with local senior centers, disability advocacy groups, and healthcare facilities to provide vehicle adjustment checks for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Collaborate with law enforcement and safety organizations to offer educational materials on defensive driving and road safety, tailoring these materials to the needs of seniors and those with disabilities.
- Partner with local hospitals, schools, or occupational therapists to identify individuals who would benefit from CarFit and safety programs, particularly those with physical challenges that require vehicle adjustments.
- Leverage community events like health fairs, mobility fairs, schools, and transportation days to incorporate CarFit and safety awareness, offering live demonstrations and interactive sessions.
- Partner with Local High Schools to promote vehicle adjustment checks for their students who are new drivers.

Strategy 2. Foster Collaborations for Safety Initiatives:

Action Steps:

- Build partnerships with local safety organizations like law enforcement, health departments, and pedestrian safety groups to co-host workshops on road safety and transit awareness for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Collaborate with the local RTP and ODOT to identify dangerous intersections or high-traffic areas that require safety improvements for pedestrians, particularly seniors or people with mobility challenges.
- Participate in joint safety campaigns with community organizations focused on pedestrian safety, such as teaching defensive walking techniques and raising awareness of accessible routes and crossings.

- Participate in pedestrian safety walks in collaboration with senior centers and disability advocacy groups to highlight safe routes and proper use of crossings.
- Advocate for funding for infrastructure improvements, such as accessible sidewalks, crosswalks with audio signals, curb cuts, ramps, walking paths, and bike trails through local government and grant applications. Collaborate with disability advocacy groups to ensure that all improvements meet the needs of individuals with visual or mobility impairments while promoting inclusive, multimodal transportation options that support active lifestyles and environmental sustainability.

Goal 5: Strengthen Mobility Management and Service Coordination

Description: Strengthening mobility management and service coordination is essential for creating efficient, accessible, and user-friendly transportation systems that meet the diverse needs of all community members, particularly seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income populations.

Timeline for Implementation: Present to completion of goals

Parties Responsible for leading Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Washington County Mobility Manager, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Way2Go Committee

Resources Needed: Continued funding of the Mobility Management program

Potential Cost Range: Varies

Potential Funding Sources: Ohio Department of Transportation, Washington County and Department of Job and Family Services

Performance Measures/Targets:

- Quarterly mobility management reports.
- Increased utilization of transportation assets and programming.
- Completion of goals as listed in Washington County Coordinated Plan

Strategy 1. Coordinate with Disability and Senior Services:

Action Steps:

- Continue to Identify key partners such as Area Agencies on Aging, disability service providers, and low-income assistance organizations to build a collaborative network focused on transportation needs.
- Expand communication channels with organizations to discuss gaps in transportation services, share resources, and streamline referrals for transportation assistance.
- Share the transportation resource guide with agencies to distribute to their clients, including details on available services, eligibility requirements, and contact information for transportation programs.
- Participate in community resource events to inform clients about transportation options, including specialized services such as demand-response and subsidized transit programs.
- Track and share data among agencies to identify common challenges and success stories, adjusting services to improve coordination and efficiency.

Strategy 2. Leverage Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan:

Action Steps:

- Review the Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan to identify key strategies and priorities that can be implemented at the local level.
- Collaborate with regional transportation stakeholders (including public transit, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, and disability advocates) to discuss opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing.
- Develop a local implementation plan based on the regional goals coordinating with providers to better serve seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents.
- Advocate at the legislative level to support policies and funding that promote community partnerships with Mobility Managers, ensuring sustainable and inclusive transportation.

Strategy 3. Provide Personalized Assistance for Transportation Needs:

Action Steps:

- Continue a personalized transportation assistance program, providing Mobility Manager to assist individuals in navigating their transportation options, including public transit and specialized services.
- Continue Partnerships with healthcare providers, social services Area on Aging, and senior centers to refer individuals who may require transportation support to this personalized assistance program.
- Follow up regularly with participants to ensure their ongoing transportation needs are met, addressing any changes or challenges as they arise.

Strategy 4. Sustain Mobility Management Program:

Action Steps:

- Prepare a detailed grant application for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) 5310 funding, outlining how the mobility management program meets the needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents.
- Gather data on the program's impact to support the funding application, such as the number of individuals served, ridership statistics, and improvements in access to essential services like healthcare and employment.
- Identify local match funding sources, including partnerships with healthcare providers, local governments, and nonprofits that benefit from the mobility services offered to the community.
- Engage local businesses and stakeholders in supporting the mobility program through sponsorships or in-kind contributions, such as transit passes or funding for accessible infrastructure.
- Promote the success of the program through community events and outreach to raise awareness of its benefits and gather additional support for sustaining the program beyond initial funding periods.
- Explore the use of Transportation levy to provide a stable, long-term funding source for the program ensuring its sustainability and ability to meet growing community needs.

Plan Adoption

The adoption of this plan was the result of months of preparation, multiple committee meetings, and extensive public engagement. The Way to Go Committee worked diligently to ensure a thorough and inclusive process, incorporating input from older adults, individuals with disabilities, members of the general public, and representatives from public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human services providers.

While public input meetings often face challenges in attendance, the survey conducted during the planning process yielded a strong response, with nearly 100 completed surveys. The survey reached a diverse cross-section of the community, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and other residents. Assistance was available to those who needed help completing the survey, ensuring accessibility for all participants. Representatives from public, private, and nonprofit transportation providers were invited to contribute, though participation varied.

Committed to enhancing transportation services in Washington County, the Committee continues to seek long-term members to strengthen participation and engagement. Following a public review and comment period, the Way to Go Committee formally adopted this Coordinated Transportation Plan on May 2, 2025. The Washington County Commissioners passed a resolution approving the plan, as well as WWW Interstate Planning Commission.

Appendix A: List of Planning Committee Participants

The planning committee includes representatives from local agencies, alongside invitations extended to members of the general public, including seniors and individuals with disabilities. For more information about the planning committee, please contact Julia Hinzman at 740-376-7671 or via mail at jhinzman@buckeyehills.org.

List of Planning Committee	
Name	Agency
Carla Westfall	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Connie Huntsman	O'Neill Senior Center
Lisa Turner	O'Neill Senior Center
Dawn Rauch	Washington-Morgan Community Action Program
Vince Post	WWV Interstate Planning Commission
Jamie Ford	RHDD
Stephen Collins	Washington-Morgan Community Action Program
Alicia Simms	WASCO
Jennifer Flesher	Marietta/Belpre Health Dept
Bryan Whittekind	Ewing School
Darren Shearlock	Washington County Veteran Services
Michelle Hooper	Washington County Veteran Services
Melinda Smith	Washington County Veteran Services
Kelly Temple Miller	Washington State College of Ohio
Leah Gregory	Marietta Municipal Court Case Manager & Program Director
Jamie Huck	Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Christine Post	Washington County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Diane Kerns	Washington County Job and Family Services
Steve Wetz	Director of Public Safety and Services, City of Marietta

List of Planning Committee Continued	
Name	Agency
Kelly Ortiz	Brightview
Bret Allphin	City Councilmen
Geoff Schenkel	City of Marietta
Susan Abdella	Mayor Of Belpre
Paul Buck	WWV Interstate Planning Commission
Jackie Alden	Washington Board of Developmental Disabilities
Amanda Clark	City of Marietta
Jim Ullman	Mayor of Beverly
Britani Merritt	Marietta Community Foundation
Nicole Smith	RHDD
Becky Jones	Marietta/Belpre Health Dept
Sherry Ellem	Washington County Health Dept
Megan Smith	Washington County Health Dept
Melissa Zoller	Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Julia Hinzman	Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Christa Myers	Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Kelly Isaly	Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Appendix B: List of Annual Rewrite and Plan Amendments

On May 13, 2025, the Washington County Coordinated Plan Annual Meeting convened with committee members in attendance. During the meeting, participants received copies of the finalized plan.

Additionally, a public meeting was conducted on April 17, 2025, at the Buckeye Hills Regional Council office from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM and then from 2:30 PM -3:30 PM. These meetings provided an opportunity to review the coordinated plan and discuss transportation needs and improvements throughout the county.

Notices for this meeting were placed in the Marietta Times Newspaper, announced on Buckeye Hills Regional Council Website and posted on social media.

The Mobility Manager has been actively working to address the goals and strategies outlined in the coordinated plan. Over the past year, the Mobility Manager has facilitated and participated in numerous meetings and training sessions aimed at enhancing community-wide transportation participation in the rewrite of the plan.

Planning committee members have also been actively engaged in several county-wide projects to improve mobility for elderly, disabled, handicapped, and low-income individuals. These efforts have led to new partnerships and expansions, including increased transportation services and fleet additions by community partners, providing residents with enhanced transportation options.

Collaboration within the community has been vital to advancing the coordinated plan's goals, resulting in significant progress toward improved mobility options for Washington County residents. These combined efforts have produced positive outcomes, benefiting citizens across the county.

On May 2, 2025, the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Board was updated on the Washington County Coordinated Transportation Plan as outlined above.

Appendix C: Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

Planning Committee - (The Washington County Way to Go Committee) The Planning Committee is composed of key community stakeholders. The Planning Committee members agree to actively participate in the planning process and act as the plan advisory and adopting entity.

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

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

Section 5311 Program - The Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000 where many residents often rely on public transit to reach

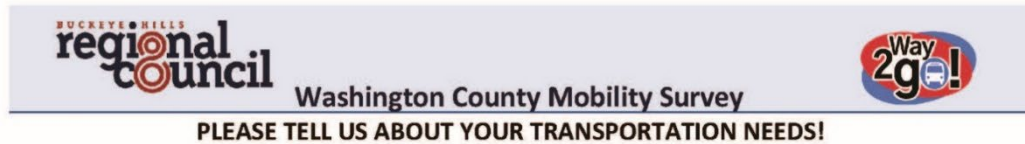
their destinations. The program also provides funding for state and national training and technical assistance through the Rural Transportation Assistance Program. Subrecipients may include state or local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation or intercity bus service.

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

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

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

Appendix D: Survey



WE NEED YOUR HELP



We would like to hear from you! The intent of this brief survey is to gather information from the community about their transportation needs in Washington County.

The survey is part of the 2023 update process of the Washington County Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan that coordinates the transportation needs and solutions of Washington County to better serve our community. All information gathered is strictly confidential and will not be distributed to any private or third-parties. We very much appreciate your time in helping us gather this important information!

If you have any questions regarding the survey or simply prefer to leave comments regarding transportation needs by voice rather than using the following survey format, please call or email Julia Hinzman, Mobility Manager at jhinzman@buckeyehills.org or 1-800-331-2644 Ext 6. You can also fill this survey out on-line at <https://buckeyehills.org/mobility-management>.

1. My age range is (check one box)

- ☐ 0-18 ☐ 41-50
☐ 19-30 ☐ 51-64
☐ 31-40 ☐ 65+

2. I consider myself? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Low income ☐ Veteran
☐ Disabled ☐ Unhoused/Homeless
☐ Senior ☐ Student
☐ None of the above

3. What is your residence zip code?

4. Is English your primary language?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No: Your primary language is _____

5. Do you have a disability which requires you to use a device to help you get around?

- ☐ No
☐ Walker
☐ Other: _____
☐ Cane
☐ Wheelchair

6. Is public transportation, carpooling, or senior services transportation an option for you? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Yes, I use it. ☐ No, it is not available where I live.
☐ No, it is not available at the times or days when I need it. ☐ No, it does not go where I need to go.
☐ No, the vehicles are not wheelchair accessible. ☐ No, it is unaffordable.
☐ No, I do not qualify for these transportation options. ☐ Unsure/I don't know.

7. If you used a local public transportation agency, please specify the transportation provider (check all that apply)

- ☐ Community Action Bus Line (CABL) ☐ O'Neill Senior Center Provided Transportation
☐ Department of Job and Family Services Medicaid Transportation ☐ Other: _____

8. Are you currently using public transportation to get to or maintain employment?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure/I don't know

9. Over the past 12 months, how much did you rely on public transportation (bus, door-to-door, van service)?

- ☐ For all my trips ☐ For some of my trips
☐ For most of my trips ☐ I primarily drive myself
☐ For half of my trips ☐ I primarily rely on family or friends

10. When do you need transportation most often for each of these general purposes? (select all that apply)

	Medical/Health Care	Grocery Stores/Shopping	Church	O'Neill Senior Center	Bank	Visit friends and/or family	Work	Governmental Office
12 am-6am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6am-9am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9am -12pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12pm-3pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3pm-6pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6pm-9pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 pm – 12am	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) _____

11. What city, cities, or towns do you visit the most? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Marietta ☐ Macksburg ☐ Belpre ☐ Reno
☐ Beverly ☐ Lower Salem ☐ Devola ☐ Newport
☐ Little Hocking ☐ New Matamoras ☐ Lowell ☐ Waterford
☐ Barlow ☐ Cutler ☐ Bartlett
☐ Other or out of county destinations: _____

12. About how often do you have medical appointments that are located outside of Washington County?

- ☐ More than once a week ☐ Once a week
☐ Once a month ☐ Once a year
☐ Rarely/Never

13. Have you missed a medical appointment in the last 12 months due to lack of transportation?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. If you are on dialysis, is it difficult to find transportation to treatments?

- ☐ I am not on dialysis
☐ Yes
☐ No

15. What changes could be made to your transportation service options that would make them more appealing? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service starting earlier in the morning | <input type="checkbox"/> Service ending later at night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More available on-time and drop-off time schedules | <input type="checkbox"/> More destinations made available |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service on Saturdays | <input type="checkbox"/> Service on Sundays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater frequency in routes | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair accessible vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No shared rides with others (i.e. Go directly to my destination without other stops) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less advance time to make reservations requesting a trip (i.e. one-day or one -week advance notice as opposed to one-month advance notice) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

16. How much more would you be willing to pay per trip to have these changes implemented?

\$ _____

17. Are you familiar with the Washington County Mobility Management program, which helps residents find transportation options to get from place to place, including across county lines?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

18. How do you get information about transportation services you need? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smartphone apps/text messages | <input type="checkbox"/> Provider websites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone call to transportation provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mailers/flyers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I ask a friend or family member for help because I am not comfortable using the computer, smartphone apps, or calling by phone | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Washington County Mobility Management Program (i.e. Mobility Manager) | |

Would you be interested in participating in a more focused survey or a focus group on the topic of personal mobility and accessibility? If so, please provide your contact information or any additional comments/feedback below.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Additional Comments/Feedback: _____

Appendix E: Resolutions and Signatures

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2025 WASHINGTON COUNTY COORDINATED
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Resolution #2025/05-03

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) provides financial assistance for Mobility Management activities as funded by the Specialized Transportation Program (5310) and the Rural Transit Program (5311); and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council has staffed the Washington County Mobility Manager position on behalf of local partners, including the Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission, and the Washington County Department of Job and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, a Coordinated Transit Plan document must be created and updated as required in order to satisfy an ongoing condition of this funding; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Coordinated Transportation Plan has been completed by Buckeye Hills Regional Council in partnership with the Washington County Commissioners, Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission, the Way2Go Advisory Committee of Washington County and other stakeholder parties interested in transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the Coordinated Transportation Plan for Washington County has been completed in the manner and time frame prescribed by ODOT; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Coordinated Transportation Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Washington County Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee hereby approves the submission of the 2025 Coordinated Transportation Plan document to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Passed on this 2nd day of May 2025.


James Booth, President
Ron Moore, Vice President

Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio
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buckeyehills.org

The Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio met in regular session on the 22nd day of May, 2025 with the following members present:

Charlie Shilling

Eddie Place

James Booth

Moved the adoption of the following: Mr. Booth

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation provides financial assistance for Mobility Management activities as funded by the Specialized Transportation Program (5310) and Rural Transit Program (5311);

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council has staffed the Washington County Mobility Manager position on behalf of local partners including Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) CARES Act Funding and the Washington County Transportation Advisory Committee "Way2Go" since 2007;

WHEREAS, a Coordinated Transit Plan document must be created and updated as required in order to satisfy and ongoing condition of this funding;

WHEREAS, the 2025 Coordinated Transit Plan has been completed with members of the Washington County Transportation Advisory Committee "Way2Go" interested in transportation services;

WHEREAS, the Coordinated Transit Plan for Washington County has been completed in the manner and time frame prescribed by ODOT;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 2025 Coordinated Transit Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Washington County Commissioners; we hereby approve the submission of the 2025 Coordinate Transit Plan document to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Seconded the forgoing resolution Mr. Place

Calling of the roll results in the following vote

Washington County Commissioners

Charlie Schilling Aye

Eddie Place Aye

James Booth Aye

Adopted: 5/22/2025



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
WWW INTERSTATE PLANNING COMMISSION
CONCERNING
ADOPTION OF THE COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO**

WHEREAS, the WWW Interstate Planning Commission is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization by the Governors of the States of West Virginia and Ohio acting through the West Virginia Division of Highways and the Ohio Department of Transportation and in cooperation with locally elected officials for Wood (Parkersburg-Williamstown-Vienna-North Hills), and Washington (Marietta-Belpre) Counties; and

WHEREAS, federal transit law requires that projects selected for funding under the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program be "included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan" and that the plan be "developed and approved through the process that includes participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers and other members of the public" utilizing transportation services.

WHEREAS, these coordinated plans identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low income, provide strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation.

WHEREAS, a Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update for Washington County, Ohio was developed by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council in cooperation and coordination with the WWW Interstate Planning Commission, and in collaboration with required stakeholders in the Plan development process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THIS BOARD adopts the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update for Washington County, Ohio.

Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission
709 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
Mailing: P.O. Box 247, Parkersburg, WV 26101
304.422.4993





So, resolved this 21st day of May 2025.

Josh Schlicher, Chairperson

DATED: 5/21/25

ATTEST: [Signature]

Signatures Planning Committee	
Name	Agency
Carla Westfall	
Connie Huntsman	
Lisa Turner	
Dawn Rauch	
Vince Post	
Jamie Ford	
Stephen Collins	
Alicia Simms	
Jennifer Flesher	
Bryan Whittekind	
Darren Shearlock	
Michelle Hooper	
Melinda Smith	
Kelly Temple Miller	
Leah Gregory	
Jamie Huck	
Christine Post	
Diane Kerns	

Signatures on file at Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Signatures Planning Committee Continued	
Name	Agency
Steve Wetz	
Kelly Ortiz	
Bret Allphin	
Geoff Schenkel	
Susan Abdella	
Paul Buck	
Jackie Alden	
Amanda Clark	
Jim Ullman	
Britani Merritt	
Nicole Smith	
Becky Jones	
Sherry Ellem	
Megan Smith	
Melissa Zoller	
Julia Hinzman	
Christa Myers	
Kelly Isaly	

Signatures on file at Buckeye Hills Regional Council