

Creating Community for a Lifetime Roadmap

Recommendations—Transportation

Access

Goal 1

Increase use of public fixed-route transportation.

Objectives

- Create a user-friendly system (benches, location of stops, clear usage information, accessible sidewalks, etc.).
- Expand the senior mentoring program (peer-to-peer support for bus use).
- Develop appropriate educational materials that identify all of the costs of driving (e.g., environmental, financial, etc.).
- Expand services region-wide.
- Educate potential riders on the safety of the public transportation system.

Goal 2

Improve usability and availability of specialized, point-to-point service programs such as the Go!Bus and other specialized and volunteer transportation programs.

Objectives

- Develop a single access system to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- Leverage technology and scheduling strategies to enhance efficiency and ease of use.
- Expand partnerships to include older providers and mental health providers.
- Explore adding hospital and assisted living facility vehicles to a coordinated single access effort.

Goal 3

Support informal transportation options.

Objectives

- Increase efforts to enhance volunteer driver programs such as those available through the Senior Volunteer Program, Red Cross, and Senior Neighbors.
- Explore the creation of a voucher program that supports consumer involvement in securing transportation and provides incentives for volunteer drivers.
- Support and encourage continuing assistance from family and friends.
- Explore expanding participation in this effort by churches and religious communities in a manner similar to their support of the food pantry system.

Partnership and Advocacy

Transportation continued

Objectives

- Link advocates and older adult programs to transportation advocacy efforts such as Concerned Citizens for Improved Transportation, Emergency Needs Task Force Transportation Subcommittee and Faith in Motion.
- Advocate to local, state, and federal policy makers for increased public funding for public transportation through focused campaigns (e.g., identify and highlight development issues that impact transportation costs and use such as the proximity of health providers, housing and shopping services to available services and the walkability of local communities).

Drivers' Safety

Goal 5

Protect older adults and the community from driving injuries and accidents.

Objective

- Support efforts to improve driver, passenger and pedestrian safety through effective road design, car design, signage, lighting, and driver training programs.

Work Group

During the winter and spring 2005, the Transportation Subcommittee of the Kent County Emergency Needs Task Force (ENTF) devoted significant time during their monthly meetings to study and analysis of the Transportation issue area for Creating Community for a Lifetime (CCFL). Members offered insights into the AdvantAge Initiative Survey of Older Adults in Kent County findings, considered best practices, and developed the CCFL Transportation recommendations. The Kent County ENTF includes more than 100 non-profits, governmental and faith-based organizations, funders and concerned volunteers who work together to address our citizens' basic needs. The ENTF monitors basic service systems in Kent County, such as food, shelter, utilities and transportation.

Co-Chairs

Dave Bulkowski ▪ Disability Advocates of West Michigan
Sue Sefton ▪ Kent County Health Department

Members

Charis Austin ▪ Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Nora Barkey ▪ Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
Sharon Killebrew Boyce ▪ Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
Teresa Branson ▪ Task Force for Health Care for People of Color
Candace Cowling ▪ Child & Family Resource Council
Jim Fetzer ▪ Interurban Transit Partnership/The Rapid

Transportation continued

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Debbie Jones ▪ Red Cross Transportation
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