



REGIONAL COORDINATED COUNCIL

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

November 16, 2022

This meeting is being held in person at the Tuscarawas County Senior Center, Dover, Ohio

- This meeting is being recorded to prepare minutes.
- Slides and minutes will be available on the OMEGA website within one week.
- This meeting is serving as the November Steering Committee meeting as well.



Agenda

- **Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome:** Valerie Shaw, RCC Chairperson
- **Roll Call:** Deborah Hill, OMEGA Transit Planner
- **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Valerie Shaw, RCC Chairperson
- **ODOT Update:** Macie Moore, ODOT, Office of Transit
- **Local Spotlight:** Tuscarawas Senior Center and Tuscarawas County, Jaime Smith, Director, Tuscarawas County Senior Center and Jill Cunningham, Mobility Manager, Tuscarawas, Carroll, and Harrison Counties
- **Speaker:** Katie Grubbs, Community Impact Coordinator, United Way of Muskingum County
- **Speaker:** Debbie Cook, Director, Tuscarawas County Veteran's Services
- **Regional Business:** Discussion and adoption of Regional SWOT and Regional Unmet Needs
- **Calendar for 2023:** Deborah Hill, OMEGA Transit Planner
 - Meeting Topics and Hosts for Quarterly Meetings
 - Some goals for CY2023
- **For the Good of the Region:** Valerie Shaw, RCC Chairperson
- **Motion to Adjourn**

Roll Call



Meeting Minutes

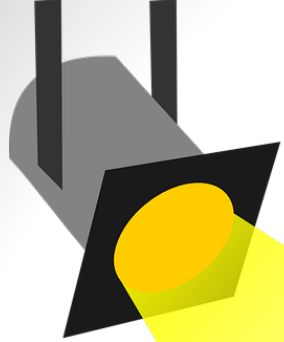
- Minutes from the RCC meeting held on September 21, 2022, were distributed to members prior to the meeting.
- Corrections?
- Motion to accept?



ODOT Update:

Video update, Macie Moore
ODOT, Office of Transit





Local Spotlight : Tuscarawas County Senior Center and Tuscarawas County

Jaime Smith: Director, Tuscarawas County Senior Center

Jill Cunningham: Mobility Manager, Tuscarawas, Carroll, and Harrison Counties

Featured Speaker: Katie Grubbs

Katie Grubbs

Community Impact Coordinator

(740) 454-6872

www.unitedwayofmpm.org

United Way fights for the health, education,
and financial stability of every person in
every community!



Featured Speaker: Debbie Cook, Director, Tuscarawas County Veterans Services

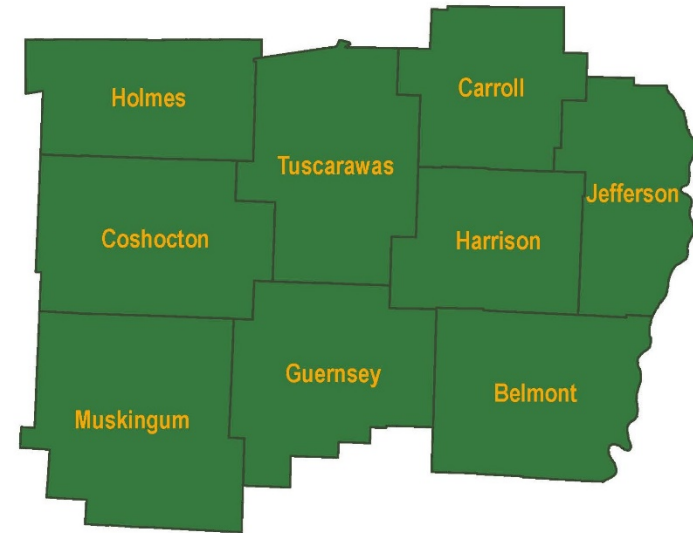


Tuscarawas County Ohio

Debra S. Cook
Director
393 16th Street, SW
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

330-393-1163
cookd@co.tuscarawas.oh.us

REGIONAL BUSINESS



- **SOME DATA FROM** REGIONAL SURVEY OF UNMET NEEDS
- **PROPOSED** REGION 9 SWOT FOR CY2023 (sent to all members prior to meeting for comment and consideration)
- **PROPOSED** REGION 9 UNMET NEEDS FOR CY2023 (sent to all members prior to meeting for comment and consideration)

And the survey says.....

Over 1800 responses

58% of responders are over 65 (22% were over 80 years old! Oldest person was 97 years old)

1/3 use a mobility device (walker, cane, scooter, wheelchair)

90% are aware of public transit or agency transportation in their county (but still might not know about all services or might still hold false stereotypes and information)

Of responders, 67% drive or are driven in a private vehicle

11% use public transit

11% use agency transportation (ex. Senior Centers, SEA, HORIZONS)

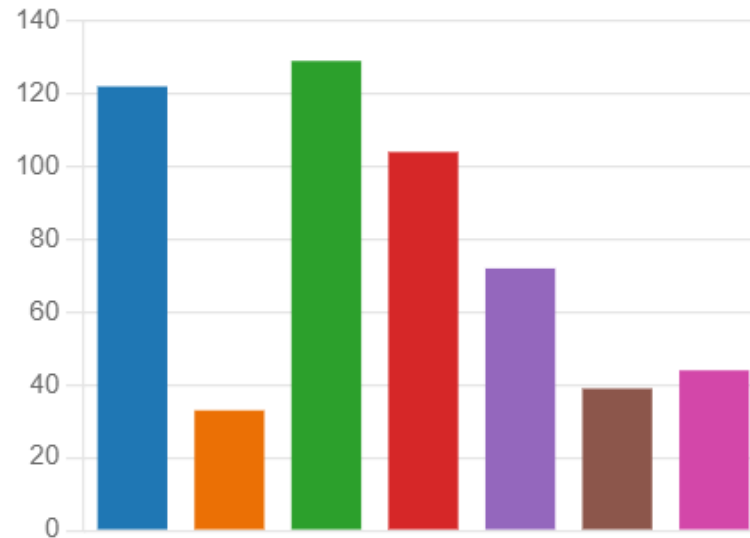
	public transit	agency transportation
Grocery/shopping	4.5%	4.1%
Medical Appt.	9.6%	12.8%
Work or School	4.4% (90 people)	1.8%
Social Services	3.7%	3%
Other places	3.3%	3.4%

21% still have trouble getting a ride outside of their county (mostly these are to medical hubs: Columbus, Cleveland, Wheeling, Weirton, Akron, Canton, Pittsburgh)

7. How could transportation services be improved?

[More Details](#)

Go places outside my county	122
Start service earlier in the morni...	33
End service later in the evening/...	129
Operate service on Saturday	104
Operate service on Sunday	72
Non-cash payment options	39
Other	44



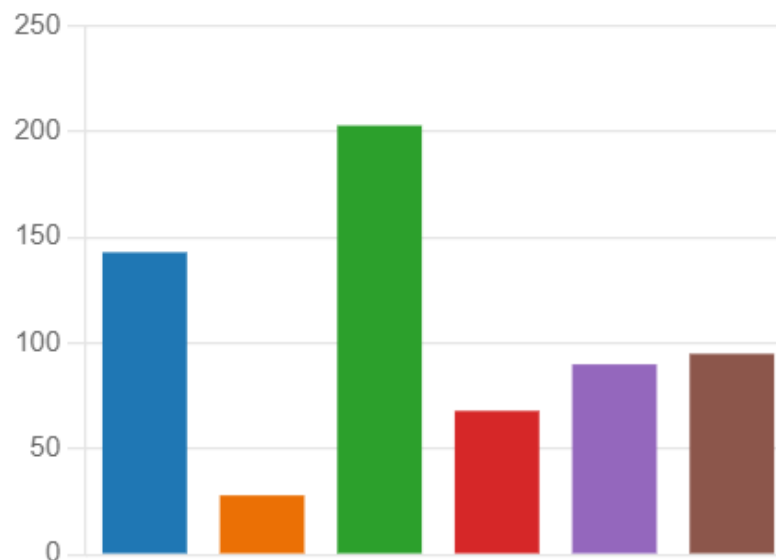
Other items mentioned:

- More stops/stops closer to me
- Have more vans that are wheelchair accessible and wheelchair lifts
- 10- day advanced notice is hard – sometimes need the doctor sooner than 10 days out
- Allow more items on bus
- I can't close the sliding door
- I need help on the steps
- Take me to grocery store and non-medical
- Car seats in vehicles
- CASH BAR 😊 (actually taken from a survey)
- **There is no public transit where I live**

15. What additional accommodations would make it easier to access transportation?

[More Details](#)

Wheelchair lift	143
Schedules in other languages (o...	28
Guardian/travel companion	203
Bike racks	68
Ways to secure or charge an oxy...	90
Other	95



Other items included:

- More **benches to sit while I wait**
- Better lighting – I feel unsafe
- Car seats in vehicles
- Places to put/secure O2 tanks
- I have memory issues so its hard to use public transit
- **COMPANIONS!!**

16. Do you have any transportation issues reaching transit services?

[More Details](#)

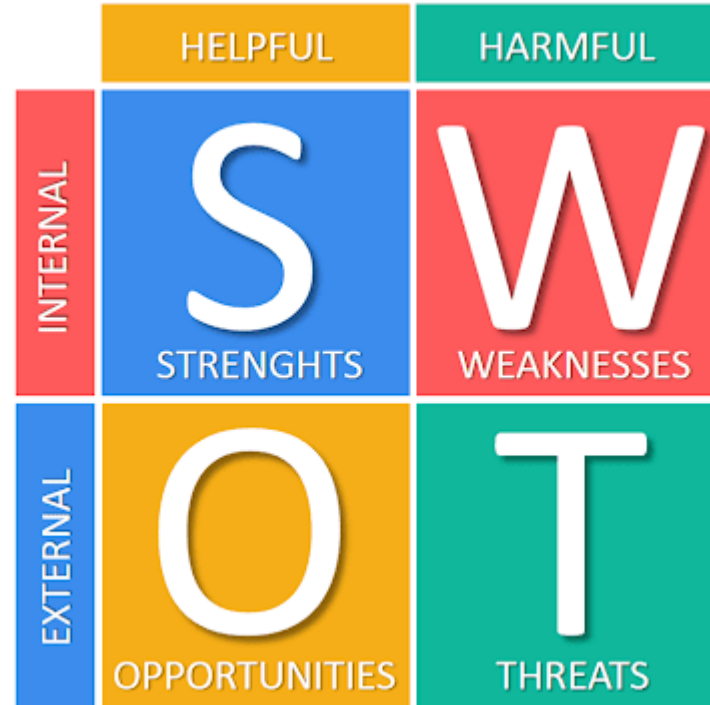
● Curb ramps	58
● Lack of shelter or benches	88
● Lack of sidewalks or pathways	91
● Lack of bus stops near me	169
● Other	117



Other items included:

- Need **somewhere to sit while waiting**
- Need better lighting
- Need help getting on and off bus

REGION 9 SWOT ANALYSIS FOR CY 2023 (Proposed)



STRENGTHS

1. Regional commitment to provide excellent transportation services

Including driver and transit staff commitment/passion for rider needs and satisfaction

2. Beneficial & collaborative relationships with stakeholders

3. Person-centric & supportive relationships with clients

4. Mobility Management Network & MM-Led Initiatives, ex. Region 9 Resource Guide

5. Steering Committee and OMEGA support

6. History of reliable/dependable/caring services

WEAKNESSES (order was changed, not #1)

1. **Lack of drivers, staff, vehicles, and funding** (vehicles and funding added)
2. Lack of, or very limited, same day, short notice, after hours, and/or weekend services (short notice added)
3. Lack of available/affordable Out of County (OOC)/Out of Region (OOR) transportation
4. Lack of transportation funding sources for those not qualified for Medicaid or other funding programs
5. Lack of transportation service coverage in more rural areas of counties
6. Lack of extended service hours and public transit routes to support coordinated employment opportunities (*primarily but not limited to 2nd/3rd Shift*)
7. Lack of transportation companions for vulnerable populations
9. Lack of actual rider representation of seniors, disabled persons, and low-income persons
10. Persistent negative public transit perceptions and stereotypes
11. Lack of ambulette and non-emergency ambulance services and providers

OPPORTUNITIES (order has been changed, not #1)

1. Enhance rider experience through improved customer service
2. Create transportation companion initiatives
3. Create employment transportation initiatives
4. Mobility Ohio Pilot Program (RTRC9)
5. Develop and include Social Return on Investment (SROI)
6. Expand use of technology (operations and administration)
7. Develop creative transportation funding strategies for those riders who fall outside other transportation program guidelines but still face financial hardship in securing transportation.
8. Increase rider advocacy and direct participation (added direct)
9. Establish and enhance specific Transit Access Points between counties
10. Increase/expand transportation providers in very rural areas
11. Educate and inform the region (public and providers) to produce a common regional knowledge of transportation options
12. Partner and coordinate with all available resources to improve collaboration and enhance mobility options
13. Meet regional performance measures

THREATS (order was changed, not #1)

1. **Loss/lack of adequate funding and local match**
2. Threat of the unknown and potential negative consequences from Mobility Ohio Pilot Program, including loss of personal connection with customers, loss of transit autonomy/identity, and loss of funding due to program changes
3. Inability to obtain new/additional vehicles sufficient to provide requested and expanding transportation services extending for an unknown period
4. Increased cost to provide services and lack of adequate reimbursement (loss of recovery, Medicaid no shows, maintenance) (added Medicaid no shows and maintenance)
5. Increased denials due to lack of vehicles, staff, capacity restraints, and funding
6. Loss of trips and reduced capacity for same day and short notice trips due to advanced trip-scheduling requirements (*transits scheduling 2-3 weeks out*)
7. Lack of broadband, and reliable cell phone service in rural areas
8. Federal, state, or local laws or regulations which threaten, or conflict with, multi-state transportation initiatives.

VOTE to adopt the Region 9 SWOT Analysis
for CY 2023, as presented, or amended during the meeting.



REGION 9 UNMET NEEDS FOR CY2023 (Proposed)



REGIONAL UNMET NEEDS (ordering of the needs was changed, not #1)

- 1. Adequate Numbers of Drivers/Staff/Vehicles to Provide Requested and Expanding Services (vehicles was added)**
2. Adequate Funding Sources for Match Funding and Availability of Coordinated Funding Sources
3. Creative Funding Strategies for those Financially Challenged but not Covered by Medicaid or Other Transportation Funding Assistance Sources/Programs
4. Expansion of Transportation Services
 - Including, non-medical service hours
 - Saturday and Sunday services
 - Service options after hours
 - Coverage in rural areas
 - OOO/OOR transportation
5. Available Short Notice and Same-Day Trip Services
6. Available and Adequate Number/Sources of Transportation Companions
7. Adequate Employment Transportation Options
8. Adequate Infrastructure including Benches, Sidewalks, Pathways, Shelters, Lighting
9. Rider Advocacy and Direct Participation from the Senior, Disabled, and Low-Income Populations.
10. Understanding and Inclusion of Social Return on Investment Issues
11. Education of, Advertising to, and Increased Awareness by the Public of Available Transportation Options, Including Understanding of Funding Sources

VOTE to adopt the Region 9 Unmet Needs
for CY 2023, as presented, or amended during the meeting.



Calendar for 2023

- Meetings now feature topical speakers.
- Meetings now “travel” and include an optional lunch.
- Meetings now feature a Local Spotlight.



January 18, 2023 RCC Meeting
AAA9 Offices, Cambridge
Topic: Social Return on Investment

February 15, 2023 Steering meeting

March 15, 2023 Steering meeting

April 19, 2023 RCC Meeting

May 17, 2023 Steering Meeting

June 21, 2023 Steering Meeting

July 19, 2023 RCC Meeting

August 16, 2023 Steering Meeting

Sept. 20, 2023 Steering Meeting

Oct. 18, 2023 Steering Meeting

Nov. 15, 2023 RCC Meeting

Dec. 13, 2023 ONLY if needed

Sneek Peek:

Revision/Rewrite
of Regional
Coordinated Plan

Regional
CarFit Training-
Late Spring/Summer

Formalize RCC
Membership

Some Regional Goals For 2023

Volunteer Transportation
Companions (Pilot,
Coshocton County,
maybe regional pilot)

Increase Rider Advocacy
and Direct Participation
from Seniors, Disabled
Persons and Low-Income
Persons

Consider and Develop
Social ROI Measures

For the Good of the Region, Announcements and County Updates

- **Kevin Buettner** has returned to OMEGA as Transportation Director 😊
- OPTA Awards: **Valerie Shaw**, Under 40 Rising Stars Excellence Award
Howard Stewart, OPTA VP and Pres. the following year
Lisa Leckrone, Mobility Manager of the Year
(Region 8, Perry Co.)
- Other Announcements?
- Lunch provided at the Tuscarawas County Senior Center at a cost of \$10 with everyone welcome to stay!

Thank you for the privilege of your time.



Meeting slides, minutes, and related documentation can be accessed here: <https://omegadistrict.org/programs/transit/rcc/>

Contact information:

Deborah Hill, MBA

Regional Transit Planner

Phone: (740) 439-4471 ext. 212 office

(330) 383-2252 personal cell

Email: dhill@omegadistrict.org