



TRANSIT MEANS MORE FOR EVERYONE.

EASTERN OTTAWA TRANSIT STUDY



MORE ECONOMIC GROWTH.
MORE ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE.
MORE FREEDOM TO FIND WORK.
MORE OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES.

Community. Independence. Freedom. Opportunity. Choice. Connection. Those are just some of the many benefits that a public transportation system could bring to Eastern Ottawa County. Whether you're a businessperson, a student, a person with a disability, a senior, or an elected official, public transportation means more for everyone. The benefits include increased employment options for adults, more access to medical care for seniors, and more participation in after-school activities by students. Our community recognizes this need for public transit. In fact, 75% of people we surveyed support public transportation in Eastern Ottawa County.

“Public transportation will provide opportunities. It would provide growth to a community. I think it provides a lot of options to the citizens of that community, and I think overall, it will just be a stimulant to future growth...for every dollar spent, you're going to get several dollars back.”

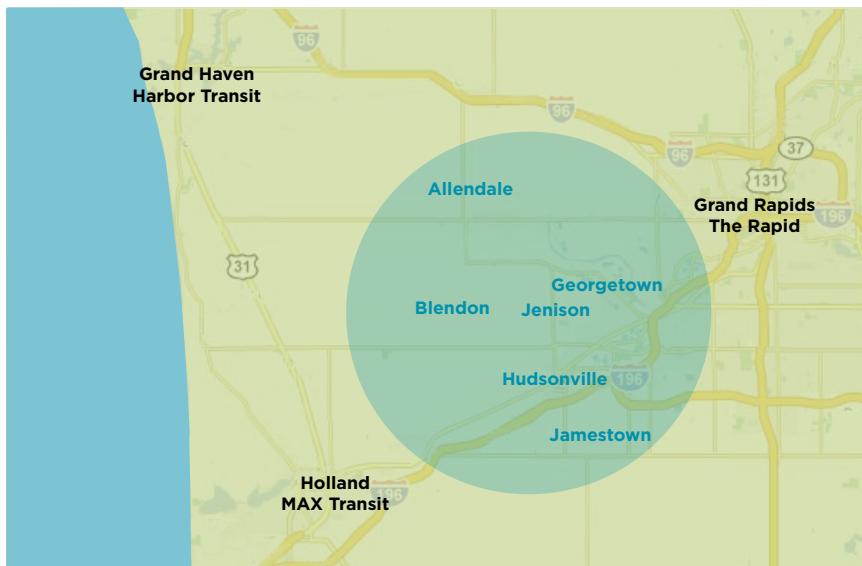
- Don Van Doeselaar
Mayor, City of Hudsonville

“If we're going to keep young people in the State of Michigan, we're going to have to provide the amenities that matter to them. And bus transportation clearly is an amenity that matters to them.”

- Jim Bachmeier
Vice President of Finance and Administration, GVSU

THERE'S ONLY ONE URBAN CORE IN WEST MICHIGAN WITHOUT ITS OWN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. EASTERN OTTAWA COUNTY.

Together, Allendale, Blendon, Jamestown, Georgetown/Jenison and Hudsonville remain the only urban core in Ottawa County without its own public transportation system. This community is the missing link in the Greater West Michigan transportation network. Holland, Grand Haven and Grand Rapids all have public transportation systems meeting the needs of their constituents. We are closer to filling this gap as there is already one existing public transportation system in Eastern Ottawa County, The Rapid. Every day, more than 16,000 students ride The Rapid bus to the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) campus in Allendale, totaling more than 2 million rides each year. But the GVSU transit line is just one small step toward a complete transportation system to serve all of Eastern Ottawa County.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS SAYING*:

75% OF PEOPLE SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN EASTERN OTTAWA COUNTY.

84% OF PEOPLE 60 OR OVER STATED MEDICAL CARE AS THE PURPOSE OF THEIR TRANSPORTATION TRIP.

21% OF PEOPLE SAID A LACK OF TRANSPORTATION HAS PREVENTED THEM FROM LOOKING FOR, GETTING, OR KEEPING A JOB.

87% OF RESPONDENTS SAID THAT IMPROVING AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS EITHER SOMEWHAT OR VERY IMPORTANT.

OVER 50% OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS ARE MEDICALLY RELATED.

OVER 400 RESIDENTS CONTACTED A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ABOUT AN UNMET TRANSIT NEED DURING A 9 MONTH PERIOD

*Statistics taken from the 2009 Eastern Ottawa Vehicle For Change Study

NEXT STEPS

IDENTIFY

We have identified the need and support for public transportation in Eastern Ottawa County. Over 500 community members have taken part in this study and have helped pinpoint what is essential. Public transportation impacts everyone; whether it is a senior, a businessman, a student, an elected official or a teacher. People from a wide variety of perspectives agree: public transportation belongs in Eastern Ottawa County.

INVEST

We need you to invest in your community so we can begin filling the missing gap in the Greater West Michigan transportation network. The Eastern Ottawa community requires this amenity to provide economic growth, foster youth development, increase job opportunities, and provide freedom to its seniors and people with disabilities. Hundreds of individuals living in Eastern Ottawa County have already signed on to support public transportation options in Eastern Ottawa County. Please take a moment to see why they're invested in this change!

INVOLVE

NOW is the time to bring about CHANGE! We're asking concerned citizens and community leaders to join together in looking at the feasibility of public transportation options in Eastern Ottawa County. We need your support and efforts to make this happen, because, together, we can do MORE than you think!

WWW.TRANSITMEANSMORE.ORG

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE THAN YOU THINK.

WATCH THE VIDEO

OUR WORKGROUP

Twelve individuals made a commitment to their community by signing on as members of the Eastern Ottawa Transportation Workgroup. The individuals below have been working hard on increasing awareness of public transportation in Eastern Ottawa County. With over 10 organizations involved, the workgroup represents individuals across Allendale, Blendon, Jamestown, Georgetown/Jenison and Hudsonville.

[Linda Lefebre](#)

Blendon Resident

[Don Van Doeselaar](#)

City of Hudsonville

[Candy Kraker](#)

Allendale Township

[Sue Fritz](#)

Hudsonville Resident

[Lisa Keskitalo](#)

Hudsonville Public
Schools

[Kathryn Gillen](#)

Disability Network/
Lakeshore

[Norma Berens](#)

Love INC

[Dale Ranson](#)

Jenison Public Schools

[Andrea Dewey](#)

Grand Valley
Metro Council

[Pam Haverdink](#)

Georgetown Seniors

[Sue Busscher](#)

Hudsonville Public
Schools

[Carol Scholma](#)

Georgetown Township

[Kevin Wisselink](#)

The Rapid

THANK YOU

Thanks to those who gave their time for this project.

[Don Van Doeselaar](#)

Mayor
City of Hudsonville

[Violet Slack](#)

Allendale Resident

[Ruth Stegeman](#)

Executive Director
Disability Network/
Lakeshore

[Jim Fritz](#)

Hudsonville Resident

[Jim Bachmeier](#)

VP for Finance and
Administration
Grand Valley State
University

[Matthew Henderson](#)

Operations Manager
Nu-Wool Company

[Sue Fritz](#)

Hudsonville Resident

[Roxanne DeWeerd](#)

Superintendent
Hudsonville Public
Schools

[Genevieve Risner](#)

Narrator

[Angela Dalman](#)

Social Worker
Senior Resources

[Josh Tyron](#)

Narrator