

PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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June 25, 2025

The Perry County Commissioners met in a regular session on <u>June 25, 2025</u> and passed the following resolution.

(25-0625-16)

Moved by Mr. Carpenter.

The Perry County Commissioners approve updates made to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) approved Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan.

Seconded by Mr. Bennett.

With no further discussion, roll call vote taken:

Chase Bennett

: Yes

Scott Owen

: Absent

Ben Carpenter

: Yes

The undersigned Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Perry County, Ohio, certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the agreement that the Perry County Board of Commissioners adopted on <u>June 25, 2025</u> and appearing upon the official records of the Board.

Angela McCord, Clerk

Commissioners Office, Perry County, Ohio

Perry County

Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

2022-2026

Last Updated June 2025

Perry County Mobility Management
For more information about this plan please contact:
Mobility Manager, Lisa Leckrone

Email: melissa.leckrone@perrycountyohio.gov Phone: (740) 342-5423 Funding for the development of this plan was provided by ODOT





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Executive Summary

This plan is the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Perry County. The plan was initially developed and approved in 2014.

The Current plan covers period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026.

The annual update for 2026 has been submitted to ODOT by 6-30-2025 for approval.

This plan fulfills the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the FTA-Circular 9070.1 G Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and People with Disabilities Program. According to requirements of the FTA-Circular 9070.1 G, locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans must be updated to reflect the changes established by the circular. The circular applies new programs and rules for all Fiscal Year 2026 funds and authorizes transit programs for four (4) years.

Transportation is a critical component of the communities in Perry 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 do the following activities:

- 1. Identify all community resources including:
 - Perry County Commissioners
 - Perry County Mobility Management
 - Region 8 Mobility Solution Center
 - Perry County Transit
 - Perry County Transit Medicaid Billing
 - Perry County Job and Family Services
 - ODOT
 - FTA
 - Contract Sources
 - General Public
 - Perry County Courts
 - Perry County Schools
 - Perry County Agencies
 - Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 - Perry County Senior Center
 - Perry Behavioral Health Choices
 - Perry County Health Department
 - Perry County Veterans Service Commission
 - Hopewell Health Center
 - Allwell Behavioral Health Services
 - Fairview Assisted Living
 - Employers

- Non-Profits
- Creating Healthy Communities Project funded through the Ohio Department of Health
- HAPCAP/PC CCMEP
- Buckeye Hills Regional Council
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- · Genesis Perry County ER
- St. Vincent DePaul
- Perry County District Library
- · Perco, Inc.
- Northern Local Schools
- Majestic Care of New Lexington
- New Lexington Schools
- Altercare Somerset
- United Way of MPM Counties

2. Identify and Prioritize community transportation needs

- Sustaining Mobility Management for Transportation Coordination
- · Countywide Safety Campaign
- Marketing, Education, and Additional Options for Transportation
- Low-Cost Transportation for Underinsured /Uninsured
- Expansion of Services and Projects

3. Establish a clear plan for achieving shared goals

Community collaboration is the most effective way to achieve Perry County's shared goals. Transportation is needed and relied upon for medical appointments, employment, daycare, school, after school programs, community events and everyday essentials. The Mobility Manager is able to focus on cultivating partnerships with various agencies and determine how to effectively meet transportation needs. The Mobility Manager will work with other transit focused organizations in securing funding for the area to help expand reliable transportation to the citizens that need it most. Growing and developing new partnerships will help provide routes and services that reach our consumer base while also supporting businesses and a healthy community.

Fundamental to the Coordinated Transportation Plan process is the active and meaningful involvement of stakeholders. For projects selected for funding under the Section 5310 program, participation in planning activities must include participation and/or representation of the following, at minimum:

- Seniors and Elderly
- · Individuals with disabilities
- · People with low incomes
- Public, private and non-profit transportation providers
- Human services providers
- · Public Health services
- The general public

In order to ensure participation from the above groups the following stakeholder involvement activities were performed:

- 1. Public meetings were held quarterly by public notice, virtual, or email invite.
- 2. Planning committee meetings were held at Perry County Job and Family Services Opportunity Center.

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

I. Geographic Area

Perry County Ohio is located in the southeast area of the State.

Map 1: Basic map of the geographic area

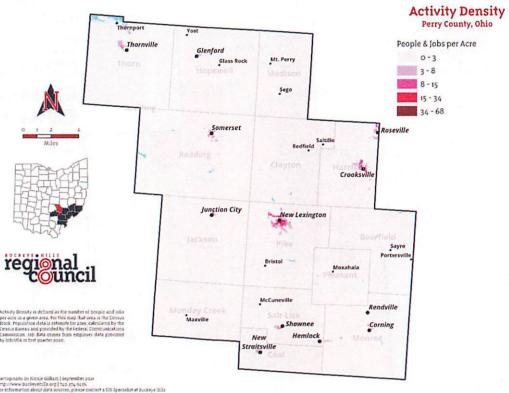
Adjacent counties are Licking County (North), Muskingum (County Northeast), Morgan County (Southeast), Athens County (South), Hocking County (Southwest) and Fairfield County (West). Founded on March 1, 1818 from parts of Fairfield, Washington, and Muskingum Counties it was the 55th county to be formed in Ohio.

The area is known to be economically depressed with a high rate of poverty (13.7% 2025 censusreporter.org) and an unemployment rate of 4.9% (ODJFS OWD April 2025). These factors contribute to low socioeconomic status among Perry County residents. Perry County is comprised of small communities separated by miles of state highway. According to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the county consists of 413 square miles with 373 miles of ODOT maintained state highway. Due to its rural location and its low-income population, travel



between communities can be difficult and costly for those without reliable transportation.

Map 2: Major trip generators in the geographic area.



pecialist at Buckeye Hills

Population Aged 65 and Above
Perry County, Ohio Thornport Yost % of population aged 65 and above by census tracts Glenford Thornville 13 Glass Rock Mt. Perry 204 12.1% 188 668 12.2 - 15.7% 15.8 - 18.4% 18.5 - 26.7% Somerset . Roseville 669 Redfield • Crooksville. 13 New Lexington 93 Junction City 37 Sayre Portersville 668 93 13 * McCuneville Rendville 312 Maxville NOTE Shawnee Corning 155 Hemlock New Straitsville

595

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

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Map 3: Population Aged 65 and above.

II. Population Demographics

Chart 1: Total Population Current and Projected for Five Years

Chart 1 illustrates the change in population for Perry County from 2005 through projected numbers in 2025. Based on previous census information, Perry County's population is projected to increase throughout the next five years.

Source: Census Reporter/Profiles

Source: Ohio Development

Services Agency

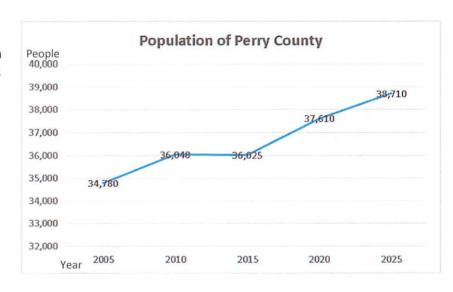


Chart 2: Total Population by Age Group

Chart 2 illustrates population by age category based off the 2020 Census.

Source: 2020 Census Reporter/Profiles 11-6-2023

Age Category	Population	Population Percentage
Under 18 years of age	8,530	26%
18 to 64 years of age	21,646	61%
Over 65 years of age	5,846	1%

Chart 3: Total Population by Race

Chart 3 illustrates Perry County population by race compared to the United States.

Race and Hispanic Origin	Perry County	United States
White alone, percent, July 1, 2022, (V2019)(a)	97.19%	75.5%
Black or African American alone, percent, July 1, 2019,	0.39%	12.4%
(V2019)(a) American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(a)	0.34%	1.3%
Asian alone, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(a)	0.13%	6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(a)	0.15%	0.2%
Two or More Races, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	0.27%	2.9%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(b)	0.03%	42.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	96.61%	57.5 %

Source: United States Census Bureau

(Note: 2020 Data available November 30, 2021)

Chart 4: Number and percentage of people with disabilities

Chart 4 Illustrates a total of 6,392 individuals with disability (18.06% of population) living in Perry County.

Source: 2022 United States Census Bureau Population Data Estimates

Disabled Individuals	Total Population	Population percentage
Under 18	717	8.4%
18-64	3,442	15.9%
64+	2,233	38.2%

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

Chart 5 illustrates the number and percentage of households living below the federal poverty level. This number was based on 13,500 total households averaging 2.6 persons per household.

Source: 2019 Census Recorder/Profiles

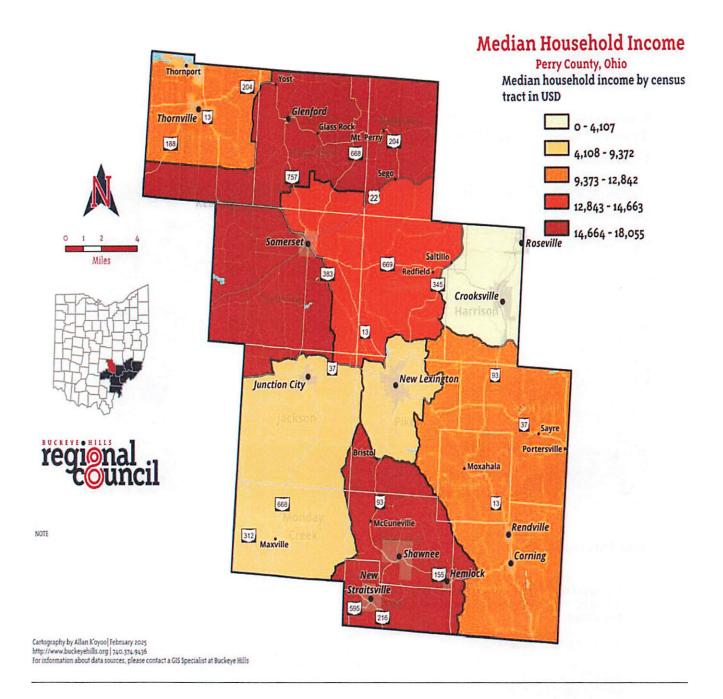
Low Income Households	Number of Households	Percent of Households
Supplemental Security Income	1.474	10.9%
Cash Public Assistance Income	281	2.1%
SNAP Benefits	3,155	23.4%

Chart 6: Number and percentage of individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level

Chart 6 illustrates 15.1% of individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level distributed by age

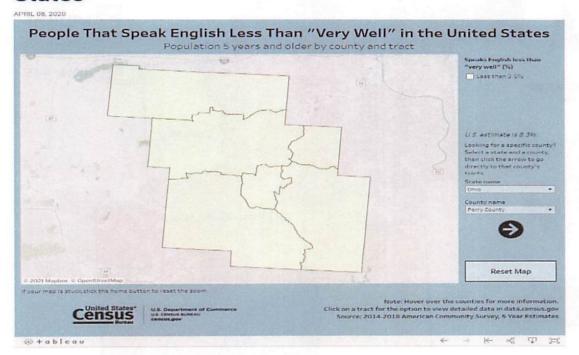
Source: July 2021 United States Census Bureau

Individuals Below the Federal Poverty Level	Number of Individuals	Percent of Population
Under 18	2,320	23.6%
18 to 64 years	3,896	18%
Over 65 years	696	17.6%



Perry County Map:

People That Speak English Less Than "Very Well" in the United States



United States Map:

People That Speak English Less Than "Very Well" in the United States



III. Assessment of Available Services

Conducting an evaluation of service provider capabilities and analyzing the existing gaps and duplications of services for transportation resources in each community, provides transportation planners with the information needed to implement changes that will improve the network of transportation resources and services in Perry County and across county lines.

The lead agency identified stakeholders to participate in the assessment of available services. These stakeholders included those who were represented in the current or past planning committees, as well as others who the planning committee identified as being appropriate stakeholders.

Interviews were conducted with each of the identified stakeholders.

The purpose of the interview was to offer the stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the specific transportation services, gaps, needs, and priorities for their respective service areas or communities.

When applicable, information reported in the previous coordinated plan was used to supplement information gathered during this planning effort, in order to provide updated and accurate figures.

Inventory of Transportation Providers

Agency Providers	Direct Transportation Services	Subsidized Transportation on a Local Level	Administers Transportation Programs	Arranges Transportation on Behalf of Individuals
Perry County Job and Family Services/Children Services	х	х	Х	X
Crooksville Exempted Village School District	x	Х	X	Х
New Lexington Schools	х	х	Х	X
Northern Local School District	х	Х	Х	Х
Southern Local School District	х	х	Х	Х
Sech-Kar Company	х	Х	Х	Х
Perry County Juvenile Court	Х	Х		Х
HAPCAP/SE Ohio Food Bank	х	Х		Х
Perry County Transit	х		Х	Х
Perry County Behavioral Health Choices	X			Х
PerCo, Inc.	х	X	Х	Х
Mount Aloysius	х			X
Perry County Senior Center	x		Х	Х

Fairview Assisted Living	x	x	x	x
Perry County Veterans Service				
Commission	х		х	х
Canada Canada wita Anabada a				
Genesis Community Ambulance	х			
Portsmouth Emergency Ambulance				
	x			
Residential, Inc.				
	×			x
Perry County Board of Development				
Disabilities		x		
Fast Time Transportation	х	х	X	х

Existing Transportation Services

The following information is based on updated contact made with the transportation service providers. A total of 9 org information about their services.

List of Transportation Service Providers

Agency Name:	Transportation Service Type:	Other Services Provided:	Contact Information:	Hours:	Service Area:	Eligibi Requirer
Perry County Transit	Public Transportation	Contracted Services	740-342-2810	6am-6pm M, T, TR, F, 6 am-9pm W, 8am-12pm Sat.	Perry, up to 100 Miles from Transit	Open to Po E&D Appli Available
Sech-Kar	Client and Employee Transportation	None	740-342-4030	7:30am- 3:30pm M-F,	Perry	Various Programs/ Differs
Perry County Job & Family Services/Children Services	Public and Staff Transportation	None	740-342-3551	8:00am- 4:00pm M-F	Varies depending on program	Various Programs/ Differs

Perry Behavioral Health Choices, Inc	Client and Employee Transportation	None	740-342-1992	As required	Perry County, 6 County Catchment Area (Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble and Perry Counties), as Required for Client needs	PBHC Clier Employees
Mount Aloysius	Client and employee transportation	None	740-342-3343	As needed	Perry County and as needed across the state	Mount Alc residents a employees
PerCo,Inc	Client and employee transportation	None	740-342-5156	7:30am- 3:30pm	Perry County and surrounding counties across the state	DD Partici _l
Perry County Senior Center	Client and employee transportation	None	740-342-2149	8:00am- 4:00pm	Perry County and surrounding counties across the state	Senior Population

Perry County Veterans Service Commission	Client and employee transportation	None	740-342-2536	8:30am- 4:30pm Closed the last Monday of the month	Within the VA VISN 10 Region	Veteran Population
Fairview Assisted Living	Client and employee transportation	None	740-342-1213	24/7	Perry County	Fairview Resident a Employees

The following table provides basic information about transportation options other than the traditional public and hum-Transportation options might include bike share, ride share, intercity, or taxi services, and more.

Table 1: Alternative/ Active Transportation Options

Transportation Option	Availability	Cost	Usage	
Ride Sharing	As Needed	None	Employment	Perry ar
Perry County Bike Share	Upon Request	None	Employment/Shopping/Recreation	Per
Alternate Motorized Vehicles	As Needed	None	Medical/Shopping/Recreation	

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

Table 2: Transportation Resources

Transportation Resource	Availability	Cost	Usage	
Perry County Mobility Management	M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	None	As requested,	F

Assessment of Community Support for Transit

1. Perry County Transit

- Contract sources (Perry County Job & Family Services/Children Services, PCBDD, Fairview Assisted Living, HAPCAP, Family & Children First, Local School Districts)
- General Public
- · Perry County Court
- Employees
- County Support (Commissioners)

2. Perry County Job and Family Services

- General Public for Funded Programs
- Employees
- NEMT

3. Perry County Health Department

 Creating Healthy Communities Project funded through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

4. Perry County Active Transportation Team

- Works to increase education and awareness for active transportation that includes "Your Move Ohio", "Walk.Bike.Ohio", Safe Routes to School, and ODOT/ODH supported initiatives.
- Completion of the Perry County Active Transportation Plan (2019) last updated 5-2025
- Perry County Bike Share Launched 12-5-2022.
- Continue partnering to increase opportunities for active transportation through the procurement of funding and the development of community initiative.

5. Perry Behavioral Health Choices, Inc.

- · Encourages clients to use Transit
- Clients
- Employees

6. Mount Aloysius

Increase access to community resources/integration

7. Region 8 Mobility Solutions Center

- Coordinates resources to assist in resolving transportation gaps and barriers on behalf of customers
- Coordinating with Region 8 counties to better serve customers across county lines

Safety

1. Perry County Transit

- Yearly County Safety Training for employees
- Safety Sensitive Position Training
- Distracted/ Defensive Driving Training
- · Weather Safety Training
- Blood Borne Pathogens Training
- Drug & Alcohol
- Wheelchair Securement
- MUI and UI
- Covid-19 CDC Requirement
- · Human Trafficking
- ADA Requirements
- CPR First Aid
- Daily Vehicle Inspection
- NIMS

2. Perry County Job and Family Services

- DRIVE (transporting older disabled passengers)
- CORSA
- NIMS
- Confidentiality
- · CPR First Aid
- RTAP
- Pre-Trip Inspection
- Annual Vehicle Inspection
- Yearly County Safety Training for employees
- Safety Sensitive Position Training
- Blood Borne Pathogens Training

3. Perry County Active Transportation Team

• Countywide Safety Campaign revolving around the "Your Move Ohio" promotional material.

4. Mount Aloysius

- Driver Safety Training
- · Wheelchair Safety Training
- CPR/First Aid
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- Confidentiality

5. Sech-Kar

- · Yearly inspections on all vehicles
- · Vehicle safety inspection pre-trip
- · Certified in CPR, First Aid, and Blood Borne Pathogens
- · Trained on Hoyer lift and wheelchair lift and how to tie down wheelchairs
- · Trained on each consumer they transport and review ISP

6. PerCo, Inc

- Drug & Alcohol
- Insurable
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- BMV Abstract
- Wheelchair Securement
- Background Check
- CPR & First Aid
- Physical and Drug Screen
- Valid Driver's License
- MUI, UI, and HIPPA Training
- Certifications for Direct Support
- Annual Vehicle Inspections
- Daily Pre-Trip/Post Trip Inspection

7. Perry County Senior Center

- Drug & Alcohol
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- CORSA
- NIMS
- Confidentiality
- CPR & First Aid

8. Perry County Veterans Services

- Drug & Alcohol
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kits
- Safety Equipment

Vehicles

Survey/Interview participants listed a combined total of 87 vehicles. Approximately 45% of the vehicles are wheelchair accessible, resulting in an increase of ADA accessible vehicles. A vehicle utilization table is provided at the end of this chapter.

Some of the transportation providers provide at least one wheelchair accessible vehicles, while the local rural transportation organization has a 100% entire fleet of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Perry County Transit (PCT) utilizes their wheelchair accessible vehicles daily to provide transportation to the general public including the elderly and disabled population, throughout the community. PCT is contracted with the local Board of Developmental Disabilities to provide transportation to and from daily activities including employment.

Mount Aloysius also uses their vehicles to provide transportation for their disabled population on a daily basis.

As vehicles age, they require additional maintenance, may break down more often, and become costly to operate. Vehicle replacement, based on age, Milage, and condition, is vital to the overall cost effectiveness of the transportation services provided.

Agency	Total Vehicles	Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles	Percent of Operation Fleet Wheelchair Accessible
Perry County Transit	31	31	100%
Perry County Job and Family Services	10	0	0%
Perry Behavioral Health Choices, Inc.	10	0	0%
Mount Aloysius	16	4	25%
НАРСАР	1	0	0%
PerCo	9	4	44%
Senior Center	5	0	0%
Fairview Assisted Living	2	0	0%
Perry County Veterans	3	0	0%
Total	87	39	45%

Summary of Existing Resources

Throughout Perry County there are multiple resources for transportation such as county entities, nonprofits and local businesses. Perry County's primary source of public and contracted transportation is Perry County Transit (PCT). With a large number of vehicles on the road, PCT's fleet consists of 31 vehicles with 100% of the vehicles being wheelchair accessible. Perry County is an on-demand response rural transit system. Over the last few years PCT has had equipment upgrades such as:

- Ecolane-On Demand Software with App Capability
- Bike Rack Accessible Vehicles
- WIFI accessibility /charging on board for passengers
- · Camaras on board all vehicles
- · Onsite maintenance unit at Perry County Transit
- MARCS Radios PCT has coverage throughout the entire State of Ohio
- · Tablets with GIS/AVL tracking

Other agencies throughout the county contract with PCT to meet their transportation needs, such as Perry County Job and Family Services, Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities and local schools. Perry County Transit and PerCo, Inc is now certified to process Medicaid billing.

The following agencies have vehicles that are used for employees and clients, but not readily accessible to the public: Perry County Department of Job and Family Services, Perry County Board of Development Disabilities, Perry County Senior Center, Perry County Veteran Service Commission, Crooksville Exempted Village School District, New Lexington City Schools, Northern Local School District, Southern Local School District, Perry County Juvenile Court, Perry County Behavioral Health Choices Inc., Perry County Emergency Management Agency, Perry County Help Me Grow, Perry County Head Start, Perry County Churches and Faith Base Organizations, Perry County Children Services, Fairview Assisted Living and the Perry County Health Department.

Perry County's Mobility Manager is currently tasked with coordinating services among the agencies listed above and educating the public on transportation options throughout Perry County. Through the coordination of services, Perry County's resource will be utilized to their maximum capacity and expanded upon based on the community's needs. Elderly and Disabled individuals will be informed of options that will allow them to lead an independent lifestyle.

IV. Assessment of Transportation Needs and Gaps

In an effort to better understand Perry County's needs, the planning committee examined research and data, as well as solicited input from the community in an effort to identify the needs and gaps in transportation services. The demographic and socio-economic conditions of the study area are discussed in the Demographics Chapter of this plan. The following overview is an evaluation of the gaps in service based upon geographic data as well as from the perspective of the targeted populations, transportation providers, and the general public.

Perry County Mobility Management and a variety of stakeholders in the area attempt to solicit input and request participation from any organization that could potentially be impacted by the coordinated transportation planning process. More information on how the lead agency engaged stakeholder and the general public is available upon request.

The following methods were used to assess transportation needs and gaps

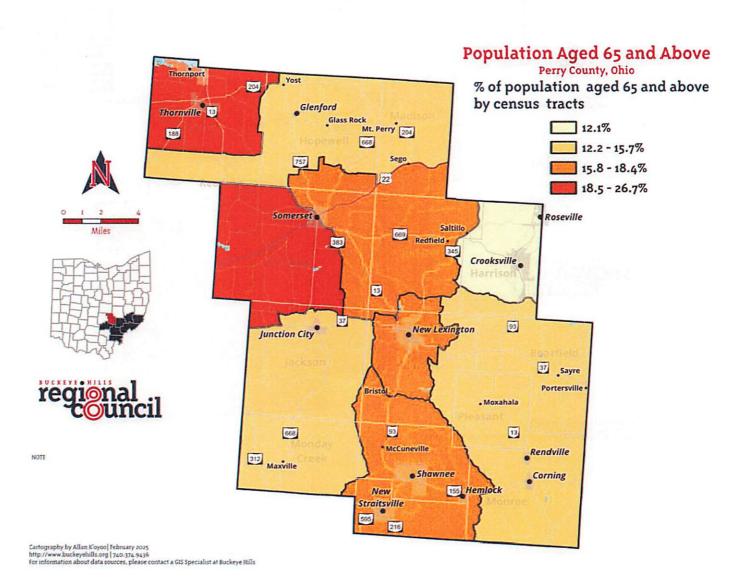
- Assessment of data, demographics, and public survey.
- Public Meetings, including virtual access.
- Representation at public events/speaking engagements.

Local Demographic and Socio-Economic Data

Data for each target population group were aggregated by Census Block Group for transportation analysis. The demographic and socio-economic data is valuable because a comparison of where the highest and lowest densities individuals who are most likely to need transportation live. This information can then be compared to the locations of major trip generators, and available transportation services.

The following exhibit illustrates the areas where the number of older adults (ages 65 and older) are at or above the Perry County Average.

Exhibit 1: Map of Population Density of Individuals Age 65 and Older



The exhibit below indicates the areas where the number of zero vehicle households is above the regional average. The absence of a vehicle in the household is often an indication of the need for transportation services.

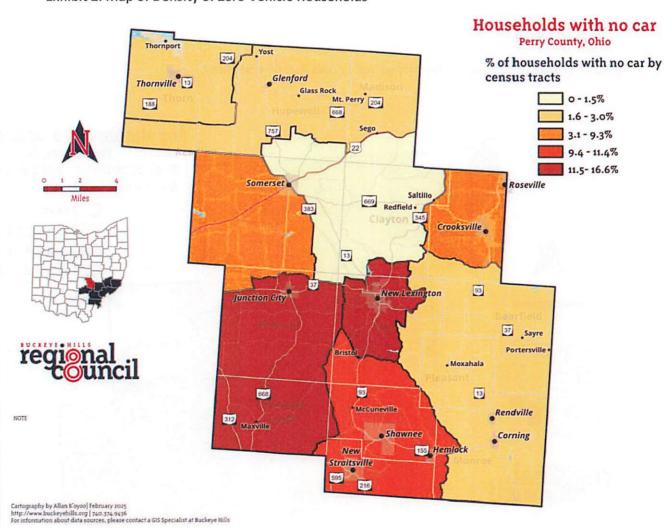


Exhibit 2: Map of Density of Zero Vehicle Households

The absence of a vehicle in the household is often an indication of the need for transportation services. The following chart displays the households in Perry County, OH distributed between a series of car ownership buckets compared to the national averages for each bucket. The largest share of households in Perry County, OH have 2 cars, followed by 3 cars.

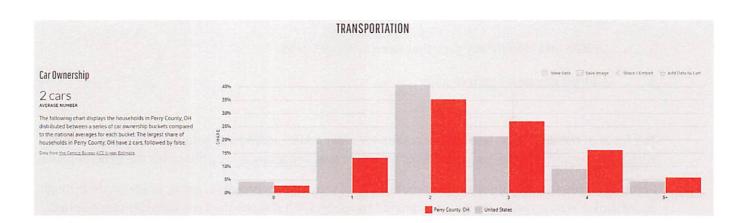


Exhibit 3: Chart Car Ownership Households

Analysis of Demographic Data

Demographics for Perry County note high rates of individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level when compared with state data (13.4% - 13.7%). This is significant as higher rates of poverty are directly linked to poor health outcomes, low educational attainment and alcohol and substance abuse. Residents in need of services frequently have to travel long distances to receive services due to Perry County's geographical location. Those living in poverty often do not have access to safe and reliable transportation. Seventeen-point seven percent (6392 residents) of the population report living with a disability. The Bureau of Transportation notes that 12.9% of individuals living with a disability do not have access to ADA accessible transportation.

General Public and Stakeholder Meetings/Focus Groups

Perry County Mobility Management hosted and facilitated 4 local meetings and focus groups to discuss the unfulfilled transportation needs and gaps in mobility and transportation. Additional information on the meeting agendas and attendance is available upon request.

During the meeting, Perry County Mobility Management presented highlights of historical coordinated transportation in Perry County. Also, discussed where the activities since the last Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan that have helped to address some of the unmet transportation needs and gaps in services for the area.

Following the initial presentation, the stakeholders were asked to do the following:

- 1. Review gaps in transportation services and needs from the previous plan
- 2. Update and identify any gaps that were no longer valid
- 3. Address any new needs or gaps

The focus of the discussion was transportation for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes. However, several topics discussed also impact mobility options for the general public.

Participants discussed more than three mobility issues to achieve, preserve, avoid, or eliminate through coordination during the meetings. Coordinated transportation stakeholders will consider these unmet needs when developing transportation goals and strategies and grant applications. The exhibit at the end of this section provides a summary of the unmet mobility needs discussed during the meeting as well as the needs identified by the survey results.

Surveys

In 2021, Perry County, Ohio conducted an Individual Transportation Survey. The following survey summary includes the information gained from the individual that complete the surveys. There were 172 surveys collected from the general public. Of those surveyed 37.21% of the individuals considered themselves to be disabled and 56.40% were older adults.

Exhibit 1: Age Demographics

The chart below demonstrates age categories of individuals that completed the transportation survey. According to the surveys, the largest age group was between 60-69, constituting nearly 29.65% of the survey's population. The second largest group was between ages 70 and 79, consisting of 21.51% of the survey's population. Approximately 59.88% of the survey's population was age 60 and older.

Q2 How old are you?

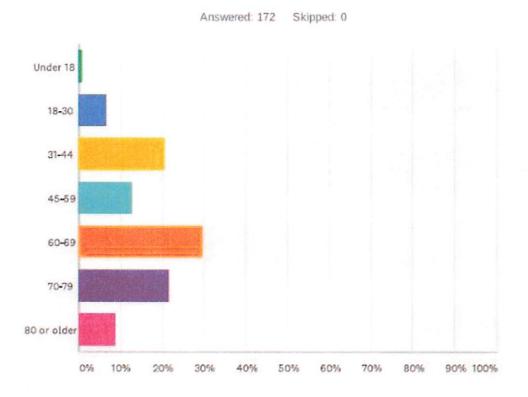
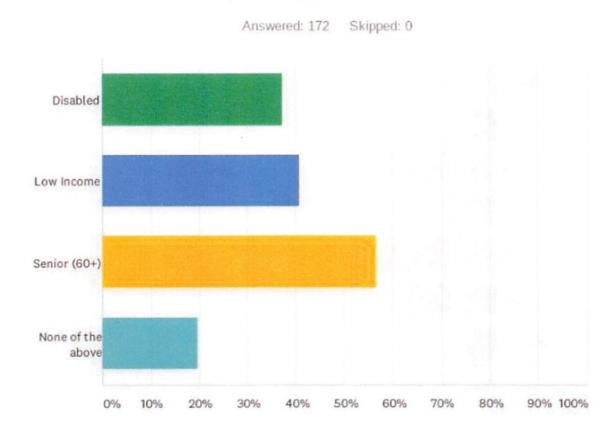


Exhibit 2: Target Demographics

The chart below demonstrates the target population regarding the plan. Only 19.77% of those surveyed did not identify as one of the target populations.

Q6 I consider myself (Check all that apply to you)



The following chart shows examples as to what improvements Perry County residents would like to see in their transportation options. The majority of those surveyed feel that there are not enough transportation options when the primary public transportation system is not in operation.

Coordinated Plan Induvial Survey

What improvements could be made to your local transportation options to make using them more appealing to you?

Answer Choices Responses Fares/Fees 17 13.9% Expansion of public transit hours 34 37.5% Timeliness/late arrivals 30% 37 **Excessive ride times** 14.75% 18 20 **Courtesy of Employees** 16.4% **Safety Concerns** 12.3% 14 Cleanliness 12.3% 15

Exhibit 4: Need for Transportation

The following data set represents the places and purpose Perry County Residents need transportation.

The amount in each box will represent one individual compared to the total of 172

completed surveys. (Answers were not mutually exclusive.)

Places	Responses	Percentage
Medical	140	95.89%
Employment	48	32.88%
Shopping	119	81.51%
Recreation	47	32.19%
Other	14	9.59%

Exhibit 5: Destinations

The following data set represents the destination and purpose Perry County Residents need transportation. The amount in each box will represent one individual compared to the total of 172 completed surveys. (Answers were not mutually exclusive.)

County	Medical	Employment	Shopping	Recreation	Other
Perry	74	45	66	31	8
Muskingum	52	2	54	15	2
Fairfield	58	5	47	18	2
Licking	3	2	18	6	0
Morgan	2	0	0	0	0
Hocking	1	0	5	7	0
Athens	1	0	2	5	2
Franklin	11	2	5	4	5
Other	12	5	8	6	1

Challenges to Coordinated Transportation

In addition to identifying needs, the planning committee gathered information from stakeholders and used their own professional experience to identify challenges to providing coordinated transportation services. These challenges include the following:

- Communication and participation gaps among agencies and businesses
- · Lack of evening and weekend transportation options
- Transportation for employment for 2nd and 3rd shifts is not available
- Marketing and education regarding transportation options.
- Access to safe active transportation routes.
- Decrease cost to the public
- Limited transportation providers in service area.

Summary of Unmet Mobility Needs

The following table describes the identified unmet transportation needs that were identified and the method used to identify and prioritize each need. Needs are listed in order of their rank in highest to lowest priority.

Exhibit 1: Prioritized Unmet Mobility Needs

Rank	Unmet Need Description	Method Used to Identify and Rank Need
1	Sustaining Mobility Management Project, Regionalization Partnering with Region 8 Mobility Solution Center	Surveys. Public and Planning Committee Input, TAC
2	Countywide Safety Campaign	Surveys. Public and Planning Committee Input, TAC
3	Marketing, Education, and Additional Transportation Options	Surveys. Public and Planning Committee Input, TAC
4	Low-Cost Transportation - underinsured/uninsured	Surveys. Public and Planning Committee Input
5	Expansion of Services and Projects	Surveys. Public and Planning Committee Input

V. Goals and Strategies

Developing Strategies to Address Gaps and Needs

Strategies for improving transportation for Perry County should address the service gaps and user needs identified in this plan if they are to be effective. As described, the gaps and unmet needs were based on information obtained from geographic analysis, the attendees participating in the meetings, and responses to the public survey.

Based on information gathered throughout the planning process, Perry County Mobility Management, along with the Planning Committee developed the following strategies to address the gaps and unmet transportation needs. Priority levels are assigned by considering the primary funding sources that could be available to support plan implementation compared to the importance of meeting this unmet need expressed by the public and stakeholders. Not all strategies are activities specifically eligible for funding under the existing programs, nor is it guaranteed that sufficient funding will be available to achieve every strategy identified. In addition, the local stakeholders will need to provide support and commit to pursuing the strategies if they are to be accomplished. Nonetheless, these strategies have been tailored to 5 of the identified primary gaps and needs.

Below is an outline describing the prioritized strategies to address each of the identified unmet transportation needs and gaps in service.

Goal #1:

Goal: Sustaining Mobility Management Project for coordination of services throughout Perry County. Regionalization partnering with Region 8 Mobility Solution Center.

Need(s) being addressed:

- 1.) Perry County has a large number of out of county trips which takes vehicles out of use for hours resulting in a limited number of trips that can be performed.
- 2.) Continued education and outreach regarding transportation options within Perry County.
- 3.) Coordination of services would eliminate duplicated trips while saving agencies money, and possibly lead to expanded hours/days of operation for public use.

Strategy 1.1:

Define strategy being implemented to achieve goal.

The Mobility Management Project includes the Mobility Manager seeking to identify transportation needs and work to achieve the outcomes of the Coordinated Plan. The Mobility Manager is responsible for actively coordinating with all of Perry Counties' agencies, organizations, and businesses in order to help reduce duplication of trips, out of county trips and educate the public on transportation options throughout Perry County. The Perry County Mobility Management Project does include media outreach, trainings, technology, and serves as the pilot for Region 8 Mobility Solution Center supporting regionalization for R8.

Timeline for Implementation: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (Depending on available funding to be continued for SFY 2026).

Action Steps:

List the action steps associated with the strategy for achieving the goal.

- 1.) Continue to employ a Mobility Manager preferably with experience in the field.
- 2.) The Mobility Manager will continue to work with agencies in Perry County by hosting regular public meetings, offer travel trainings and distribute outreach materials.
- 3.) Continue the work of updating the coordinated plan to help identify any new unmet needs and develop goals to overcome those needs.
- 4.) Educate the population of Perry County about current transportation options.
- 5.) Attend trainings, develop outreach materials, and continue to develop a communication process to achieve coordinated transportation.
- 6.) Partnering with organizations to identify unmet needs, service gaps, and community resources throughout our 8-county region.

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Perry County Mobility Management

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: All Agencies that provide or create transportation in Perry County.

Resources Needed: ODOT, FTA and County Partners

Potential Funding Sources: 5310 Grant, OTP2, Other Agencies

Performance Measures/Targets:

- 1.) Organize multiple schedules and riders to eliminate duplication and reduce the number of out of county trips. Coordinate ride request with neighboring public transportation providers.
- 2.) Work with other transit focused organizations to secure funding to expand transportation.
- 3.) Improve customer contact by utilizing call notification software to minimize duplications and decrease the no show rate.
- 4.) Track outreach options to identify which methods provides the best results for targeted population categories.

Goal #2:

Goal: Continual progression with presenting Complete Streets Policies for each village and township located in Perry County. Currently seven villages New Lexington, Roseville, Somerset, Junction City, Crooksville, Shawnee, and New Straitsville have policy that improve the safety for active commuters by addressing sidewalk structures. Specifically focusing on the Carroll Street Corridor Project and the Safe Routes to School Award in the village of New Lexington.

Need(s) being addressed:

- 1.) Raise awareness of the new laws involving slow moving vehicles including bicycles, wheelchairs, and pedestrian traffic on public roadways.
- 2.) Decrease auto/pedestrian/bicycle crashes throughout Perry County through education and awareness campaign.
- 3.) Increase the number of communities utilizing the "Your Move Ohio and Walk.Bike.Ohio" Campaign.
- 4.) Increase the number of communities with complete street policies and sidewalk projects to increase active commuter's safety.

Strategy 2.1:

Define strategy being implemented to achieve goal.

Strategy for increasing the number of villages addressing complete streets and sidewalk development includes education to village councils and township trustees on complete streets and their ability to

improve active transportation/commuter safety. Education will include resources on the availability of funding through State, Federal, and local sources. Utilization of "Your Move Ohio, Walk.Bike.Ohio", and Safe Routes to School materials involves the education and presentation of the "Your Move Ohio, Walk.Bike.Ohio", and Safe Routes to School initiatives to three additional entities (currently being distributed in three Perry County communities) to garner support and increase the distribution of the campaign materials while providing county wide advertising of the initiative. Additional strategy includes the development of bicycle safety classes to decrease crashes between motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. The Safe Routes to School award for New Lexington will also include education and outreach to encourage walking/biking for school purposes.

Timeline for Implementation: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Action Steps:

- 1). Continue to meet with additional village councils and township trustees to introduce complete street concept and to garner support of the "Your Move Ohio, Walk.Bike.Ohio", and Safe Routes to School initiative.
- 2). Meet and serve with Perry County Sheriff's Office, local Police Departments, Perry County Public Safety Team, 911/ Emergency Management Agency, and school officials, to introduce ideas of an active transportation safety education campaign.
- 3). Participate with police & sheriff officers in bicycle safety for families and individuals in Perry County.

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Perry County Active Transportation Team

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Perry County Active Transportation Team, Perry County Health Department, Perry County Mobility Manager

Resources Needed: Community support, Your Move materials (ODH), Walk.Bike.Ohio (ODOT), Safe Routes to School Award (ODOT), location for campaign material distribution, advertising dollars, and training for local law enforcement in bicycle safety

Potential Funding Sources: ODOT, ODH, Public Safety, USDOT

Performance Measures/Targets:

- 1.) Measured by the number of villages/communities and townships applying for Complete Streets Funding or pursing Safe Routes to School projects.
- 2.) Measured by the number of distribution sites for "Your Move Ohio, Walk.Bike.Ohio", and Safe Routes to School campaign materials
- 3.) Measured by the number of county wide advertising campaigns completed.
- 4.) Measured by the number of law enforcement trained to provide bicycle/pedestrian safety classes
- 5.) Measured by the number of individuals receiving bicycle/pedestrian safety classes.
- 6.) Measured by the number of individuals utilizing the Perry County Bike Share Program.

Goal #3:

Goal: Provide a wide variety of transportation options that promote community access for people who are elderly, people with disabilities, and living below poverty guidelines.

Need(s) being addressed:

- 1.) Promote access which will allow for full integration into the community for healthcare, nutrition, education, employment, and recreation.
- 2.) With access to community functions or resources a person is able to tap into local opportunities and build new relationships improving upon daily living.
- 3.) Access to the community through walking paths and/or sidewalks and the expanded availability of various modes of transportation (cars, vans, bicycles, etc.)

Strategy 3.1:

Define strategy being implemented to achieve goal

Continue working with local authorities to assess current opportunities or resources which allows for community access as well as existing or potential barriers. We will also identify/document the number of people that will be impacted by the achievement of this goal. We will continue the strategic planning process to determine the steps needed to attain the goals/outlined in the Perry County Active Transportation Plan.

Timeline for Implementation: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026

Action Steps:

- 1.) Identify stakeholders who participates in the assessment and planning process.
- 2.) Assess current situation and devise multiple avenues for connecting with targeted populations.
- 3.) Work with stakeholders to continue the planning process to identify and prioritize for constant change.
- 4.) Maintain plan and continue to measure outcomes.

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Perry County Mobility Management

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Relevant Stakeholders

Resources Needed: ODOT, Local Officials, Private sector

Potential Cost Range: To be determined

Potential Funding Sources: Grants, Local development money, private contributions

Performance Measures Targets:

- 1.) Measuring current access improvements to the prior practices after implementing new and innovative projects.
- 2.) Exploring funding opportunities that can be applied to specific project goals.
- 3.) Continuance of developing and delivering new projects, policies, and options related to transportation activities.

Goal #4:

Goal: To provide safe, effective, and dependable transportation for individuals residing in Perry County who are underinsured, uninsured, low wage employed individuals.

Need(s) being addressed: The transportation services are offered for medical, dental, and employment needs.

Strategy 4.1:

Define strategy being implemented to achieve goal

To coordinate or provide transportation for clients as needed to ensure access to medical, dental, and employment needs.

Timeline for Implementation: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Action Steps:

- 1.) To improve access to transportation for individuals in the targeted categories on an individual basis.
- 2.) Coordinate transportation services through transportation systems in place or use of agency vehicles.
- 3.) Explore and apply for grants opportunities which reduce/remove fare cost to the consumer.

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Perry County Mobility Management

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Perry County Mobility Management

Resources Needed: ODOT and County Partners

Potential Funding Sources: Transportation Grants

Performance Measures Targets:

- 1.) Measured by a decrease in cancellation of or no-show appointments.
- 2.) Measured by an increase in number of individuals who become newly employed or retain current employment.
- 3.) Measured by better health outcomes based on access to medical care.

Goal #5:

Goal: Work with the Ohio Department of Transportation providing updated statistics on ride request approval/denials to explore avenues of service expansion. Continue to adapt items outlined in the Perry County Active Transportation Plan increasing active transportation options such as bicycle shared lanes, shoulder widening during pavement projects, and walkability structures.

Needs being addressed:

- 1.) Increase availability of public transportation based on ride demand.
- 2.) Encourage safe walking and bicycling options for access to employment and health care needs.
- 3.) Improve overall health outcomes for Perry County residents by providing safe routes for biking or walkable communities.

Strategy 5.1:

Work with the Ohio Department of Transportation exploring all avenues for walking and biking which includes resurfacing projects that includes establishment of sidewalks and bike lanes.

Timeline for Implementation: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Action Steps:

- 1.) Engage items outlined in Perry County Active Transportation Plan established in December 2019.
- 2.) Contact completed with ODOT District 5 on pavement resurfacing schedules in reference to the possibility of widening shoulders on state routes.
- 3.) Discuss feasibility of projects and pursue current funding opportunities under Public Safety.

Parties Responsible for Leading Implementation: Perry County Active Transportation Team, Perry County Health Department, Perry County Mobility Manager, Perry County Engineer, ODOT District 5

Parties Responsible for Supporting Implementation: Perry County Active Transportation Team, Perry County Health Department, Perry County Mobility Manager, Perry County Engineer, ODOT District 5

Resources Needed: ODOT and partner participation

Potential Cost Range: To Be Determined based on the availability of funding.

Performance Measures/Targets:

- 1.) Measured by the number of meetings held between responsible parties.
- 2.) Measured by the completion of feasibility study of the project.
- 3.) Measured by the number of miles of State Highway widened for active transportation access.
- 4.) Measured by the dates for completion of project.

VI. Plan Adoption

The Mobility Manager will use this plan to enhance relationships with public, private, and non-profits to meet the needs of all Perry County residents including those that are low-income, elderly, disabled, or general public. Public meetings will continue to be held in locations that are easily accessible to all residents and surveys will be collected regularly for data tracking. The Mobility Manager through this plan will continue to work on the following items:

- 1.) Expand the existing Planning Committee with addition of representatives from additional agencies and entities that either provide transportation or depend on it for their clients. Additionally, the committee can include local government representatives, as well as riders. This group should meet quarterly to discuss system wide progress, coordination, and its effectiveness in reaching those in need, and any recommendations for change.
- 2.) Promote the use of new technology to increase efficiency in operations. Further development of an interactive web site where users can schedule, make payments, check opportunities for travel sharing, and gather information about the transportation in Perry County. Enhancement to the current call notification system notifying users in advance for pick up times and return times. This is accomplished by email, text, or voice call notification. The use of GPS tracking to provide effective supervision and guidance of drivers and vehicles. Use of electronic payments methods such as prepaid debit cards, electronic payments to a web site or tokens.
- 3.) Development of new opportunities for special needs population. Interaction with other transit authorities in neighboring counties with the goal to expand mobility to population centers outside of Perry County.
- 4.) Development of coordinated services or a shared services model to reduce duplicated services with the goal to increase services while reducing the cost for the both the user and other providers.
- 5.) Increase awareness and interaction with residents and groups throughout Perry County.

Appendix A: List of Planning Committee Participants

The planning committee consists of representation from local agencies as well as participation of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and members of the public. More information about the planning committee is available upon request by contacting Lisa Leckrone, Mobility Manager @ 740-342-5423, email at: Melissa.leckrone@perrycountyohio.gov

Agency Representation

Name	Last Name	Agency
Danielle	Herron	Majestic Care of New Lexington
David	Couch	Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Shelly	Lackey	Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Caley	Boyden	Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Mason	Dickerson	Perry County Transit
Shannon	Jones	Mount Aloysius
Tammy	Goniea	Perry County Job and Family Services
Renea	Dodson	Perry Behavioral Health
Deb	Houk	Region 8 Mobility Solution Center
Theressa	Kane	Perry Behavioral Health Choices
Jenny	LaRue	Perry County Health Department
Ruth	Liff-Gray	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Melissa	Marolt	Perry County District Library
Jason	Adams	Genesis Perry County ER
Deborah	Raney	Perry County Health Department
Fred	Redfern	Perry County Parks & Recreation, Community Advocate
Leslie	Finck	Perry County Transit
Dale	Factor	Northern Local School Transportation
James	Creech	Crooksville School District
Lisa	Leckrone	Perry County Mobility Management
Sonya	Saxton	PerCo
Jay	Barnhart	PerCo
Darla	Channel	PerCo
Mendra	Hupp	Perry County Job and Family Services
Lillian	Holman	Fairview Assisted Living
Linda	Klingler	St. Vincent DePaul
Anne	Barnett	St. Vincent DePaul
Maggie	Williams	Hopewell Health Center

In addition to participants listed above, the planning committee also included representation of older adults, people with disabilities, and members of the public. In addition to hosting a planning committee, Perry County Job and Family Services and other planning committee members also conducted a wide variety of activities designed to increase involvement of community stakeholders in identifying community resources, addressing community needs, and setting goals and priorities. More information about the efforts that occurred is available upon request.

To request additional information please contact:

Name: Lisa Leckrone

Agency: Perry County Mobility Management

Phone Number: (740) 342-5423

E-mail Address: Melissa.Leckrone@perrycountyohio.gov

Appendix B: List of Annual Reviews and Plan Amendments

It is required that this plan be reviewed by the planning committee annually. For more information on when the next annual review will occur, how to be involved in the annual review process or to request information on how to make changes or corrections to this plan between annual reviews, please contact:

Name: Lisa Leckrone

Agency: Perry County Job Mobility Management

Phone Number: (740) 342-5423

E-mail Address: Melissa.leckrone@perrycountyohio.gov

Annual Review June 30, 2025

In 2024/2025, quarterly public meetings were held to review the plan and discuss transportation throughout the county. The Mobility Manager continues work in the county to address the goals and strategies of the coordinated plan. Several meetings and trainings have been facilitated and attended by the Mobility Manager to improve community wide transportation.

Planning committee members have been at work on several projects county wide in order to improve mobility for elderly, disabled, handicap and low-income individuals. Over the last year, several community partners have begun to provide transportation or increased their fleet to deliver additional transportation options to the community.

The need for alternate transportation brings about safety concerns and issues which are now able to be addressed on all levels as the Mobility Manager brings public awareness to the community on a variety of forums. Safety projects have been brought to the forefront of meetings to address these concerns.

Working together as a community has allowed for continued efforts to reach the goals in the coordinated plan which improves mobility options overall. Combined efforts have produced positive outcomes benefiting citizens of Perry County.

Amendment

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.

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 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.

Signature Approval Page

For and on behalf of the Perry County Board of Commissioners, acknowledgement of the annual updates to the 2025-2026 Perry County Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.

Commissioner	<u>lo-25-25</u> Date
Commissioner	6.25-25 Date
Commissioner	Date
For and on behalf of the Perry County Transit and Perry (County Mobility Management.
Director Bu	C · 30·25
Mobility Manager	630.25 Date