

Transportation Summit – Paw Paw and Surrounding Areas – November 06, 2008

What transportation services are perceived to be available to Van Buren County residents?

VB Transit
Neighbors
Family
Care-A-Van
VBEMS
Medi-Transit (a new service)

What would help residents know more about their transportation options?

It was the consensus of the group that the problem is more pronounced in rural areas and that one doesn't really know or realize what is available (or not) until it is needed.

Brochure at places like Department of Human Services, Post office, Social Security, Housing offices and Village/Township halls

Paw Paw Flashes
Kalamazoo Gazette
Courier
Senior Times
Cozy 98
Word of Mouth
Cable TV

What are the barriers to using Van Buren Public Transit?

Fares/Cost
No Saturday or Sunday Services
Long waits – not convenient
No late afternoon service
No affordable out-of-county services (hospitals) – high cost to Kalamazoo
Transit does not take calls during lunch
No room for walkers on buses
Lots of Grocery Bags
Lack of knowledge of service
Lack of coordination with doctors/organizations
No regular stops

What are the barriers to using Ride Easy?

Unknown Service
Lack of Volunteers

What do you think are some ways to get seniors to take advantage of transportation services?
Appeal to the younger generation

Educate Seniors about services
Passes with Punches
Word of Mouth - Positive experiences

How should we fund the cost of transportation?

Federal Government
State Government
Local Government
Client pay – fares

Much discussion ensued on the need for a loop (fixed route) bus for the Village of Paw Paw. The seniors would like to see this implemented and suggested the following as potential stops on a loop bus: Family Fare, Chemical Bank, Miller Court (Senior Housing), Goodwill, Save-a-Lot, Dollar Store (2), Village Drug, Credit Union, Hospital and 2 clinics, National City Bank and Bank of America.

Seniors would like a weekly shopping trip to WalMart and/or other destinations.