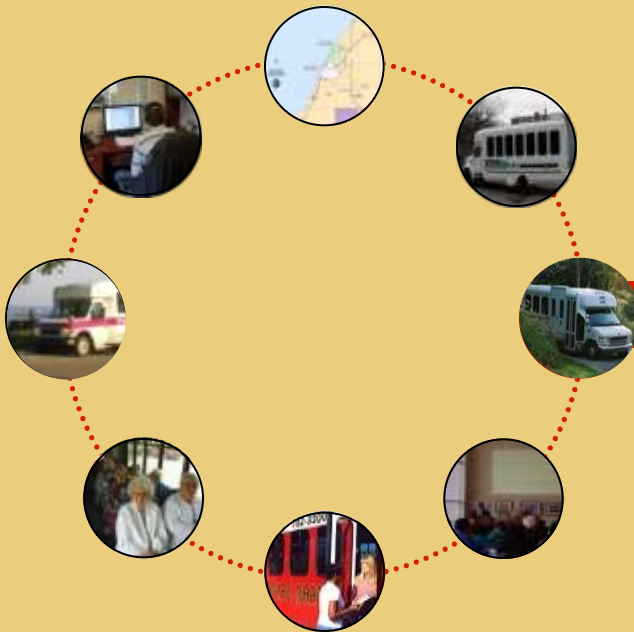


# ***BERRIEN COUNTY TRANSIT CONSOLIDATION FEASIBILITY STUDY***

**June 1, 2011**

**Project Kickoff Meeting**



# Today's Agenda



- ❖ Background
- ❖ Study Purpose
- ❖ Key Stakeholders and Partners
- ❖ Introduction of Consultant
- ❖ Project Outcomes
- ❖ Work Plan and Schedule
- ❖ Your Input!

# Berrien County Transit Study



Conducted in 2009, with the purpose of understanding the current role of transit in Berrien County.

# Findings Included:



Transit is of critical importance as part of a life-sustaining network for many Berrien County residents

# Finding Included



Many of the life-sustaining and life enhancing needs of elderly, disabled, and low-income residents in Berrien County are being met.

## What People Told Us



*“Transit does not operate when I need it”*

*“I can’t depend on transit”*

*“The bus is too expensive”*

*“I can’t get to where I need to go on the bus”*

# Berrien County Public Transit



# Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan



- ❖ Developed in 2009 and meets FTA coordinated transportation planning requirements
- ❖ Provides documentation of unmet transportation needs and transportation resources in County
- ❖ Includes strategy calling for structure to build and sustain coordination efforts and improve integration of services



# Study Purpose



- ❖ To streamline transit service, simplifying and improving access to transit use for riders;
- ❖ To achieve service efficiencies and economies;
- ❖ To provide a central focus on transit for Berrien County; and
- ❖ To create a robust transit system to meet the growing and changing needs of the residents of Berrien County.

# Funding Partners



- ❖ Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- ❖ Consortium 4 Community Development
- ❖ Michigan Department of Transportation

# Steering Committee



- ❖ City of Buchanan
- ❖ Lincoln Charter Township
- ❖ Niles Community Development
- ❖ Twin City Area Transportation Authority
- ❖ Berrien County Transportation
- ❖ Disability Network of Southwest Michigan
- ❖ Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

# KFH Group -- Introduction



- ❖ Nationally recognized leader in planning, design, and review of transit services
- ❖ Principals have worked on coordination/consolidation efforts for over 30 years
- ❖ Project manager recently led Michigan Coordinated Planning workshops
- ❖ The project team includes members who have worked for coordinated/consolidated systems, and who have developed plans for – and helped implement – consolidated transit systems

# KFH Group Project Team



Project Manager: Dan Dalton

Project Principal: Ken Hosen

Senior Transportation Planners:

- ❖ Joel Eisenfeld
- ❖ Lib Fetting
- ❖ Beth Hamby

Transportation Analyst

- ❖ Bennett Powell

# Project Outcomes



Overarching goal --

*Help provide for more trips for more people, while providing cost effective high quality and safe transportation for the community.*

In part this will be accomplished through:

- ❖ Improved and increased services for customers
- ❖ More effective structure and services to address regional transportation issues and needs
- ❖ Achieving economies of scale
- ❖ Identifying possible opportunities to seek additional funding for transit services

# Project Understanding



- ❖ Coordination – not the goal but one of the key tools that can be used to meet the overarching goal of expanding mobility options
- ❖ Ultimately, this project will require:
  - ❖ Leadership
  - ❖ Trust
  - ❖ A Good Business Deal

# Project Understanding



- ❖ This study will involve:
  - ❖ Sensitivity to the dynamics of transit, interagency/personal relationships, innovative design, local politics, and other intangible factors
  - ❖ A process that involves analyzing data and evaluating options
  - ❖ Building community consensus along the way and recognizing the natural fear of change
  - ❖ The use of other coordinated and consolidated systems as models— while at the same time recognizing the unique nature of this study



# Work Plan



## Task 1: Evaluation of Current Operations

- ❖ Kickoff Meeting with Key Stakeholders
- ❖ Communications and Consensus Building
- ❖ Familiarity with Transit Systems
- ❖ Review of Operational and Financial Data
- ❖ Detailed Analysis and Evaluation of Current Services
- ❖ Review of Relevant Studies and Plans
- ❖ Interview Transit Systems in Neighboring Areas
- ❖ Review Relevant Case Studies of Coordination/Consolidation Projects
- ❖ Technical Memorandum #1
- ❖ Second Meeting with Key Stakeholders

# Work Plan



## Task 2: Evaluation of Proposed Options

- ❖ Identify Services, Function, and Positions for Coordination/ Consolidation
- ❖ Develop Service Alternatives to Improve Connections
- ❖ Evaluate Advantages and Disadvantages of Coordination/ Consolidation Options
- ❖ Identify and Evaluate Organizational Alternatives
- ❖ Conduct a Cost/Benefit Analysis of Each Alternative
- ❖ Conduct and Impact Analysis of Each Alternative
- ❖ Technical Memorandum #2
- ❖ Third Meeting with Key Stakeholders

# Work Plan



## Task 3: Guidance and Implementation Documentation

- ❖ Governance
- ❖ System Name
- ❖ Staffing and Contracting
- ❖ Capital and Facilities Plan
- ❖ Service Design
- ❖ Integrated Technology Utilization Plan
- ❖ Marketing Plan
- ❖ Financing and Budget Preparation
- ❖ Budget Development
- ❖ Five-Year Capital, Administrative, and Operating Budgets
- ❖ Draft Consolidation Plan and Presentation
- ❖ Final Consolidation Plan and Executive Summary

# Proposed Schedule



- ❖ Kickoff Meeting: June 1, 2011
- ❖ Work on Task 1: June-October, 2011
- ❖ Presentation of Technical Memorandum #1 to Coalition: October, 2011
- ❖ Work on Task 2: October, 2011 – March, 2012
- ❖ Presentation of Technical Memorandum #2 to Coalition: March, 2012
- ❖ Work on Task 3 / Interim Meetings with Coalition to Gain Consensus: March, 2012 - Early 2013
- ❖ Presentation of Draft Study to Coalition: April, 2013
- ❖ Final Study, June, 2013
- ❖ Presentation of Final Study as Needed: July-September, 2013
  
- ❖ *Other meetings will be arranged as needed during the project*

# Now We Need Your Input!



- ❖ Project Goals and Objectives
- ❖ Anticipated Outcomes
- ❖ Key Issues
- ❖ Transit Needs
- ❖ Outreach and Communication throughout the Project

# Our Contact Information



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