

Introduction

A Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

“Public Transit” (or public transportation) is defined as: Passenger transportation services, local, metropolitan or regional in scope, that are available to any person who pays a prescribed fare.

“Human Services Transportation” means meeting the basic, day-to-day mobility needs of people who are transportation dependent, especially older Americans, as well as individuals with low-incomes and people with disabilities.

The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Licking County endorses and supports local projects and agency efforts to coordinate transportation services, which comply with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regulations and guidelines, that reduce or remove transportation gaps and offer all citizens of Licking County the opportunities to achieve mobility.

A “Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan” is required by SAFETEA-LU, **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users** for communities, which desire to participate in three Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs:

- 1) Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities
- 2) Job Access and Reverse Commute
- 3) New Freedom.

President George W. Bush signed SAFETEA-LU August 10, 2005 as Public Law #109-59. SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

Beginning in Fiscal-Year 2007, SAFETEA-LU requires that, as a condition for funding three programs of the FTA listed above, proposed projects must be derived from a locally developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. SAFETEA-LU stipulates that the “Coordinated Plan” must have been developed through a process, which includes representatives of:

- Public transportation providers
- Private transportation providers
- Non-profit transportation providers
- Human services providers
- The public

The FTA defines a Coordinated Plan as a unified, comprehensive strategy for public transportation services delivery that identifies the transportation needs of:

- Individuals with disabilities
- Older adults
- Individuals with limited incomes