



Inclusive Transportation Systems in Worcester, MA

Engaging the Community in Worcester's Transportation Planning Process



Purpose of this Project

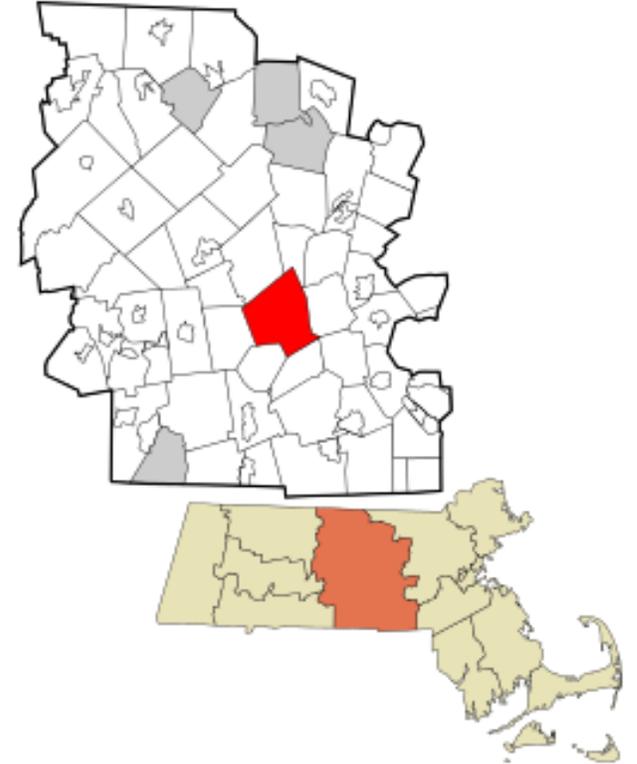
- Support and build on the grassroots efforts of the current Worcester Transportation Advocacy Coalition (TAC)
- Help coalition members survey the transportation needs for their populations
- Encourage more consumers and community members to be engaged in transportation planning
- Provide information to the community on transportation related needs, resources, planning committees, etc.

What Will Happen As A Result Of The Project

- The results from the surveys and focus groups will provide important information to the community for transportation planning
- Issues that will need more attention and support will continue through the use of community task forces.
- The ongoing advisory committees will be sharing information
- People with Disabilities, Older Adults and their caregivers will be encouraged to become active members of various community advisory groups.

Who It Serves

- People with Disabilities, Older Adults and their caregivers
- Worcester area transportation providers including: Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) , Taxicabs, ridesharing companies, etc.
- City of Worcester, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), Commission on Disabilities, Elder Services, etc.
- State personnel and others.



How Will People Know What You Are Doing

- Through our partners, transportation providers, City groups, etc.
- Article in: MassMobility is an initiative to increase mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, low-income commuters, and others who lack transportation access in Massachusetts.
- Note in The Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP) July's Newsletter
- Surveys and focus groups
- Social media



What's The Plan For Sustainability

- Identify key issues in the community that will need to be followed and make sure that there are small wins for each.
- Identify stakeholders and other interested parties to form a task force
- Create a link from one of the community advisory groups to each task force so communication is happening on a regular basis.
- Encourage the community standing advisory committees to support each task force

Who Is On The Team

- **Three Worcester area residents. Two who have disabilities and one who represents active bus riders.**
- **Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA)** will provide information on public transportation to the city of Worcester and the surrounding towns.
- **Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc. (ESWA)** will provide information on services for elders in Central Worcester County. They run several caregiver services.
- **Center for Living & Working, Inc. (CLW)** will provide information on services for people with disabilities. CLW runs a Personal Care Attendant Program funded by Medicaid.
- **Worcester Community Connections Coalition and Worcester Family Resource Center of Y.O.U. Inc.** will continue its leadership role with the TAC and help engage a diverse community of transit riders to participate in meetings.
- **Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)** will provide information on their coordination of both short and long-term transportation planning activities.
- We plan to engage additional partners from the elder, developmental disabilities and other Worcester area human service organizations.

What Obstacles Or Barriers Are You Expecting To Face

- Getting people and organizations to participate at the level that I want them to, an example would be for them to submit survey ideas
- Changes with positions, example, new WTRA administrator
- Unexpected changes in the economy, legislation, environment, etc.



What Are The Next Steps

- Outreaching to engage others
- Working on surveys and focus group
- Working on social media and other communications

Conclusion – Sum It Up

- Even with barriers, there are always solutions.
- This grant opportunity has come at a great time and it will help make Worcester's transportation planning be more engaged by community members. Especially, People with Disabilities, Older Adults and their caregivers.

