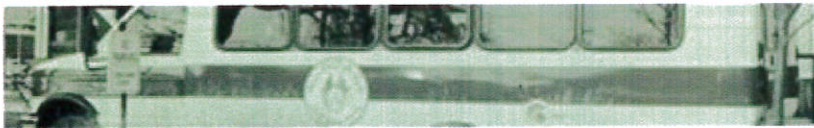


What is the future of public transit in Berrien County?



CONNECT BERRIEN

COUNTY-WIDE PUBLIC SERVICE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: Today there are four independent public transit providers in Berrien County providing essential services within their service boundaries; however, the coverage and level of the services is inconsistent across the county and many residents and employees do not have public transit options available to them. Communities in Berrien County face serious challenges over the next ten years: meeting the needs of the aging population and tackling poverty, while attracting and retaining young people and supporting growth in the regional economy.

FINDING SOLUTIONS—THE CONNECT BERRIEN PROJECT: Over the last year and a half the Connect Berrien Project Team has been working with Nelson Nygaard on a plan for an improved and more robust countywide transit system that will put Berrien County in a better position to rise to these challenges. The plan was developed through a collaborative process including public outreach meetings, interviews and surveys. The plan is sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration, Michigan Department of Transportation, Lakeland Foundation, Berrien County Manufactures Association, Berrien County, and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission.

CONNECT BERRIEN VISION PLAN GOALS:

More info: connectberrien.org

- 
ENHANCE
Make transit more convenient than it is today
- 
CONNECT
Connect people to more places than they can reach today
- 
SIMPLIFY
Make transit easier to use than it is today
- 
SUSTAIN
Ensure the financial and long-term sustainability of all transit systems

MAKING THE FUTURE HAPPEN: Future implementation of the recommended service plan will create a transit system in Berrien County which is easier to understand and use, and which better meets the needs of the County. A more seamless experience for planning trips, paying fares, and traveling from place to place will be the biggest benefit. The increased coordination will reduce costs, attract ridership, and be more effective for both users and transit agencies.

WE NEED YOUR GUIDANCE & ASSISTANCE: Please have representation from your community/agency attend one of these public forums to learn more about how services outlined in this plan could benefit your community/agency.

BRIDGMAN	NILES	BENTON HARBOR
Tuesday, September 25th	Wednesday, September 26th	Thursday, September 27th
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm & 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Lake Charter Township Hall	Niles Public Library	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
3220 W Shawnee Rd Bridgman, MI 49106	620 E. Main Street Niles, MI 49120	376 W. Main Street Benton Harbor, MI 49022

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: We have arranged extra time for municipal elected/appointed officials and agencies to have a conversation with the consultant and Connect Berrien members in a small group setting. Please arrive 45 minutes prior to any of the public forums to take advantage of this special opportunity.