

**Allegan County Transportation
750 Airway Drive
Allegan, Michigan 49010**

January 18, 2023

Fred Featherly
Office of Passenger Transportation
Michigan Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Fred,

Attached to this email please find Allegan County Transportation's updated Accessibility Plan, as reviewed by the agency's Local Advisory Council on January 13, 2023 (see enclosed minutes of LAC meeting), and by the agency's governing body on January 5, 2023.

Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Whitney D. Ehresman
Allegan County Transportation

/Enclosures

**Accessibility Plan
Allegan County Transportation
750 Airway Drive
Allegan, Michigan 49010**

1. Purpose

This accessibility plan is submitted in compliance with Section 10e(18) of the Michigan Transportation Fund Act (MCL 247.660e) (hereinafter “the Act”) and the official administrative rules for administration of Michigan’s Comprehensive Transportation Fund. The purpose of this accessibility plan is to describe the reservation-based and demand-response service provided by Allegan County Transportation to senior persons and individuals with disabilities. This accessibility plan demonstrates it is the policy of Allegan County Transportation to comply with the following requirements of Section 10e(18):

- A. That reservation-based and demand-response service is provided to persons 65 years of age or older and individuals with disabilities residing in Allegan County Transportation’s entire service area.
- B. That as a minimum, transportation service is provided to persons 60 years of age or older and individuals with disabilities during the same hours as service is provided to all other persons in Allegan County Transportation’s service area.
- C. That the average time required for transportation service to persons 60 years and older and individuals with disabilities, from the initiation of a service request to arrival at the destination, is equal to the average time period required for transportation service provided to all other persons in Allegan County Transportation’s service area.
- D. That Allegan County Transportation has established a Local Advisory Council with not less than 50 percent of its membership representing persons 65 years of age or older and individuals with disabilities in Allegan County Transportation’s service area. At least one member (or 12 percent of membership has been appointed jointly with the area agency on aging. The Local Advisory Council has had an opportunity to review and comment on this plan before its submission to the Michigan Department of Transportation. (See attached Allegan County Transportation Local Advisory Council minutes)

All rules cited below refer to the official administrative rules for the administration of the Comprehensive Transportation Fund. These rules are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, beginning at Rule 241.4101, et seq.

2. Definition of Senior and Individual with a Disability - Rule 201 (2) (c)

As used in this Accessibility Plan

(a) “individual with a disability” means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual, a record of such impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. See Michigan Administrative Code Rule 247.4101(1)(m).

(b) “Senior” means an individual 60 years of age or older.

3. Number of Senior and Individuals with Disabilities in Service Area - Rule 201 (2) (c)

Based on 2020 US Census Data, Allegan County Transportation estimates that a total of 332,000 persons fitting the above definitions reside in the agency’s defined service area. This accounts for roughly 17 percent of the population within the service area.

4. Description of Plan Development Process and Local Advisory Council Involvement - Rule 201(2) (e)

Allegan County Transportation developed this plan using the following process:

- a. Agency staff drafted a plan, incorporating all information required by R 247.4201 and R247.4202 of the Michigan Administrative Code
- b. The draft plan content was reviewed at a meeting of the Allegan County Transportation Local Advisory Council, held on January 13, 2022, wherein the Local Advisory Council was given an opportunity to review and comment on the content of the plan. In accordance with Sec. 10e(18)(d) of the Act, all comments on the plan received at this meeting by Local Advisory Council members are contained in a separate section of this plan, below.
- c. A final draft plan was submitted to and approved by Allegan County Transportation’s governing body.

5. Local Advisory Council Composition - Rule 202

Allegan County Transportation’s Local Advisory Council is currently comprised of six members, which meets or exceeds the required minimum of three members. In accordance with Rule 202, no member of the Local Advisory Council is an employee, executive committee member, or governing board member of Allegan County Transportation. Allegan County Transportation ensures that at least 50 percent of its Local Advisory Council membership represents persons who are 65 years of age or older and persons who have disabilities within the agency’s defined service area. Allegan County Transportation further ensures that at least one member of its Local Advisory Council is approved jointly with the area

agency on aging. Allegan County Transportation further ensures that its Local Advisory Council membership will include people who have diverse disabilities and seniors who are users of public transportation. Allegan County Transportation's Local Advisory Council is, at the time of adoption and submission of this plan, composed of the following members:

LAC Chairperson

NAME: Sherry Owens

AFFILIATION Allegan County Senior & Veteran Services

Jointly appointed by the area agency on aging

A user of public transportation

Neither of the above

This Member is a:

Person with Disabilities

Person 65 years and older

Neither of the above groups

Represents one of the above

2. **NAME:** Norma MacDonald

AFFILIATION

Jointly appointed by the area agency on aging

A user of public transportation

Neither of the above

This Member is a:

Person with Disabilities

Person 65 years and older

Neither of the above groups

Represents one of the above

3. **NAME:** Holly Harvey

AFFILIATION: Disability Network/Lakeshore

Jointly appointed by the area agency on aging

A user of public transportation

Neither of the above

This Member is a:

Person with Disabilities

Person 65 years and older

Neither of the above groups

Represents one of the above

4. **NAME:** Kendrick Heinlein

AFFILIATION

- Jointly appointed by the area agency on aging
- A user of public transportation
- Neither of the above

This Member is a:

- Person with Disabilities
- Person 65 years and older
- Neither of the above groups
- Represents one of the above

5. **NAME:** Linda Escott

AFFILIATION

- Jointly appointed by the area agency on aging
- A user of public transportation
- Neither of the above

This Member is a:

- Person with Disabilities
- Person 65 years and older
- Neither of the above groups
- Represents one of the above

6. **NAME:** Roger Bird

AFFILIATION: The Arc of Allegan County

AFFILIATION

- Jointly appointed by the area agency on aging
- A user of public transportation
- Neither of the above

This Member is a:

- Person with Disabilities
- Person 65 years and older
- Neither of the above groups
- Represents one of the above

7. **NAME:** Mark Wite

AFFILIATION: OnPoint (formally Community Mental Health)

AFFILIATION

- Jointly appointed by the area agency on aging
- A user of public transportation
- Neither of the above

This Member is a:

- Person with Disabilities
- Person 65 years and older
- Neither of the above groups
- Represents one of the above

6. Present Vehicle Inventory – Rule 201 (2) (a)

Allegan County Transportation's demand response vehicle inventory presently in service is as follows:

- a. Number of demand response vehicles presently in service purchased using Comprehensive Transportation Fund monies = 23
- b. Number of accessible demand response vehicles presently in service purchased using Comprehensive Transportation Fund monies = 23

7. Anticipated Vehicle Inventory – Rule 201 (2) (b)

Allegan County Transportation's anticipated demand response vehicle inventory is as follows:

- a. Number of demand response vehicles in agency's anticipated fleet which will be purchased using Comprehensive Transportation Fund monies = 28
- b. Number of accessible demand response vehicles in agency's anticipated fleet which will be purchased using Comprehensive Transportation Fund monies = 28

8. Narrative Summary of Vehicles Requested – Rule 201 (2) (I)

As indicated above, the agency currently operates or plans to operate a total of 23 demand response vehicles. Of these vehicles, the total number that will be fully accessible to seniors and individuals with disabilities is 28 vehicles. All vehicles in the fleet are ADA accessible, further supporting the program's mission to enhance and promote the transportation needs of the county by providing safe, reliable, and barrier-free travel.

9. Fare Structure - Rule 201 (2) (d)

Allegan County Transportation’s fare structure that is in use for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and the general public for demand response service is as follows:

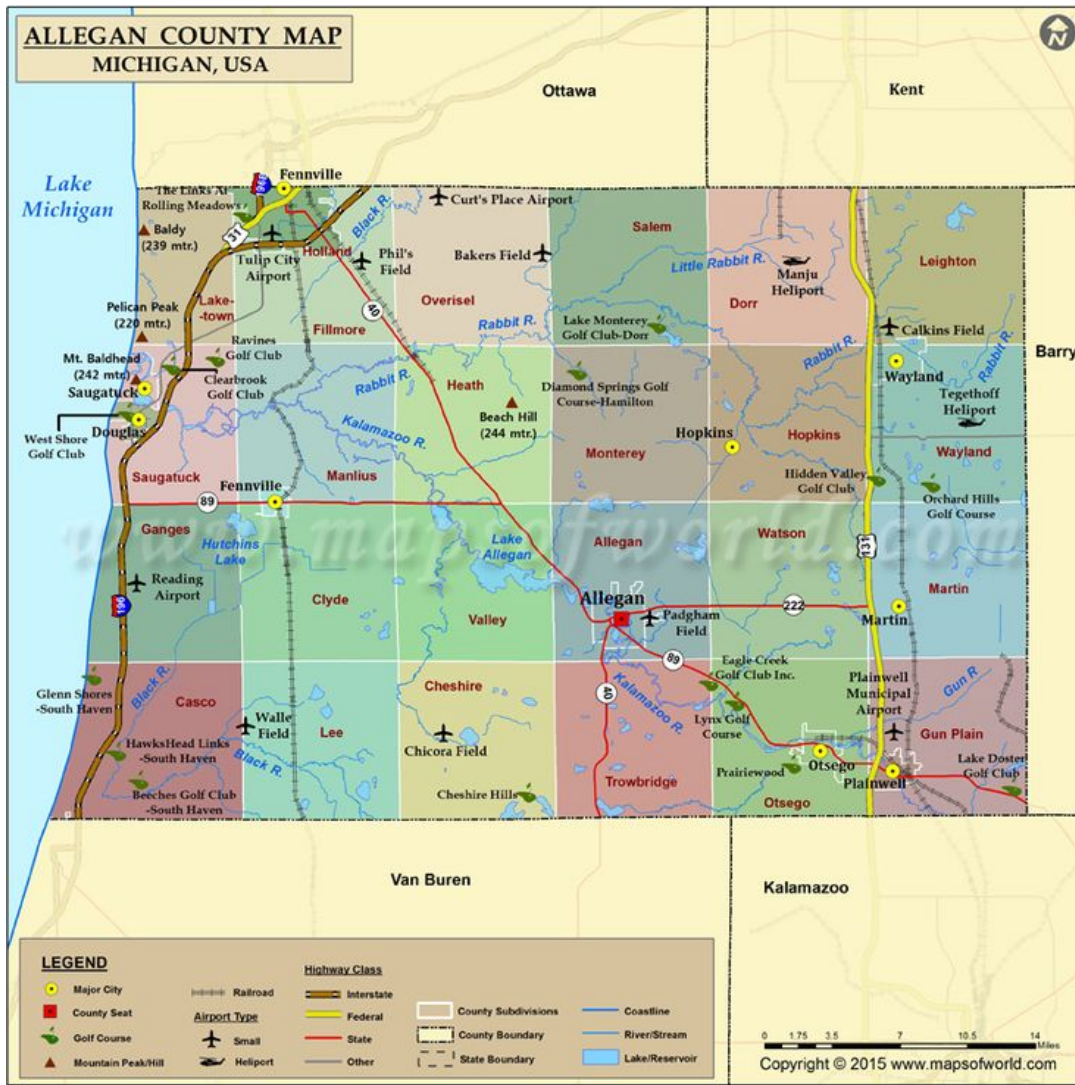
	General Public	Seniors/Disabled Peak	Seniors/Disabled Non-Peak
Demand Response	\$2	\$1	\$1
Fixed Route	N/A	N/A	N/A

Allegan County Transportation complies with the statutory requirement for preferential fares for individuals with disabilities and persons 65 years of age and older, for off peak periods of service. Per this requirement, preferential fares may not be higher than 50% of the regular 1-way single fare. Refer to the Michigan Transportation Fund Act, MCL 247.660e, Sec. 10e (4) (a) (iii) for additional information.

10. Map and Narrative Description of Service Area – Rule 201 (2) (f)

The total landmass of Allegan County is 1,833 sq miles, with 825 sq miles of land. Major roadways run throughout the county, including I-196, US 31, US 131, M-40, M-89, M-179, M-222, and A-2, A-37, A-42 and A-45. Since the beginning of 2022, Allegan County Transportation has offered curbside services throughout the county; previous service was limited to one mile from major roadways for general public trips. In addition to providing trips within the county lines, Allegan County Transportation will provide limited transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities that need to go out of the county for medical trips.

The Transportation building, which completed construction in 2010, is located at 750 Airway Drive Allegan MI 49010.



11. Service Schedule – Rule 201 (2) (g)

Allegan County Transportation’s current service schedules, including hours of day and days per week for reservation-based and demand response service is as follows: Monday- Friday 5:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Scheduling Priority is as follows:

Priority One: Standing Orders - These are services, established in advance, same passenger, same time, and same origin. Agency or employment related.

Priority Two: Reserved Trips - These rides are reserved before 12:00 noon the prior business day in advance of service needed.

Priority Three: On Demand - Those who wait until the last minute to make their request.

The goal of Allegan County Transportation is to meet the individual needs of people in the county who need transportation to and from work, agency services,

medical appointments, or whatever their needs may be. Anyone is welcome to ride with ACT.

12. Schedules in Alternative Formats – Rule 201 (2) (h)

Allegan County Transportation has made arrangements to produce copies of its current service schedule in an alternative format that can be utilized by persons who are blind or have other disabilities.

13. Vehicle Availability On Other Than Regular Service Hours and Days – Rule 201 (2) (i)

Allegan County Transportation does not make demand-response service vehicles available for use during hours or days other than regular service hours and days. Allegan County Transportation confirms that accessible transit vehicles are available for use by the senior and individuals with disabilities to the same extent as the general public.

14. Advance Requests for Demand Actuated Service – Rule 201 (2) (j)

Allegan County Transportation does require that the senior, people with disabilities, and the general public must make an advance request to obtain demand response service. The required advance request time period is 24 hours.

15. Constraints on Capacity and Restrictions on Trip Purpose – Rule 201 (2) (k)

Allegan County Transportation provides service to all customers with no constraints on capacity and restrictions on trip purpose.

16. Local Advisory Council Comments on this Plan – Rule 201(2) (m)

Allegan County Transportation's Local Advisory Council members made the following comments about this plan:

17. Agency Response to Local Advisory Council Comments on the Plan – Rule 201 (2) (n)

Allegan County Transportation made the following response to its Local Advisory Council regarding the above comments: