



AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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March 13, 2007

Dear Community Leader:

Transportation is a lifeline. It connects us to jobs, families, medical care, friends, and all the places we need to reach. For some, transportation is a challenge, very troublesome and sometimes not available at all.

The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), the METRO Regional Transit Authority and the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), are working together to develop a Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan. This plan is required by the Federal Transit Administration, focusing on three of their funding programs and target population of older persons, persons with disabilities and persons in low-income families. If successful, transportation services will improve mobility for others as well.

You are invited to a public forum to learn about the planning that is being undertaken and to kick off a broad community outreach involving the residents of Summit and Portage Counties. This community outreach is important to understand the need for transportation services, gaps in these services, and strategies and solutions for meeting more travel needs through the coordination of transportation services. For transportation coordination to work, local agencies providing transportation and human services must work together to make decisions on the way transportation services are managed and delivered.

We are holding three public forums, two in Summit County and one in Portage County.

Portage County, Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 10:00 am

The United Church of Christ of Kent, 1400 East Main Street, Kent, Ohio

Summit County, Thursday, April 5, 2007, 10:00 am

The Job Center, 1041 E. Tallmadge Avenue, Akron, Ohio

Summit County, Thursday, April 5, 2007, 5:30 pm

Akron Summit County Public Library, Odom Blvd Branch, 600 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio

Please do your best to attend one of the public forums. The agenda for the public forum is attached. We expect the meeting to be about an hour. Sign-in and beverages will be available thirty minutes prior to the meeting. So that we can plan adequately for those attending, please RSVP at your earliest convenience to Charles Nelson, Nelson Development Ltd, at cnelson@neo.rr.com. Please go to our project website, www.summitandportagemobility.com, for more information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth A. Hanson".

Kenneth A. Hanson, P.E.
Study Director

AGENDA

Public Forum

Developing a Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

Portage County, Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 10:00 am

The United Church of Christ of Kent, 1400 East Main Street, Kent, Ohio
Registration 9:30 – 10:00 am

Summit County, Thursday, April 5, 2007, 10:00 am

The Job Center, 1040 East Tallmadge Avenue, Akron, Ohio
Registration 9:30 – 10:00 am

Summit County, Thursday, April 5, 2007, 5:30 pm

Akron Summit County Public Library, Vern Odom Branch
600 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio
Registration 5:00 – 5:30 pm

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Multi-Media Presentation
- III. Project Overview and National Perspective
- IV. Discussion and Feedback
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Adjourn