

**Accessibility Plan
Berrien County Public Transportation
4676 East Shawnee Road
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103**

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 demand-response service provided by Berrien County Public Transportation to senior persons and individuals with disabilities. This accessibility plan demonstrates it is the policy of Berrien County Public Transportation to comply with the following requirements of Section 10e(18):

- A. That demand-response service is provided to persons 60 years of age or older and individuals with disabilities residing in Berrien County Public Transportation’s entire service area. (See attached map defining the service area.)
- B. That as a minimum, demand response 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 Berrien County Public Transportation’s service area.
- C. That the average time required for demand response 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 demand response service provided to all other persons in Berrien County Public Transportation’s service area.
- D. That Berrien County Public Transportation has established a Local Advisory Council with not less than 50 percent of its membership representing persons 60 years of age or older and individuals with disabilities in Berrien County Public 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 Berrien County Public Transportation’s 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)

Berrien County Public Transportation estimates that a total of 20,725 persons fitting the above definitions reside in the agency’s defined service area.

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

Berrien County Public Transportation developed this plan using the following process:

- a. Agency staff drafted a plan, incorporating all information required by Rule 247.4201 and Rule 247.4202 of the Michigan Administrative Code
- b. The draft plan content was reviewed at a meeting of the Berrien County Public Transportation Local Advisory Council held on January 10, 2023, wherein the Local Advisory Council was given 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 the Berrien County Board of Commissioners on [REDACTED].

5. Local Advisory Council Composition - Rule 202

Berrien County Public Transportation’s Local Advisory Council is currently comprised of seven (7) 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 Berrien County Public Transportation. Berrien County Public 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. Berrien County Public Transportation further ensures that at least one member of its Local Advisory Council (or one of every eight members, whichever is larger) is approved jointly with the area agency on aging. Berrien County Public Transportation further ensures that its Local Advisory Council membership will include people who have diverse disabilities and seniors who are users of public transportation. Berrien County Public Transportation’s Local Advisory Council is, at the time of adoption and submission of this plan, composed of the following members:

1. ChairPerson's Name*
Affiliation (Name of organization, if any)*

This member represents * **Persons with Disabilities** **Persons 60 years and older** **Neither of these groups**

This member is Jointly appointed by an area agency on aging A user of public transportation None of these groups
 Age 60 and older A person with disabilities

2 Name *
Affiliation (Name of organization, if any)*

This member represents * **Persons with Disabilities** **Persons 60 years and older** **Neither of these groups**

This member is Jointly appointed by an area agency on aging A user of public transportation None of these groups
 Age 60 and older A person with disabilities

3 Name *
Affiliation (Name of organization, if any)*

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This member represents **Persons with Disabilities** **Persons 60 years and older** **Neither of these groups**

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

Berrien County Public Transportation’s demand response vehicle inventory presently in service is as follows:

Lift/ramp equipped vehicles:

<u>Local ID #</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Seating w+wheelchair (without wheelchair)</u>	<u>FTA Service Classification</u>
51	2011	Chrysler	3+1 (5)	Small Light Duty Van
52	2012	Champion	10+2 (16)	Ltdty Cutaway Small Bus
53	2013	Champion	10+2 (16)	Ltdty Cutaway Small Bus
54	2014	Eldorado National	18+2 (24)	Medium Duty Bus
55	2014	Eldorado National	18+2 (24)	Medium Duty Bus
56	2014	Eldorado National	18+2 (24)	Medium Duty Bus
57	2015	Eldorado National	18+2 (24)	Medium Duty Bus
58	2015	Eldorado National	15+2 (21)	Medium Duty Bus
59	2018	Eldorado National	18+2 (22)	Medium Duty Bus
60	2018	Eldorado National	18+2 (22)	Medium Duty Bus
61	2018	Eldorado National	18+2 (22)	Medium Duty Bus
62	2018	Eldorado National	18+2 (22)	Medium Duty Bus
63	2018	Eldorado National	10+4 (20)	Medium Duty Bus
64	2019	Eldorado National	6+3 (14)	Ltdty Cutaway Small Bus
65	2019	Eldorado National	6+3 (14)	Ltdty Cutaway Small Bus
66	2019	Eldorado National	6+3 (14)	Ltdty Cutaway Small Bus
67	2019	Eldorado National	6+3 (14)	Ltdty Cutaway Small Bus
68	2019	Eldorado National	6+3 (14)	Ltdty Cutaway Small Bus

- a. Number of demand response vehicles presently in service purchased using Comprehensive Transportation Fund monies = 18
- b. Number of accessible demand response vehicles presently in service purchased using Comprehensive Transportation Fund monies = 18

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

Berrien County Public 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 = 18
- b. Number of accessible demand response vehicles in agency’s anticipated fleet which will be purchased using Comprehensive Transportation Fund monies = 18

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

As indicated above, the agency currently operates or plans to operate a total of 18 demand response vehicles. Of these vehicles, the total number that will be fully accessible to seniors and individuals with disabilities is 18 vehicles. The reason for operating or planning to operate this number of accessible vehicles is anticipated that BCPT can service the peak demand level with 18 vehicles. All will be accessible to allow for better utilization of the fleet.

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

Berrien County Public 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	60 or older/Disabled Peak	60 or older/Disabled Non-Peak
Demand Response	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$2.50

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

For demand-response service, Berrien County Public Transportation’s Service Area is: All of Berrien County excluding the Twin Cities Urbanized area and the Niles Urbanized area.

Refer to the attached map of Berrien County Public Transportation’s service area, depicting Berrien County Public Transportation’s service area and routes.

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

Berrien County Public Transportation’s current service schedules, including hours of day and days per week for demand response service is as follows:

Monday – Friday from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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

Upon request, Berrien County Public Transportation shall 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)

Berrien County Public Transportation does not make demand-response service vehicles available for use during hours or days other than regular service hours and days. Berrien

County Public 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)

Berrien County Public 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)

Berrien County Public Transportation has no constraints on capacity and restrictions on trip purpose.

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

Berrien County Public Transportation’s Local Advisory Council members made the following comments about this plan:

Will fill in after the LAC review.

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

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

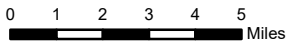
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN TRANSIT SERVICE AREAS AND FIXED ROUTES

TRANSIT SERVICE AREAS

- Berrien Bus
- Niles Dial-a-Ride
- Twin Cities Area Transit Authority (TCATA)
- Urban Area Without Service

FIXED ROUTES

- TCATA Red Route
- TCATA Blue Route
- Niles Dial-A-Ride



Data Sources
 Base Layers: MGF, v17a
 Transit Areas & Bus Routes: SWMPC, 2022

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

The use of this map is for general reference purposes. It is not a legal document.



December 06, 2022

