



REGIONAL TRANSIT STUDY



What's It All About?

- First regional study of public transit
- Comprehensive study
 - Whole TMACOG region
 - All transit **services in the region**
- Multi-layered approach



What's It All About?

- Focus on **Identifying Unmet Needs**
 - Is Transit Working for this Region?
- Educating public on transit options



Our Sponsors

Ability Center of Greater Toledo
Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio

Township of Bedford

City of Oregon

City of Perrysburg

City of Toledo

Board of Lucas County Commissioners

Lake Erie Transit

Board of Monroe County Commissioners

Owens Community College

Regional Growth Partnership

Township of Springfield

Township of Sylvania

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council Of Governments (TMACOG)

Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA)

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

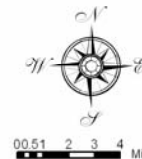
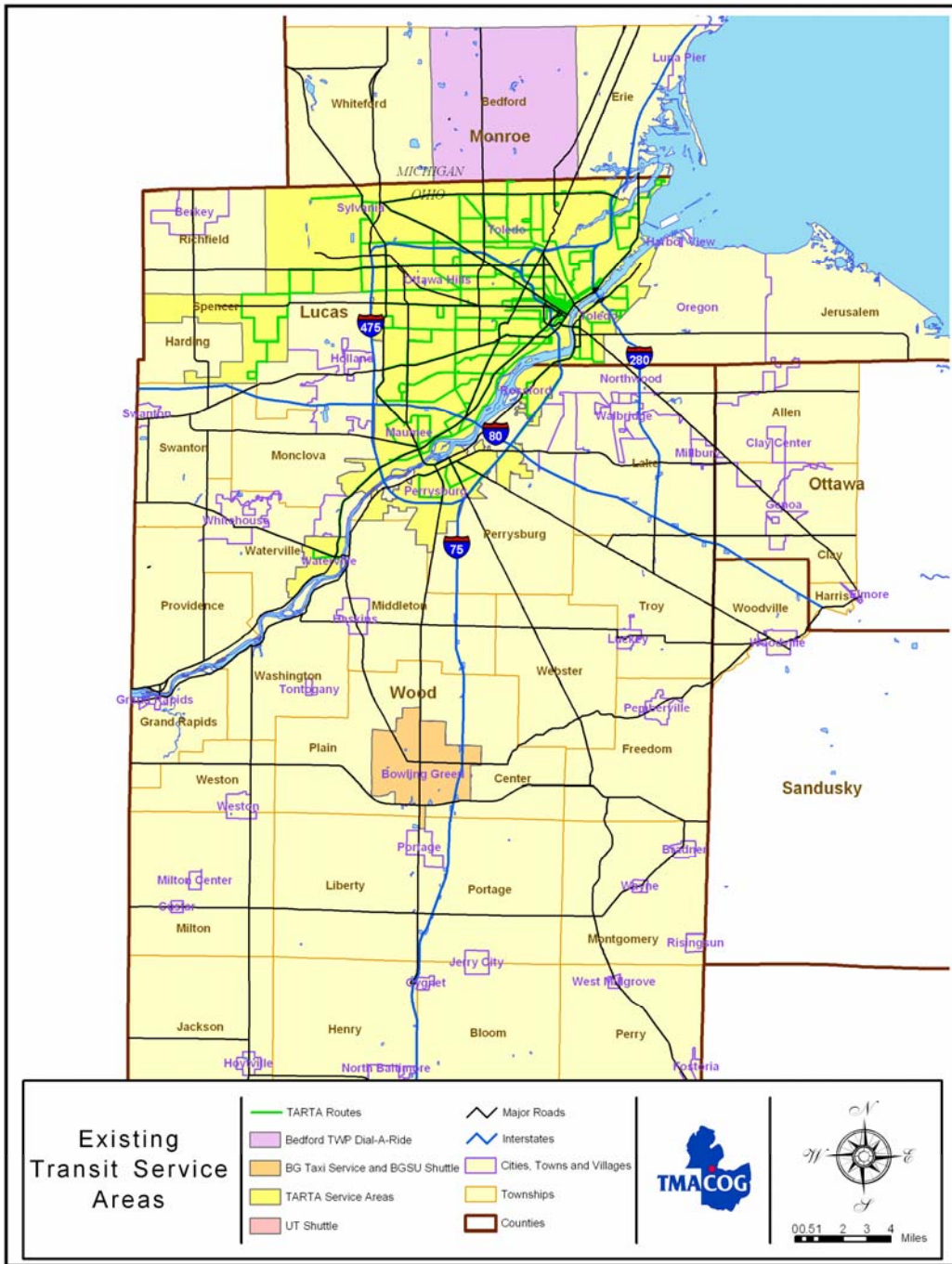
United Way of Greater Toledo



Transit Here and Now



- **TARTA-TARPS** (including Perrysburg, Maumee & Sylvania call-a-rides)
- **UT & BGSU** Bus services
- **Bedford Township Dial-a-Ride**
- **Bowling Green Transit (Taxi)**
- **CommuterLINK**
- **Various Agency-Sponsored Services** (including Office on Aging-funded)



Public Input, Regional Analysis

Public Input

- Telephone Survey
- Informational Survey
- Public Meetings
- Outreach Events
- Focus Groups
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Project Web Site



Quantitative Research

- Assessment of Regional Transit Systems
- Analysis of Regional Transit Market
- Estimate of Unmet Transit Demand

Community Leader Interviews included...

Wayman Usher, Lucas Co. Economic Development:

- *Lack of transit has hurt attraction of industry.*

Diana LaBiche, Toledo Area Urban League:

- *Clients lose job opportunities due to lack of transit.*

Steve Nathanson, Mercy Health Partners:

- *East Toledo residents can't get to St. Charles.*

Althea Williams, NFO (research firm in Northwood):

- *Hard to find and keep entry-level staff.*



Focus Groups included...

- Hispanic/Latino community
- Non-transit users
- Lucas Metro Housing Authority residents
- Lott Industries
- Senior Center
- Monroe County area business leaders

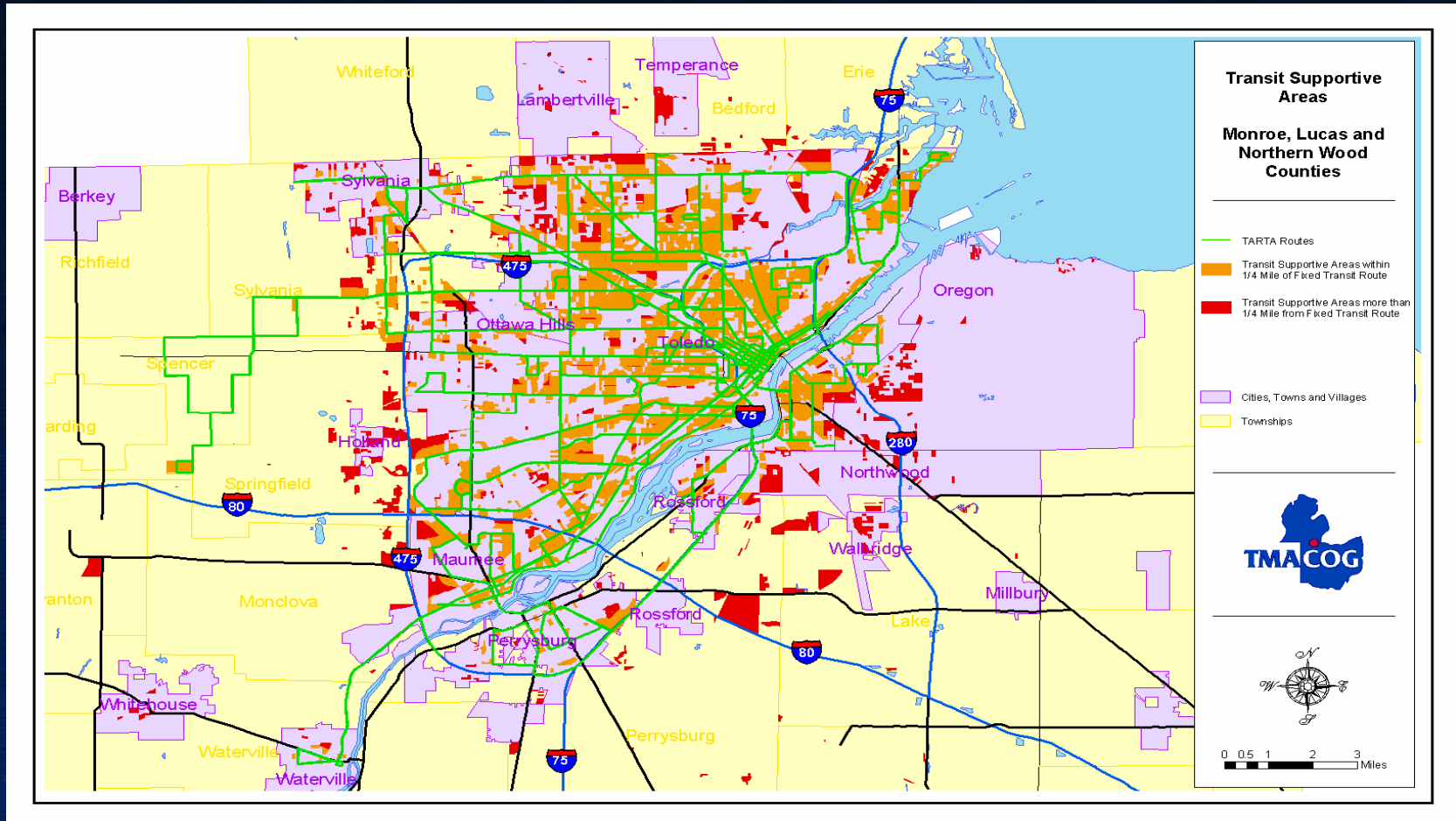


Is Transit Working for the Region? No!

- 90% of the region has no access to “regional network”
- 57% of all jobs are not served
- 47% of the population is not served



Is Transit Working for the Region? No!



• 31% of denser "transit supportive" areas not served



Cathleen Nelson, President, St. Charles Mercy Hospital, Oregon



“Lack of bus service to St. Charles has been a concern for years. There are people who simply can’t get here.”

Transit would be a significant benefit to patients, visitors, and employees.”

Is Transit Working for the Region? No!

- 14% of all residents aged 65+ not served by transit
- Growing elderly and disabled populations



Phyllis Hallock, Oregon resident Oregon Senior Citizens Center



“There are a lot of seniors that really need transportation. They call the center and want the van to take them to the doctor across the river – but it can’t.”

Gil Lutz Sight Center

“There are lots of us that don’t have the luxury of hopping in a car and going where we want.

Area wide reliable, timely transit is extremely important – so we can live normal lives!”



Is Transit Working for the Region? No!

- Lack of evening, night, weekend, holiday service:
 - prevents access to many jobs
- Lack of direct routing, infrequent service:
 - excessive travel times
 - poor access to essential services



Scott Schifferly, Manager, Wendy's Restaurants

*“We have trouble getting
and keeping employees
at locations without
transit.”*



Sonte Martin, Nursing Student Owens Community College

“I need the bus to get to school, and I take it every day.”



Is Transit Working for the Region? No!

- **Airport access:**
 - Service to Toledo Airport recently initiated
 - No service to Detroit Airport
- **Connections between transit systems—lacking or limited**



Becca Ferguson, Human Resources Bowling Green State University

“A transit connection to Perrysburg and Toledo would be a great advantage for BGSU – for attracting both students and staff.”



Dr. David Nixon, President, Monroe Community College



“A surprisingly large number of students have a potential need for bus service to and from campus, including those taking courses at the Whitman Center in Bedford.”

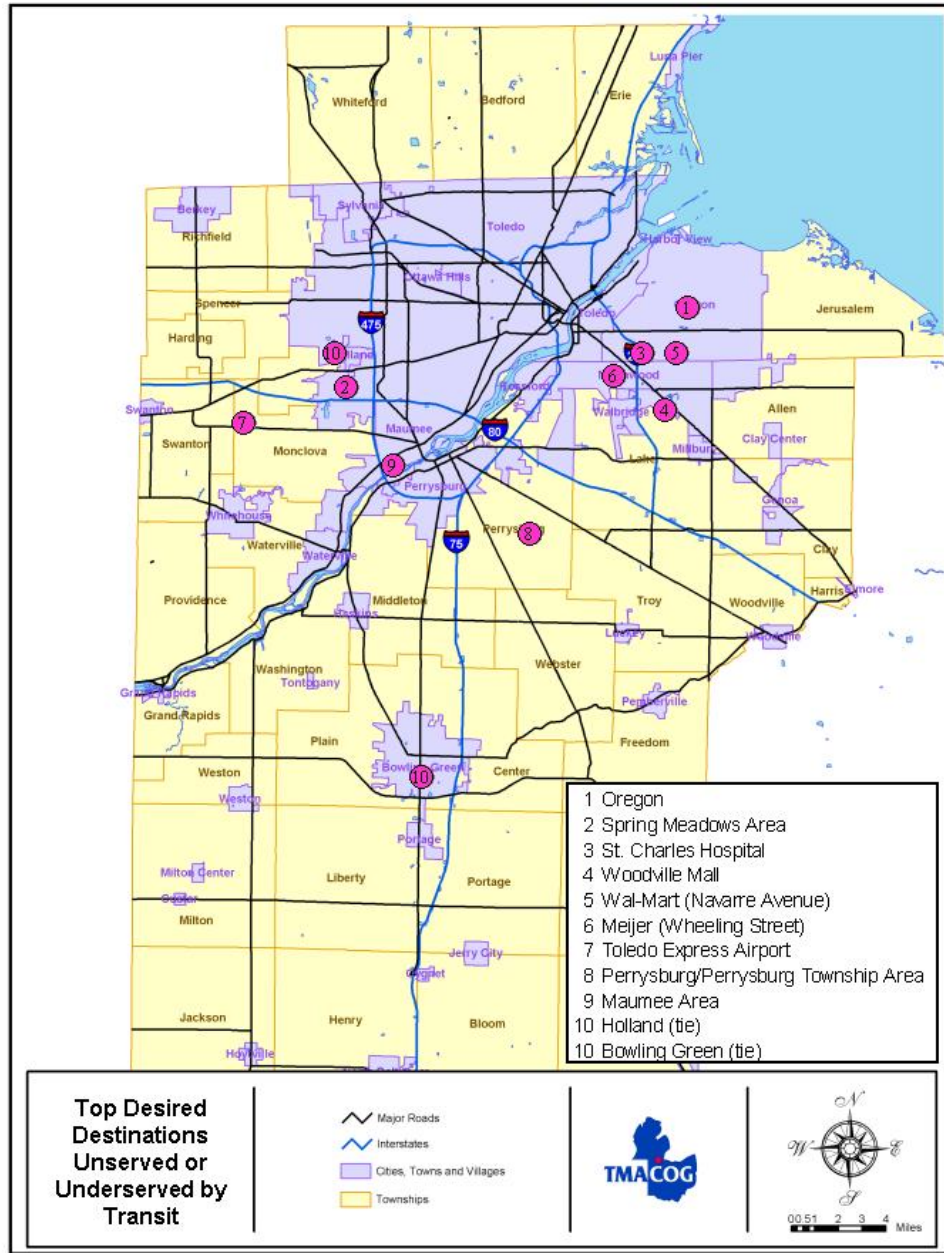


Is Transit Working for the Region? No!

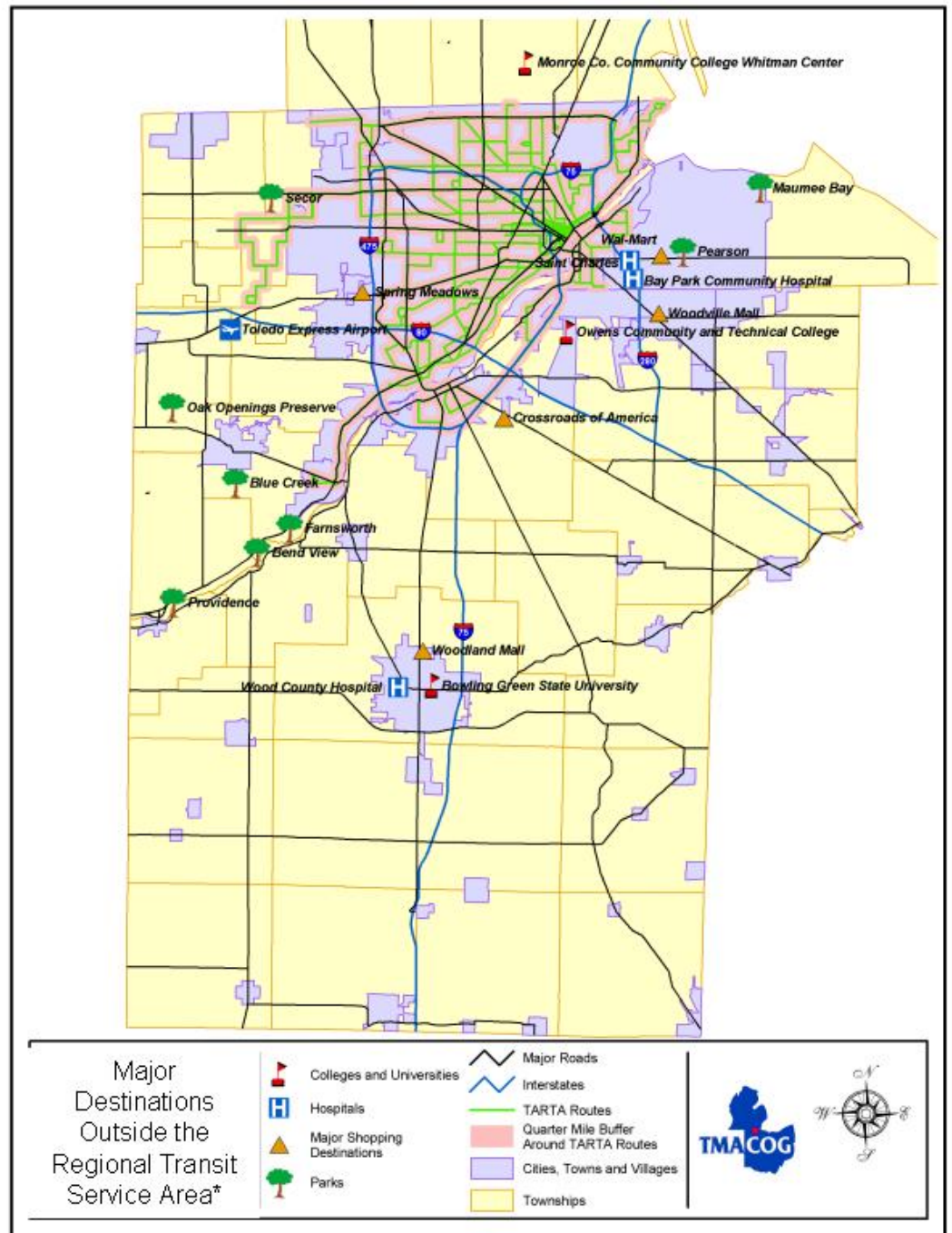
- Full coverage with frequent service could produce as many as 10,000 new daily transit trips



Top 10 Unserved/ Underserved Destinations

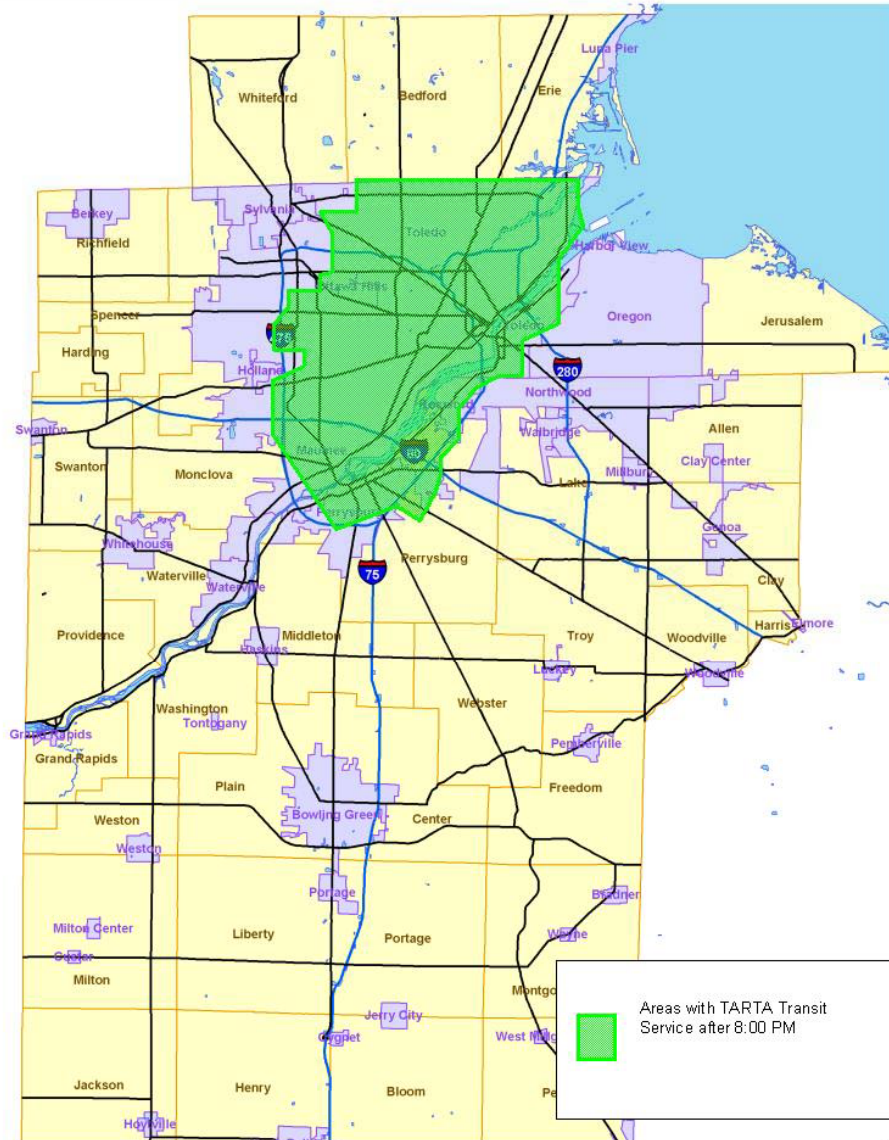


Major Destinations Outside the Transit Network



*The TARTA network, which represents the region's only large-scale, regional transit network

Time of Day Concerns



Areas with TARTA Transit Service after 8:00 PM

<p>Time of Day Service Concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Major Roads  Interstates  Cities, Towns and Villages  Townships 		 <p>0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles</p>
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Recommendations:

Existing Transit Area / Short Term

1) Investigate options and fund:

- Add crosstown routes—TARTA area
- Add / expand evening, night, weekend, & holiday service—all areas
- Increase frequency—all areas
- Expand Bedford Dial-a-Ride & add more links to TARTA



Recommendations:

Existing Transit Area / Short Term

- 2) Work with stakeholders to coordinate transportation—senior citizen, workforce development, Medicare, & social service agencies
- 3) Keep providing ADA-compliant Paratransit to growing disabled population in transit areas



Recommendations:

Existing Transit Area / Short Term

- 4) Improve transit marketing / public information
- 5) Work with local governments to improve sidewalks & ped access to bus stops



Recommendations:

Existing Transit Area / Longer Term

- 1) Add connection between Bedford and Monroe City
- 2) Add connection between Bowling Green and metro area



Recommendations:

New Transit Areas / Short Term

1) Work with local stakeholders to investigate alternatives for providing service;

Pursue new service: Oregon area, Northwood, Holland/Springfield Twp & Perrysburg Twp



Recommendations:

New Transit Areas / Longer Term

- 1) Operate & fund Transit as county-wide or multi-county system, allowing areas of need to be served
- 2) Pursue coordination & connectivity with adjoining rural transit systems (Ottawa County, etc.)



Next steps:

- TMACOG approved recommendations 9-15-04
- Stakeholder endorsements
- Work with stakeholders on recommended changes
- Secure resources & implement changes



Your comments and questions....



***THANKS FOR BEING PART OF
THIS REGIONAL EFFORT!!***

