PRESENTATION

Designated Stop...Bringing Mobility to Rural PA

APA PA Annual Conference October 14, 2024



Agenda

- Public Transit in Pennsylvania
- Project Overview and Objectives
- What is a Designated Stop Program?
- Route Planning Process
- Route Concepts and Refinement
- Implementation

- Public transportation is available in every county in Pennsylvania
- More and more PA residents are relying on public transportation
- PA offers programs to make transportation accessible to everyone

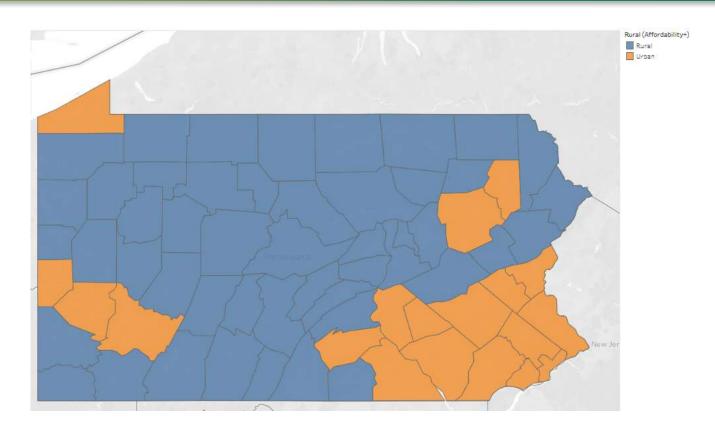




Key Facts:

- In 2020, nearly 3.4 million people, or about 26 percent of the state's 13.0 million residents, lived in Pennsylvania's 48 rural counties.
- Average HH income (2020) in rural PA was \$72k. About 38 percent of rural HH's had incomes below \$50k.
- In 2040, an estimated 25 percent of the total rural population will be 65 years old and older.

Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania, US Census Bureau



Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Importance of Transit in Small Towns and Rural Areas

Connecting people to:

- Jobs
- Services
- Healthcare
- Goods
- Recreation



Challenges of Transit Planning in Small Towns and Rural Areas

- Types of need
- Demand
- Distances/accessibility
- Densities
- Geographic challenges:
 - Weather effects on road conditions
 - Steep hills and mountain passes
- Limited Resources/Staff





- **Fixed Route**: Service provided on a repetitive, fixed schedule along a specific route to specific locations.
- Non Fixed Route: Service <u>not</u> provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule along a specific route to specific locations.
 - Demand response / Shared Ride

Project Overview and Objectives

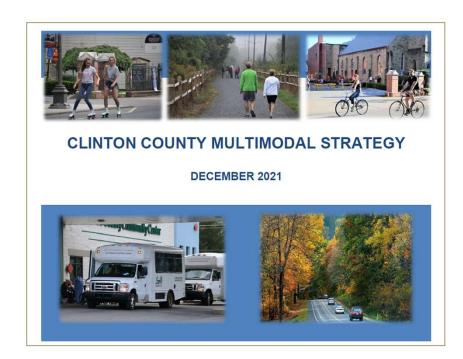


Project Overview & Objectives

- PennDOT BPT initiated a transit study in 2022 to develop a potential Designated Stop Program in Clinton County in cooperation with STEP
- Confirm and build upon recommendations of the Clinton County Mobility Study
- Fill a gap in transit need in the County resulting from a lack of fixed route service

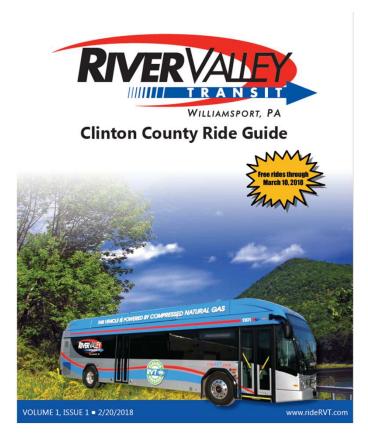
Previous Efforts

- Clinton County Mobility Study
 - Concluded December 2021
 - Recommendation to obtain technical assistance from PennDOT to evaluate the "designated one-stop concept" for applicability in Clinton County



Previous Efforts

- River Valley Transit Pilot
 - RVT began operating the Clinton County service in March 2018 as a fixed route demonstration service
 - Two routes:
 - Clinton County Express: Limited stop service between Williamsport and Lock Haven, during morning and afternoon peaks.
 - The Clinton County Connector: Circulator service within the Lock Haven community. Modified in 2019 to shuttle students between Lock Haven University's main campus and it's downtown "East Campus."
 - Service discontinued after pilot period



What is a Designated Stop Program?

- Provide service to fixed stops using existing shared ride trips and vehicles
- Open to the general public, with advance reservation



Route Planning Process



Route Development

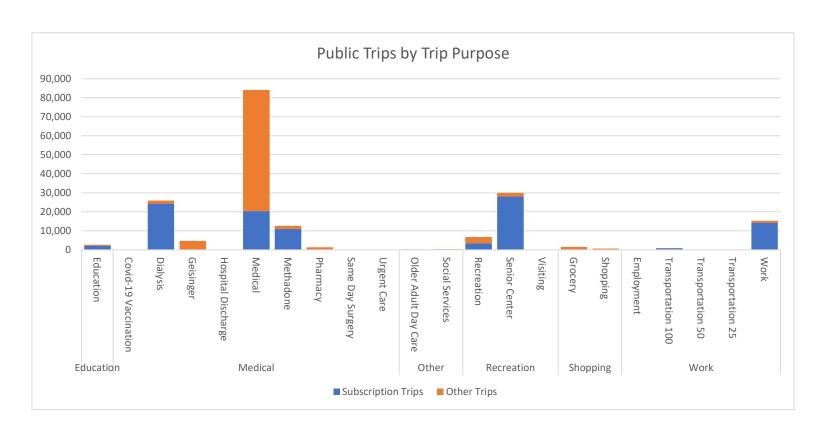
- Review of shared-ride trip data
- RVT pilot service ridership data
- Stakeholder committee feedback
- GIS analysis of regional demographics

Data Observations

- 5 years of trip data, both pre- and post-Covid (2016-2021)
- Initial review of
 - Trip Purposes
 - Key Destinations
 - Travel Patterns between Destinations

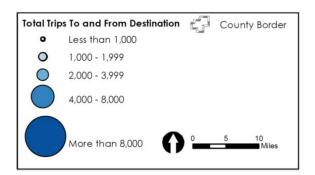
Trip Purposes

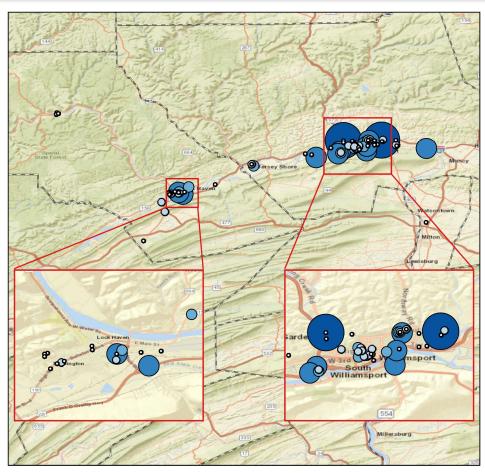
Trip Purposes for Public Trips



Key Destinations

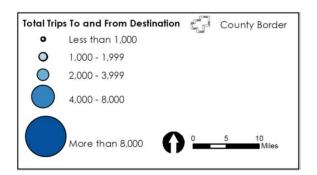
- Top 50 named destinations for the STEP service area
- Concentrated in Lock Haven and Williamsport
- Trip purposes similar to the previous slide

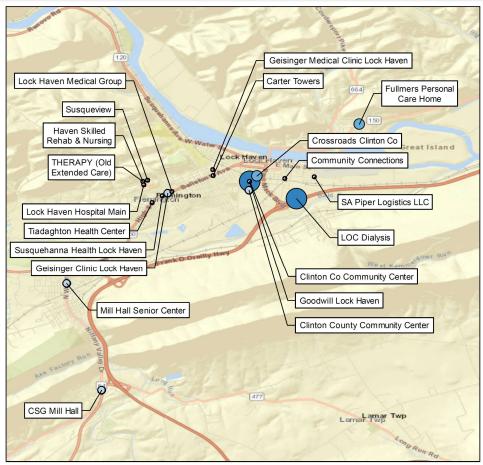




Key Destinations

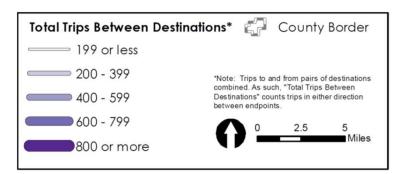
- 20 of top destinations in Lock Haven
 - Medical services (hospitals, outpatient services, and dialysis)
 - Senior housing
 - Community activity centers

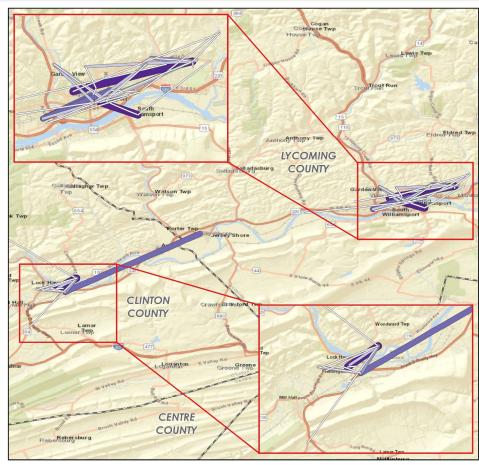




Key Destinations

- Top 50 pairs of named origins & destinations
- Travel concentrated within cities and nearby towns



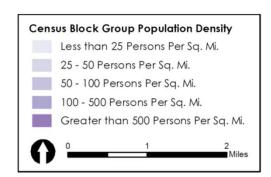


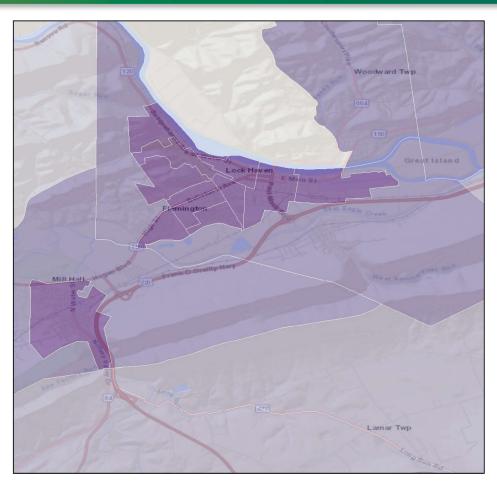
Stakeholder Feedback

- Meetings with local stakeholders to determine local transit needs was crucial in developing route concepts
- Points of discussion included:
 - Desired areas of service
 - · Remote areas, such as Loganton, Lamar, and Renovo
 - Points of interest
 - Major employers, such as SA Piper Logistics and Nicholas Meats
 - Commercial access throughout the region, such as Mill Hall Shopping Center
 - Populations with transit need
 - Clinton County youth

Demographics

- Examined demographic data for the region
- Target designated stops to areas with high transit propensity
- Population density (right)
- Other demographics: Income; Race; Households without cars; etc





Route Concepts and Refinement



Route Concepts

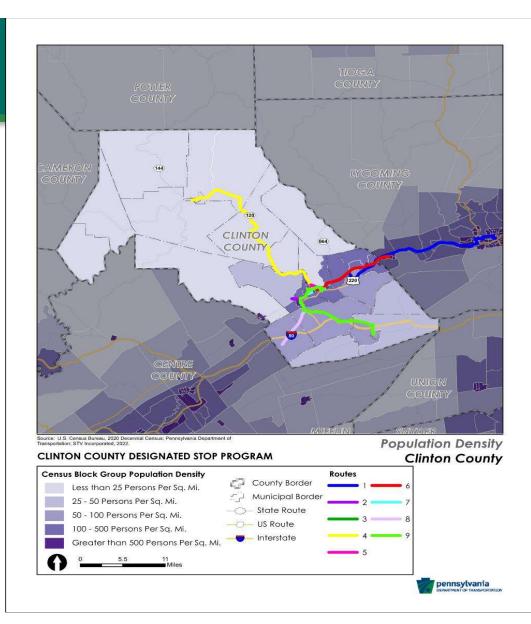
Route	Target Geographic Market	Relevant Destinations	Route Description	Potential Service Days
1	Williamsport	Downtown Williamsport Trade Transit Center Connection to Lock Haven	Lock Haven to Williamsport via Route 220	Monday through Friday
2	Central Mountain High School	Central Mountain High School Mill Hall Shopping Center Mill Hall Pool (Summer only) Downtown Lock Haven	Central Mountain HS to Mill Hall and Lock Haven	Monday through Friday
3	Walmart / Mill Hall	Mill Hall Shopping Center Downtown Lock Haven Dunnstown	Mill Hall to Lock Haven and Dunnstown	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
4	Renovo	Town of Renovo Renovo Community & Recreation centers Connection to Lock Haven	Renovo to Lock Haven	Monday through Friday
5	Lock Haven University / Mill Hall	Lock Haven University / East Campus Downtown Lock Haven Mill Hall Shopping Center	LHU to Downtown Lock Haven and Mill Hall	Monday through Friday
6	Jersey Shore	Mill Hall Shopping Center Downtown Lock Haven Jersey Shore Hospital / Manor Care	Lock Haven to Dunnstown, Avis, and Jersey Shore	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
7	SA Piper/Clinton County Administrative Office	SA Piper Logistics Clinton County Administrative Office Downtown Lock Haven	Piper Airport to First Quality, via Lock Haven	Monday through Friday
8	Lamar	Lamar Connection to Lock Haven	Lamar to Mill Hall and Lock Haven	Tuesday, Friday
9	Loganton / Sugar Valley	Loganton / Sugar Valley Connection to Lock Haven	Loganton to Mill Hall and Lock Haven	Tuesday, Thursday

Demographic Overlay Results

- The preliminary route concepts were overlaid on Census demographic data to visualize how well the proposed routes serve transit-dependent populations
- Demographic data includes:
 - Population density
 - Zero-car households
 - Low-income populations
 - Under 18 population
 - Minority population

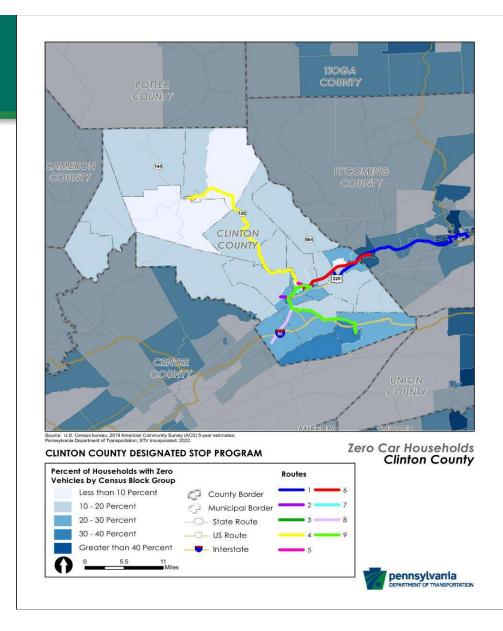
Population Density

- Populations of Concern
 - Greater than 500 Persons Per Square Mile
 - Lock Haven (served by all routes)
 - Mill Hall (served by Routes 3, 5, and 6)
 - Avis (served by Route 6)
 - 100-500 Persons Per Square Mile
 - Dunnstown (served by Route 3 and 6)
 - 50-100 Persons Per Square Mile
 - Lamar (served by Route 8)
 - Loganton (served by Route 9)



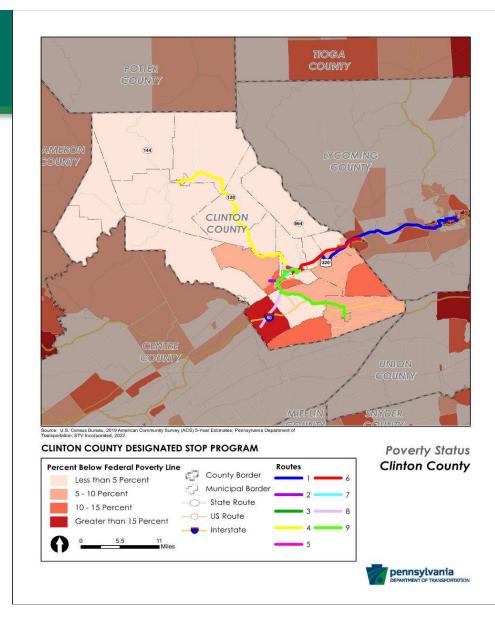
Zero-Car Households

- Populations of Concern
 - More Than 40% of Residents Do Not
 Own a Car
 - Lock Haven (served by all routes)
 - 30-40% of Residents Do Not Own a Car
 - Mill Hall (served by Routes 3, 5, and 6)
 - · Avis (served by Route 6)
 - Loganton (served by Route 9)
 - 20-30% of Residents Do Not Own a Car
 - Most of the towns along Route 220 and 80 between Loganton, Lamar, and Mill Hall (Route 9 could be extended to serve these towns)



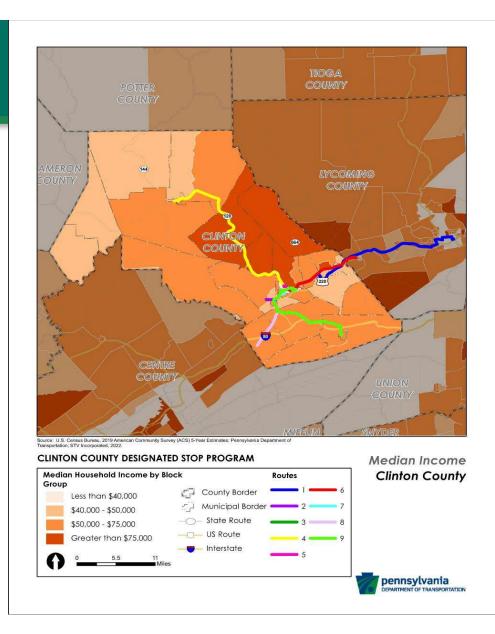
Poverty Status

- Populations of Concern
 - Greater than 15% Below Federal Poverty Line
 - Lock Haven (served by all routes)
 - 10-15% Below Federal Poverty Line
 - Avis (served by Route 6)
 - 5-10% Below Federal Poverty Line
 - Mill Hall (served by Routes 3, 5, and 6)



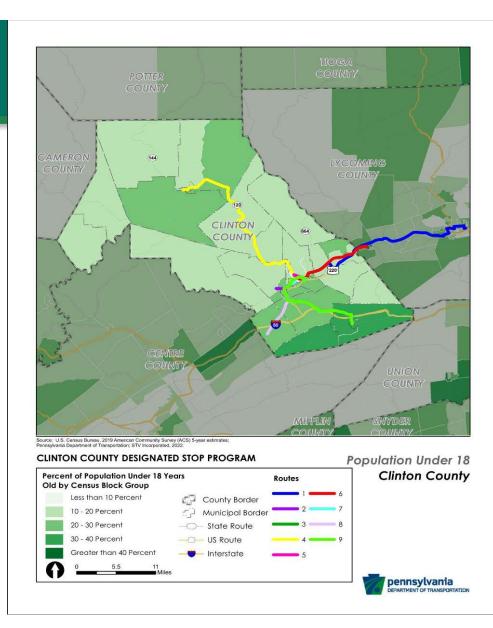
Median Income

- Populations of Concern
 - Less than \$40,000
 - Lock Haven (served by all routes)
 - **—** \$50,000**-**\$75,000
 - Mill Hall (served by Routes 3, 5, and 6)
 - Lamar (served by Route 8)
 - Loganton (served by Route 9)



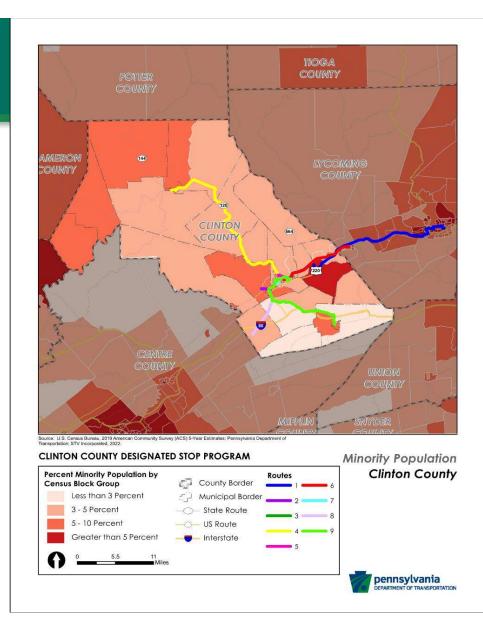
Under 18 Population

- Populations of Concern
 - 30-40% of Population Under 18
 - Loganton (served by route 9)
 - 20-30% of Population Under 18
 - Mill Hall (served by Routes 3, 5, and 6)
 - Lamar (served by Route 8)
 - East Lock Haven (served by all routes)



Minority Population

- Populations of Concern
 - Greater than 5% Minority Population
 - Wayne Township
 - West Lock Haven (served by all Routes)
 - **—** \$50,000**-**\$75,000
 - Mill Hall (served by Routes 3, 5, and 6)
 - Loganton (served by Route 9)
 - East Lock Haven (served by all Routes)



Route Refinement

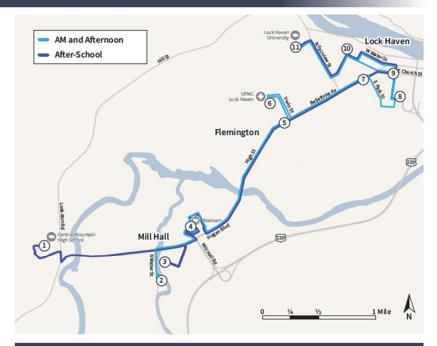
- Refinements to the preliminary route proposals based on stakeholder feedback
- Determine 3 routes to advance
- Development of trip schedules and patterns
- Identification of specific transit stops, based on streetscape conditions and operational feasibility discussed with STEP operators

Mill Hall to Lock Haven route

- Service to run Monday through
 Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Key stops include Mill Hall Senior Center, Walmart, Central Mountain High School, UPMC Lock Haven, and Lock Haven University Main Campus.

Clinton County Designated Stop Program Mill Hall to Lock Haven





	Available Monday - Friday																					
Eastbound Mill Hall to Lock Haven											Westbound Lock Haven to Mill Hall											
Central Mountain High	Mill Hall Senior Center	Mill Hall Community Pool	Mill Hall Walmart	High & Allison	UPMC Lock Haven	Bellefonte & Commerce	2222	Church & Vesper	LHU East	LHU Main	LHU Main	LHU East	Church & Vesper	CCCC	Bellefonte & Commerce	UPMC Lock Haven	High & Allison	Mill Hall Walmart	Mill Hall Community Pool	Mill Hall Senior Center	Central Mountain High	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	1	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	0	
-	8:00	-	8:05	8:11	8:14	8:19	8:24	8:27	8:31	8:35	10:00	10:04	10:08	10:11	10:16	10:21	10:24	10:30	10:33	10:35		
•	12:00	12:02	12:05	12:11	12:14	12:19	12:24	12:27	12:31	12:35	2:00	2:04	2:08	2:11	2:16	2:21	2:24	2:30	2:33	2:35	-	
4:00	-	4:06	4:09	4:15	-	4:19		422	4:26	4:30												
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School Year Only, Bolded denotes Summer Season Only,

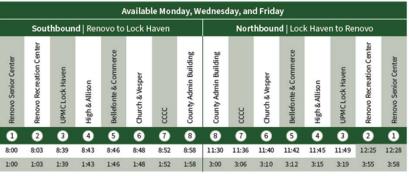
Renovo to Lock Haven route

- Service to run Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- Key stops include the Renovo Senior Center, UPMC Lock Haven, and Clinton County Community Center.

Clinton County Designated Stop Program Renovo to Lock Haven







Lock Haven to Williamsport route

- Service to run from Monday through Thursday from 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM.
- Key stops include UPMC
 Lock Haven, Jersey Shore
 Hospital, UPMC
 Williamsport, and Divine
 Providence Hospitals.

Clinton County Designated Stop Program Lock Haven to Jersey Shore and Williamsport





	Available Monday - Thursday																										
	Eastbound Lock Haven to Williamsport											Westbound Williamsport to Lock Haven															
UPMC Lock Haven	High & Allison	Bellefonte & Commerce	Church & Vesper	2222	Bald Eagle & Hanna	Fullmer's Personal Care Home	UPMC Bald Eagle Court	Brady & W. Central	Jersey Shore Hospital	NCSS	UPMC Williamsport	Trade & Transit Center	Divine Providence Hospital	Divine Providence Hospital	Trade & Transit Center	UPMC Williamsport	NCSS	Jersey Shore Hospital	Brady & W. Central	UPMC Bald Eagle Court	Fullmer's Personal Care Home	Bald Eagle & Hanna	2000	Church & Vesper	Bellefonte & Commerce	High & Allison	UPMC Lock Haven
1	2	3	4	5	6	0	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	0
6:00	6:03	6:07	6:09	6:12	6:17	6:21	6:29	6:36	6:45	7:05	7:14	7:21	7:30	8:00	8:09	8:16	8:25	8:45	8:54	9:01	9:09	9:13	9:18	9:21	9:23	9:27	9:30
10:00	10:03	10:07	10:09	10:12	10:17	10:21	10:29	10:36	10:45	11:05	11:14	11:21	11:30	12:00	12:09	12:16	12:25	12:45	12:54	1:01	1:09	1:13	1:18	1:21	1:23	1:27	1:30
2:00	2:03	2:07	2:09	2:12	2:17	2:21	2:29	2:36	2:45	3:05	3:14	3:21	3:30	4:00	4:09	4:16	4:25	4:45	4:54	5:01	5:09	5:13	5:18	5:21	5:23	5:27	5:30

Timetable Notes: Shaded times denote PM.

Pathway to Independent Living

Marketing

Social Media Posts



New STEP public transit service is coming to Clinton County! STEP will be rolling out a Designated Stop Program with routes to Renovo, Mill Hall, and all the way to Williamsport.

Anyone can ride for only \$2.00 per trip!

Visit STEP's website for more service launch information www.stepcorp.org/dsp.

#NewTransitThursday #STEPpingForward



Our first new Designated Stop Program public transit route is launching Monday, October 3rd!

The Mill Hall to Lock Haven route will run Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and make stops at @CentralMountainHighSchool, @Walmart2528, @LockHavenUniv, and more.

Visit STEP's website for more service launch information www.stepcorp.org/dsp.

#NewTransitThursday #STEPpingForward



Starting October 3rd, you will be able to schedule a Designated Stop Program public transit ride to travel between Mill Hall, Flemington, and Lock Haven. Schedule a ride by calling (570) 326-0587 or by visiting www.stepcorp.org/ride.

Visit STEP's website for more service launch information www.stepcorp.org/dsp.

#NewTransitThursday #STEPpingForward



STEP Transportation is launching a new Designated Stop Program in Clinton County with the first new route service beginning on October 3, 2022.

New routes, service start dates, and details below, Visit www.stepcorp.org/dsp for more information.

Mill Hall to Lock Haven

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Key stops

- · Central Mountain High School
- Walmart
- UPMC Lock Haven
- · Lock Haven University Main Campus

Starting October 3, 2022

Renovo to Lock Haven

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Key stops

- Renovo Recreation Center
- UMPC Lock Haven
- · Clinton County Community Center

Starting November 14, 2022

Lock Haven to Williamsport

Monday - Thursday 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Key stops

- UMPC Lock Haven
- · Jersey Shore Hospital
- · UPMC Williamsport

Starting January 9, 2023

Advanced reservations required to ride

Reservations must be scheduled by 2:00 PM the business day prior to the requested date of travel. Schedule a ride by calling (570) 326-0587 or by visiting www.stepcorp.org/ride.

Clinton County Designated Stop Program

Visit www.stepcorp.org to learn what STEP can do for you!



Implementation



About STEP, Inc. & Community Action



is one of 1,100 Community Action Agencies nationwide and a member of the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania.

- 3rd largest of 43 operating solely in Pennsylvania
- Access to Community Services Block Grant funds
- Opportunities to access & leverage other funding
- Coordination: local, state, national



About STEP Transportation

- STEP Transportation is the public transportation provider designated to provide shared-ride transportation services for residents of Lycoming & Clinton counties.
- In addition to Lycoming and Clinton counties, STEP provides transportation services to medical facilities in Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union, Snyder, and Centre counties, as well as medical assistance trips to facilities throughout Pennsylvania upon referral and trips to veterans facilities outside of STEP's Core Service Area for qualified veterans.
- The service area of 5,004 square miles is three times the size of the state of Rhode Island and 23% greater than the size of Rhode Island and Delaware combined.



Transportation Services

- Shared-Ride Paratransit Services
- Mileage Vouchers (MATP Program)
- Bus Pass Assistance (MATP Program)



What Shared-Ride Transportation IS and IS NOT



Shared-Ride
 Transportation IS
 Door-to-Door service.
 Your driver will pick
 you up along the way
 to your requested
 location arriving by
 your designated time.



Shared-Ride
 Transportation
 IS NOT Point A to
 Point B service.
 We pick up and
 take multiple
 people to multiple
 places.

STEP Transportation Flagship Programs

- Senior Shared-Ride (SSR) Ages 65 & Older
- Medical Assistance Transportation Program Medical trips for eligible residents, ages 0-64
- Area Agency on Aging Program Ages 60-64, funded by STEP Office of Aging
- **Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Program** Ages 18-64 with verifiable disability
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Program Ages 18-64 with verifiable disability who live along bus routes, contracted through River Valley Transit

In addition, funding for services is provided by:

- Veterans Trust Fund/American Rescue Workers
- Nursing Homes
- UPMC Hospital Discharge
- Geisinger Medical Center in partnership with RabbitTransit

Why do people use STEP Transportation?

Education

Hospitals

Shopping/Grocery

Pharmacy

Work

Medical

Dialysis

Methadone Clinics

Senior Center

Social Services



STEP Transportation Fast Facts



STEP provided 82,949 shared-ride trips.

Equating to an average of 333 trips per day!



STEP provided assistance for 4,851 mileage reimbursement & bus pass trips.

Economic Impact of STEP Transportation



2,716 consumers received transportation services. Equating a transportation cost savings of **\$2,485,693**.

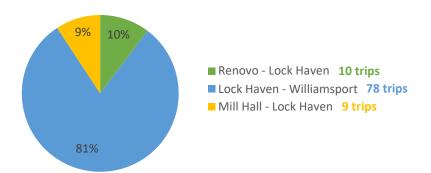


154 consumers received mileage reimbursement & bus pass assistance.

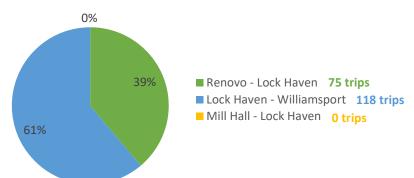
Equating a transportation cost savings of \$41,495.

By the Numbers | Trips by Route

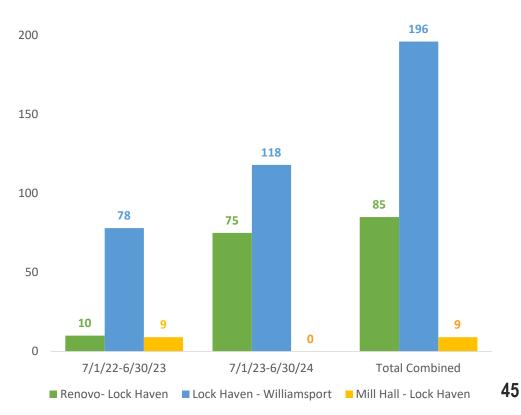




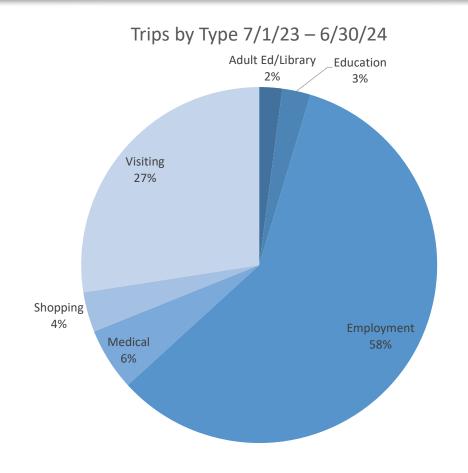
Trips by Route 7/1/23 - 6/30/24

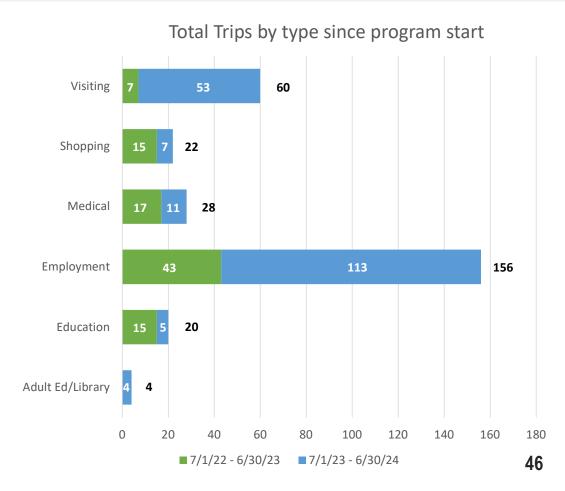


Total Trips by Route – All Timeframes



By the Numbers | Trips by Type





What's Next

- Review Expansion of Service Times
- Review and Expand Possible Routes Loganton?
- Adjust Routes Based on Usage Pool Complex?
- Add Additional Stops based on Usage
- Continue to Work with PennDOT on Other Options for Transportation in Lycoming & Clinton Counties.