Mobile and Socially Connected

engAGEment Fostered by Transportation Access

Briana Smith, General Manager, Lou Go’s & Red Apple Transit
Peg McDonough, Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
March 19, 2020
Webinar Instructions

• **Audio options**
  o Use your computer speakers, **OR**
  o Dial in to the conference call
  o All participants are muted

• **“Questions” box**
  o Q&A session will be at the end of the presentation, but feel free to submit your questions at any time during the presentation. Click on the dropdown arrow icon “▼” to pop out the questions box where you can type and submit your questions.

• **Technical issues**
  o Due to increased demand on tele-work platforms, we may experience technical issues during the webinar. We assure you we are working to mitigate and correct any possible interference.
engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults

• Promotes and provides opportunities to improve the rates of social engagement in older adults.
• Supports the Aging Network with information about emerging trends, resources, and replication strategies that can be used in their communities.
• Educates and informs about innovative engagement approaches and programming.
• Collaborates with diverse organizations to develop and promote engagement opportunities through a wide variety of channels.
Presenters

- Briana Smith, General Manager
  - Lou Go’s & Red Apple Transit
  - Farmington, NM

- Peg McDonough, Planner
  - Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
  - Age Friendly Berkshires
  - Pittsfield, MA
Considering the Impact of COVID-19 on Transportation & engAGEment

- Virginia Dize
  - Director of Transportation at n4a
  - Co-Director of National Aging and Disability Transportation Center
The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

www.nadtc.org

contact@nadtc.org

(866) 983-3222
Every Ride Counts in Age Friendly Berkshires

Local transportation options to get where you need to go!
The Berkshires
Quick Facts: Berkshire County

Population = 128,000  (U.S. Census, 2018 est.)
  17.1 % under 18
  22.8 % Age 65 and older and growing rapidly
  Persons in poverty 10.6%

32 Municipalities – 2 Cities, 30 Small towns

Employment (2017)  53,467
Median HH Income  $55,190
Miles of Road  2,101

Few major roads, long winters, 90-minute north-to-south drive time

Massachusetts ranks 43rd out of 50 for the provision of public transportation
The Berkshires: A leisure and retirement destination

**Museums**
Photo: Beyond My Ken

**Performing Arts**
Photo: Jacob’s Pillow

**Natural Beauty**
Photo: Pablo Sanchez

**Recreation**
Photo: MA Office of Travel and Tourism

**Shopping + Dining + Wellness**
Photo: Anc516

**Music**
Photo: Natalie Maynor
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Regional transportation planners for Berkshire County, Massachusetts 2 cities and 30 small towns, with no county government

Metropolitan Planning Organization – Provide continuing, cooperative and comprehensive planning; Allocate Federal and state transportation monies for programs and projects – roadway, transit, bike and pedestrian

Co-Chairs, Berkshire Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation Volunteer providers group that promotes alternative, cost-effective ridesharing opportunities throughout the county.
Age Friendly Berkshires

Mission: A coalition movement working to create a more livable Berkshire County for people of all ages, with a focus on the changing needs of an aging population.

Implementing an Age Friendly Action Plan across 8 Areas of Livability - Transportation to support “aging in place” is #1 priority

BRPC provides staff support to the AFB coalition
Limited Public Transit

Bus stops on routes with poor or no signage

Travel time reliability is an issue

LTD. service hours
No Sundays/holidays

Photo: David Wilson
Every Ride Counts – Spring-Summer 2020

Goal: To use NADTC’s Every Ride Counts awareness campaign to start a community conversation about transit needs and currently-available ride options and identify gaps and opportunities for sharing
Project Goals

• Distribute existing 3-page transportation providers list, “Berkshires Without Barriers”

• ID additional vehicle and ride program assets in or serving sub-region

• Complete transportation needs survey focused on critical destinations
Project Goals

Update provider route maps to inform regional route management (TMA)

Engage 6 towns in cross-border solution-development to fill service gaps cooperatively
THE NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

presented to

Mobile and Socially Connected: engAGEment Fostered by Transportation Access

N4A

March 2020

www.capacitybuilders.info
San Juan County: 5,538 sq. miles (63% Indian reservations)
* The Navajo Nation takes up 60%
  • Average household Income in SJC - $49K
  • 22% Poverty Rate in SJC
  • 38% Poverty Rate on Navajo Nation
  • 47% of the nation is OVER the age of 40.

Farmington, NM to Shiprock: 34 Miles
Farmington, NM to NewComb: 54 Miles
Farmington, NM to Naschitti: 70 Miles
Farmington, NM to Whiterock: 59 Miles
Farmington, NM to Nageezi: 49 Miles
Farmington, NM to Cedar Hill: 49 Miles
Challenges in our area for seniors and people with disabilities:

• Reliable TRANSPORTATION
• Distance for caregivers to drive out to see family/elders often
• ADA compliance on the reservation
  - No ramps
  - No paved roads
  - No NEMT services allowed to drive on reservation roads
• Distance between neighbors to check in on each other is too far
• Food Desert Area- most locations are 35-70 miles away
• Closure of all non essential companies on and around the NN since the first confirmed case of COVID-19.
Transportation opportunities given to the elderly and disabled community through an awarded grant by NADTC in 2019.

Total Rides to date (5 months): 1,295
AVG ridership of: 257 per month

"You have given me back my independence. I don’t have to just sit at home everyday. Thank you."
-NADTC Shuttle Rider

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Year to date data May 14 - October 31, 2019:
PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
What we wanted to achieve...and DID!

- Provide curb-to-curb paratransit transportation services on the Navajo reservation area within San Juan County for older adults and individuals with disabilities who reside in remote areas of the reservation.
- Transportation services will be provided to the target population at low to no cost.
- Reducing social isolation in seniors and disabled individuals by providing assistance in getting around.
- Helping individuals get to the local food pantries in Farmington, NM from anywhere in San Juan County.
What are we doing now?

- **Spring 2020 Blitz of Every Ride Counts Campaign**

  EVERY RIDE COUNTS is NADTC’s comprehensive publicity campaign to promote the availability and accessibility of transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers in communities around the country.

- Increasing access to healthcare and improving health outcomes by providing affordable transportation. By getting the target population to areas with social activities and engagement with others it has been proven to assist with lowering the risks of health problems such as depression, dementia, stroke and premature death.

- **Volunteer Driver program** - Community volunteers donate their time and use our company vehicle to help program participants get to places they need to go. The volunteer drivers undergo and complete an application, DMV records check, provide a copy of a valid Drivers’ License and insurance certificate, complete a background check, and finally complete their orientation and training.
LouGo’s
Volunteers Needed

Are you someone who enjoys helping others? Do you enjoy meeting new people? Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? Do you like to drive?

IF YOU ANSWERED “YES” TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, WE MAY HAVE THE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY YOU HAVE BEEN SEEKING!

We are recruiting Volunteer Drivers to transport Elderly and Disabled community members to Non-Emergency medical appointments as well as to various spots for shopping around town.

Interested in learning more about this volunteer program? Please contact Briana Smith at 505-324-6668 for more details.
Sustainability And Funding

On May 22, 2019, FTA announced the Access and Mobility Partnership Grants selection of 37 projects in 37 states, totaling $9,601,981.

Capacity Builders was awarded $130K for 2 years with the innovations of increasing access to care, improving health outcomes by doing so, and reducing healthcare costs. We are honored to have been a recipient of this grant and will continue this current project forward.

Capacity Builders, Inc. has applied to provide rides for recipients of the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Program. If successful, the application will result in payment vouchers for rides provided. The waiting list for this program is long with an estimated time for approval being up to 24 months.

We have also applied for 5310 and 5311 funding for fiscal year 2021/2022. *Application submitted September 2019*
Questions?

**Peg McDonough, Planner**  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission  
Age Friendly Berkshires  
mmcdonough@berkshireplanning.org  
413-442-1521 x16

**Briana Smith**  
Lou Go’s & Red Apple Transit  
210 N. Auburn Ave  
Farmington, NM 87401  
Tel: 505-486-9572