

2013 Essex County Coordinated Transportation Plan “UPDATE”





COUNTY OF ESSEX
DEPARTMENT OF CITIZEN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES
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Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive

Lucia A. Guarini
Acting Department Director

Jaklyn De Vore
Division Director

December 16, 2013

Mr. Tim Sharpe,
Local Programs and Minibus Support
NJ Transit
One Penn Plaza East
Newark NJ, 07105-2246

Dear Mr. Sharp

On behalf of Essex County, The Essex County Executive, Honorable Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. and the Acting Director of Citizens Services, Lucia A Guarini. I am pleased to submit the five year update to the Essex County Coordinated Transportation Plan.

The Essex County Division of Senior Services has operated the Essex County Special Transportation System since the original plan was submitted in 2008. As such it is the lead service in Essex County for participation in the FTA sections 5310, 5316 and 5317 transportation programs.

Essex County is proud to provide access to transportation to allow the senior citizens and disabled citizens of this county to access services that will allow them to live a more fulfilling life.

Sincerely,

Jaklyn DeVore
Division Director

In 2008 Essex County presented its Coordinated Human Service Transportation plan locally known as “United We Ride”. That plan complied with the Federal Transit Law for all projects selected under the FTA section 5310, 5316 and 5317 plan. The FTA law requires that an update be completed every five (5) years to remain compliant and to allow the various eligible transportation entities within Essex County to participate in the aforementioned FTA plans.

- This update will address the following areas:
- An update of the demographic section using data obtained from the 2010 Census of Population.
- Update the sections on existing services and service gaps where needed.
- Update the identity of the Agencies within Essex County who might be eligible for participation in the coordinated federal funding system including but not limited to the FTA section 5310 program.

Overview:

Essex County New Jersey is in the northeastern part of the state of New Jersey approximately 21 miles west of New York City NY. It is the third largest county in New Jersey by population at the last census of 2010 and is comprised of 22 municipalities. It is bordered by 5 counties, Passaic and Bergen County to the north, Morris County to the west, Union County to the south and Hudson County to the east. There is one major airport, Newark Liberty Airport and the third busiest port in the United States, Port Newark. It has approximately 1,673 miles of Public, Municipal, County, State and Interstate roads within its borders. The median age of its population is 35.8 years.

Demographics:

OVERVIEW	2010 CENSUS		2000 CENSUS		2000-2010 CHANGE	
	Counts	Percentages	Counts	Percentages	Change	Percentages
Total Population	783,969	100%	793,633	100%	-9,664	-1.22%
Caucasian	333,868	42.59%	352,859	44.46%	-18,991	-5.38%
Black/African American	320,479	40.88%	327,324	41.24%	-6,845	-2.09%
Asian	35,789	4.57%	29,429	3.71%	6,360	21.61%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3,056	0.39%	1,861	0.23%	1,195	64.21%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific native	286	0.04%	417	0.05%	-131	-31.41%

Other	65,687	8.38%	54,588	6.88%	11,099	20.33%
Identified by two or more races	24,808	3.16%	27,155	3.42%	-2,351	-8.66%
The following number persons identified themselves as of Hispanic or Latino origin from the total population of Essex county						
Hispanic or Latino	159,117	20.3%	122,347	15.42%	36,770	30.05%

The demographics show a reduction in the populations of Caucasians and African Americans between the 2000 and 2010 Census. The county as a whole showed a reduction in population between the 2000 and 2010 census also. This trend is due to the changing business and educational opportunities in the largest city in the County, Newark, which is also the largest city in the state.

OVERVIEW	2010 CENSUS		2000 CENSUS		2000-2010 CHANGE	
	Counts	Percentages	Counts	Percentages	Change	Percentages
Population by Age						
0-4 years	53,819	6.86%	57,961	7.30%	-4,142	-7.15%
5-17 years	141,099	18%	148,989	18.77%	-7,890	-5.3%
18-64 years	498,764	63.62%	492,303	62.03%	6,461	1.31%
65 years and older	90,287	11.52%	94,380	11.89%	-4,093	-4.34%

Essex County has two distinct regions that are defined by its socio-economic make up. The Western portion of the county is primarily a suburban - rural area comprised of White Collar to Upper middle class population. It encompasses the townships of Fairfield, North Caldwell, West Caldwell, Caldwell, Livingston, Roseland, Verona, Montclair, Glen Ridge, South Orange, Essex Fells and Cedar Grove. The Eastern portion of the county is primarily a suburban - urban region comprised of Blue Collar to working poor population. It encompasses the townships of Newark, Irvington, East Orange, West Orange, Orange, Bloomfield, Belleville, Nutley, Maplewood, and Millburn.

In the last 12 months it was recorded that 3,369 men aged 65 and older and 6,737 women aged 65 and older were below the national poverty levels. The population of persons aged 18 through 64 are recorded to have 24,085 men and 39,330 women below the national poverty level. These persons are public, free and reduced cost transportation dependent. They reside most in the eastern part of the county and do not have a reliable means of private transportation. They rely on the various transportation services to get to their places of employment, food shopping, banking, medical appointments and recreational activities.

Services, Gaps and Unmet Needs:

Services:

Essex County has two distinct regions of transportation. The municipalities in the Western part of the county are primarily traveled by private car or taxi. This is due to the generally higher income of the residents and the lower density of the population.

The Eastern region of the county is more densely populated and has a larger amount of persons of all ages below the poverty level. This region is the location of the airport, the port and the train station. (Penn Station-NJ)

Each township except for Essex Fells provides a local transportation to the elderly for shopping on a specific day of each week. Each township is serviced by an ambulance “fee for service” to transport Medicaid clientele eligible through the Medicaid transportation service administered by Logisticare. Essex County Special Transportation provides transportation to medical appointments 3 days per week and transportation to Radiation, Dialysis and Chemotherapy appointments on a scheduled basis.

Fixed Route:

The bulk of fixed route transportation is served by New Jersey Transit or private carrier. New Jersey Transit and those carriers operate approximately 60 bus routes and 5 train or light rail routes within the county. A majority of these lines travel regionally and the rider pays a fare by zones.

Demand Response:

Essex County Special Transportation provides transportation for Senior citizens age 60 and older, disabled clients aged 18 and older and veterans. Its services are for Medical appointments, Competitive and Non-Competitive employment, Nutrition, Food shopping, Training and Education, Shopping, Recreational activities, Religious services, Nutrition programs and after hour trips. There are various Demand Response intra-township transportation services offered by the townships. Essex County operates by agreement with those townships to avoid a duplication of effort and to make as many rides available to the residents of Essex County.

Gaps and Unmet Needs;

On November 13, 2013, Essex County held a Stakeholders meeting to discover what the Service Gaps and Unmet Needs in the county were. There were several items identified and they are listed on Attachment A. The top 3 of those items and their strategies are identified

1. Assisted Transportation for customers who cannot provide aides to provide assistance.
Strategy: Develop a program to recruit and train volunteers to assist clients while attending appointments.

2. Improve Non-profit agency transportation provide driver training.
Strategy: Utilize Essex County Paratransit contractor Passenger Assisted Safety and Security (PASS) certified trainer to expand training classes to include these drivers.

3. Travel Training
Strategy: Utilize the NJ TIPS program to assist Senior and Disabled clients on how to better utilize the traditional bus and rail system with confidence.

Essex County Special Transportation, as the Lead Agency responsible for the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan in Essex County will develop the strategies listed to improve services in the three identified service gaps and unmet needs listed above. This will fulfill the responsibility of Essex County to update its plan at this time.