

## Minutes

January 4, 2024

Commissioners Present: William Bateson, Timothy Bechtol and Michael Pepple.

Also Present: Lynn Taylor, Cindy Land, Phil Johnson, Steve Wilson, Holly Frische, Derek Dalton and Lou Wilin.

Commissioner Bateson opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the December 28, 2023 were read with Michael Pepple making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The December fund report was signed. The December Explosive Gas Monitoring report was also signed. The Board approved the MWCD expense reimbursement for December 2023 expenses of \$6,556.30. The 2023 County Highway System Mileage Certification was signed. Mike Pepple made the motion and Tim Bechtol seconded to approve the Warrant Journal. Motion passed 3-0.

The Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #1-24 – Authorizing the payment of the listed and/or attached Purchase Orders. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #2-24 – Decreasing the Water Project Maintenance Fund (2088) appropriation by \$15,000.00. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #3-24 – Decreasing the Treasurer's Delinquent Tax Assessment Collection Fund (2199) appropriation by \$1,645.73. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #4-24 – Decreasing the Job & Family Services – Public Assistance Fund (2015) appropriation by \$648,695.47. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #5-24 – Transfer of Hancock Solid Waste Management District Tier Disposal Fees to the Tiered Disposal Fee Fund 5109. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #6-24 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioner's to appropriate to the Van Buren Waterline Fund 2103. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #7-24 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioner's to appropriate to the General Fun #1001. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #8-24 – Decreasing the CPC- Specialized Docket Fund #2217 appropriation by \$4,030.00. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #9-24 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – General Fund #1001. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #10-24 – Decreasing the Community Block Grant Fund (#2062) appropriation by \$1,193,552.89. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Clerk read into the record a summary of the 2023 accomplishments by the Board, Prosecutors Office and the Commissioner's Clerks. Bill Bateson stated that a lot of the work is done behind the scenes by the Clerks and the Board concurred with their appreciation.

Resolution #11-24 – Authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners in conjunction with the HCJFS to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the HCJFS and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to address child abuse, neglect and dependency. Cindy explained that this MOU is a requirement by the Board for the Job and Family Services offering of services. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #12-24 – Authorization to enter into the 2024 CEBCO Wellness Grant Agreement. Cindy explained that Christine Carrigan has been organizing great opportunities for wellness activities for county employees. This grant will allow for the purchase of items to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land stated that she received an email from Sheriff Heldman regarding a city/county agreement with Tyler Technologies. It appears that a cost share agreement has been discussed. Bill stated that in his Data Board meetings, this cost share was not discussed. The Board agreed that Cindy should reach out to Tim Stuart for his knowledge of the situation.

Phil Johnson presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #13-24 – Authorizing entry into and execution of an agreement with Erie Environmental LLC for asbestos remediation for properties located at 922 and 927 Fox Street in Findlay. Phil explained that upon further discovery, a small amount of asbestos was located at these properties that the county needs to demolish. This contract is for the remediation at a cost of \$590.00. Steve Wilson also stated that an inspection was done in the past and the company that did it did admit to the oversight. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #14-24 – Authorizing the submittal of documents to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and approval of a lease of real property located at 704 Fishlock Avenue in Findlay, Ohio to the Hancock County Agricultural Society. Phil explained that this property was purchased with grant money. The property lies in a low area which collects a lot of standing water near the fairgrounds. This resolution will allow for a lease provision placed on the deed. This will be provided to the OEMA for their review and approval and then FEMA will have to approve. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session in regards to potential real estate purchase.

Lynn Taylor requested an executive session in regards to real estate purchase.

Holly Frische had nothing to report.

Steve Wilson stated that Derek Dalton is here from Stantec to discuss the recent request of additional funds to pay for the Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge project. Derek went into detail about the reason for the delays in getting this project to bid. Derek assured the Board that they are committed to moving this project forward even though it has taken almost 5 years. Derek explained that Norfolk Southern changed their review consultants and it caused an extensive delay. Bill Bateson inquired if there is an estimate of

when this project will be ready to bid, and Derek stated he is hopeful for May 2024. Cindy Land asked if there is an estimate for the total cost of the project and Steve Wilson stated that it's between \$16-\$17 million. Cindy inquired if money is available to fund the project and Steve indicated that he did not know. If there isn't enough money available, it will need to be found. Mike Pepple discussed the original MOU with MWCD and Stantec for this project when it began in 2019. It seems that this has taken a very long time and we are still waiting and spending funds. Is this the final request? Derek is hoping that it is, however, they are at the mercy of Norfolk Southern. Mike inquired if Stantec has worked with Norfolk Southern before and Derek indicated that they have. Furthermore, Steve indicated that COVID and personnel changes have also attributed to the delay in this project. All of which is out of Stantec's control. Tim Bechtol stated that it's frustrating to pay for Norfolk Southern's training expenses. Tim also mentioned that he appreciates the work done by Stantec and he understands the project is complicated. Derek assured the Board that they are working hard to get this moving and it is a difficult balancing act. The \$7.1 million-dollar grant has been already authorized and it's not known if and when Norfolk Southern will contribute any funds to the project. Tim inquired who will own this bridge when it's completed and Steve indicated that Norfolk Southern will still be the owner. Steve did explain that he is working on the Federal Rail Agreement approval that Norfolk Southern is requesting. Mike Pepple stated that he hates to spend the money if there are not enough funds available to finish the project. Steve assured the Board that they will find money.

Lou Wilin had nothing to report.

At 10:16 am., Bill Bateson made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential real estate purchase and real estate purchase. Tim Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Bill Bateson, yes; Tim Bechtol, yes; Mike Pepple, yes. At 10:30 am., Bill Bateson made the motion to exit executive session with no action taken. Tim Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

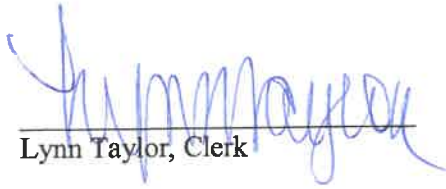
At 10:30 am, the Commissioner met with Jaime Baker. Lynn Taylor, Jeff Hunker, Holly Frische, Lou Wilin and Crystal White were also in attendance. Jaime provided a 2023 update of transportation purposes and revenue for HATS. They have had an increase in wheel chair transports. Work transportation is the number one reason for HATS usage. Jaime has reached out to several area factories about the possibility of arranging planned transportation for their employees and unfortunately, there has not been any desire to arrange this service with HATS. Jaime strongly believes that they could assist with the companies who are looking for employees and who are unable to get to work because of a lack of transportation. Planned transportation is convenient and affordable with HATS. Recently, Jamie visited Allen County and they have a hub in downtown Lima. He would love to have a downtown hub in Findlay. Crystal stated that she will be attending an upcoming meeting to be held at the Library with the translators to assist with the migrant population. HATS can assist with their transportation limitations. Crystal is also going to reach out to the Villages and Townships regarding the services of HATS. HATS is not just a city benefit, it's also a county benefit.

## **Meetings and Reports**

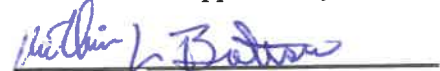
Mike Pepple had nothing to report.


Timothy Bechtol stated that he attended the quarterly LEPC meeting. In addition, Tim stated that he agrees with Holly and that the 50% increase of water rates does seem excessive.

Bill Bateson stated that he attended the Economic Development meeting and that the 99/75 project will be starting in March 2024. Therefore, if the 68/15 project moves forward, traveling South and North of Findlay could be challenging for the next several years.

  
Lynn Taylor, Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:

  
William L. Bateson

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Timothy K. Bechtol  
  
Michael W. Pepple

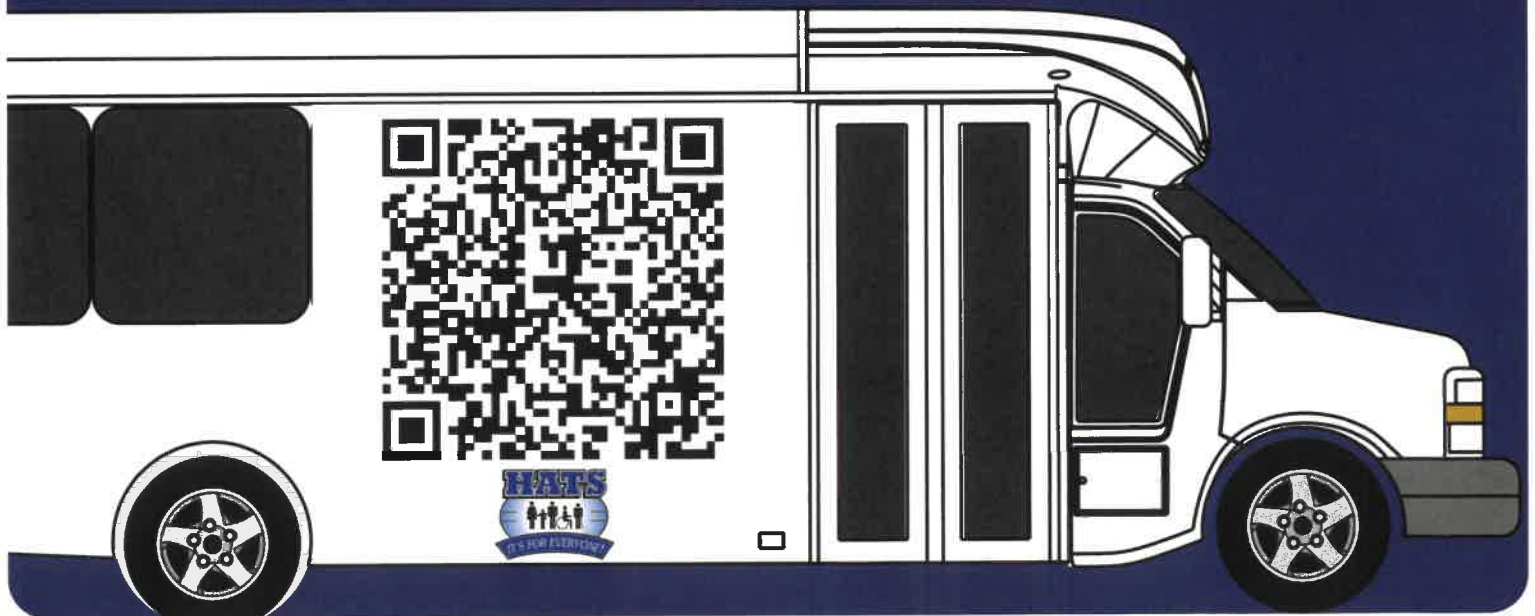
- C.R. 212/236 Annexation and Hearing
- Lai/Russel Annexation
- Buchanan Annexation
- Henley Hearing
- Judge Johnson Hearing
- Public Defender's Contract
- Eastgate (Hickory Ln.)
- BRSEP
- New Energy Providers
- Added Guardian Supplemental Employee Benefits
- ARPA \$
- First Year for CEBCO Employee Benefits & Wellness Program
- Maintained Insurance Executive Committee Meeting
- Liberty Reed Ditch Hearing
- Two More Plants Were Added to the Office
- Pleasant Rader Ditch Hearing
- Eagle Estates Ditch Hearing
- OneOhio
- Benching Projects
- Adopted New Access Management Plan
- Two Variance Hearings
- Fleet Lease Review
- Assigned Employee Parking
- Parking Agreement MCPA
- McComb Daycare
- Board of Elections Interest & Finance Charge Meeting
- Demolition of Grain Silos
- Demolition of Communications Tower
- HVAC Project
- Updated Travel Reimbursement Policy
- Credit Card Policy
- Committee of Seven Approval for New Judicial Center
- National Center for State Courts Approved Design of Judicial Center
- Judicial Center Under Construction
- Payroll Companies Review
- Completed JFS Roof Project
- Paid Engineering Portion of S.R. 68/15
- New Vending Machines at the Courthouse
- Donation of Property for I75/C.R. 99 Interchange
- MOA with City of Findlay Regarding Property Transfer
- Credit Card Machine Finally Working at the Landfill
- Elevator Buttons Switched so they Make Sense
- Still Waiting for the Installation of our Balcony

# Tell Us About Transportation in FINDLAY & HANCOCK COUNTY

Take our survey to help improve transportation choices  
for you and your community!

**SCAN THE QR CODE**

Or go to the following link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HancockTDP>



**PUBLIC TRANSIT UPDATE**  
**HATS Transportation Stats 2020-2023**  
**Year over Year Comparison**

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Invoice Revenue	\$163,363.62	\$200,765.00	\$287,176.91	\$441,858.14
Fare Revenue	\$9,535.75	\$0	\$40,288.35	\$58,044.00
Rides provided	41,090	60,933	63,890	68,011
Revenue per ride	\$4.41	\$3.37	\$4.91	\$6.96
Service Miles	425,623	567,332	452,864	495,127
Service Hours	33,921.05	39,224.97	36,025.30	39,903.68
Avg. Miles Per Ride	10.8	9.5	7.3	6.5
Unique Passengers	1,282	1,576	1,702	2,048
Denied Rides	119	538	1,912	1,299
Cancellations	17,988	20,361	15,461	10,311
Wheelchair Rides	7,204	5,614	5,307	6,603

**HATS Demographics & Other Info**

Average age of riders: 54.6 years old  
 Percentage of riders 50 and older: 66.2 percent  
 Percentage of riders with disability: 28 percent  
 Percentage of riders who are women: 55.1 percent

**HATS Public Transit Ride purposes**

51% Employment      26% Medical/Dialysis  
 14% Shopping      9% Other

**Other key stats:**

On time percentage: 96.9 percent  
 97 percent of all rides begin or end in the City of Findlay.

## **HATS Hancock County Transit Development Plan**

### **TAC TDP Subcommittee Members**

Leann Unverferth Agency on Aging 3 in Lima

Rob Martin, City of Findlay

Cheryl Miller, Hancock Public Health

Kaleb Brown, United Way

Kim Bash, Community Foundation

Tyler McKinney, Hancock JFS – CW

Dan Cervi, City Mission

Kevin Lewis, KanDu Group

Don Bruce, Hancock County Alliance CEO

John Ferraro, University of Findlay

Jennifer Swartzlander, ADAMHS Board

Kim Hiatt, 50 North

Jane Schaffner, McComb Library

Jamie Baker, HHWP CAC Director of Transportation

Crystal Weitz, Hancock County Mobility Manager

### **Consulting Team**

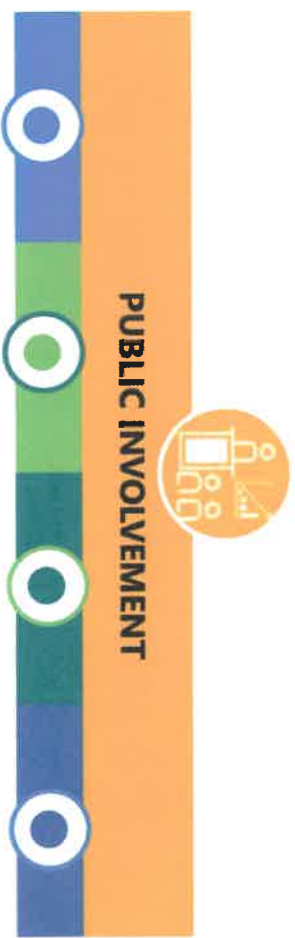
Sam Wright, Nelson Nygaard Company

Evan Mancini, Nelson Nygaard Company

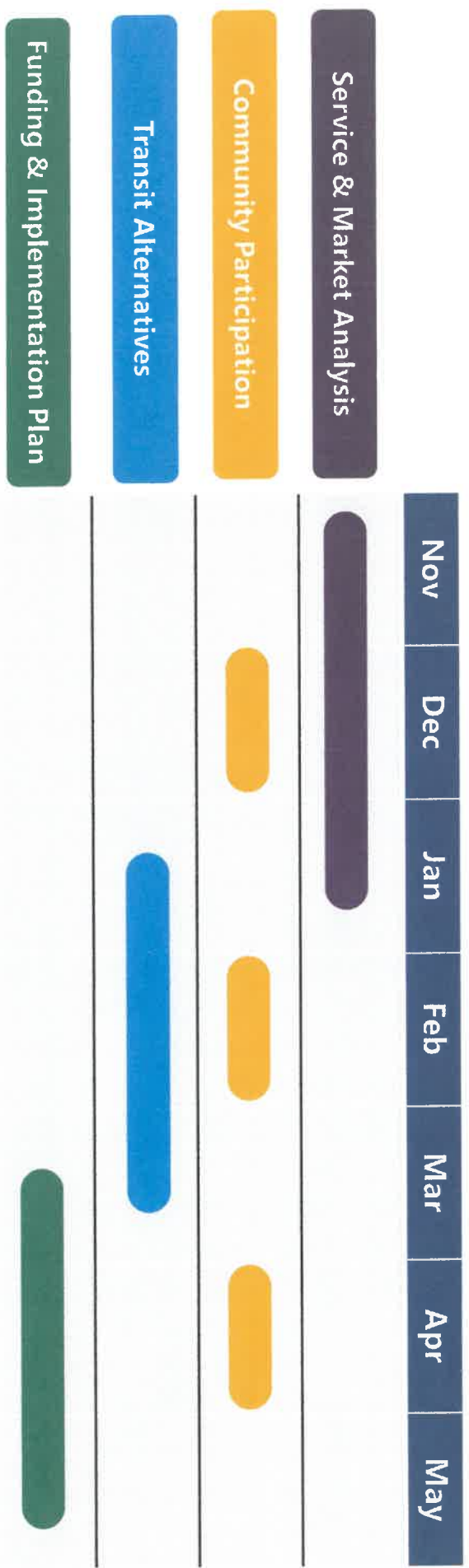
Gwen Griffin, Nelson Nygaard Company



# Transit Development Plan



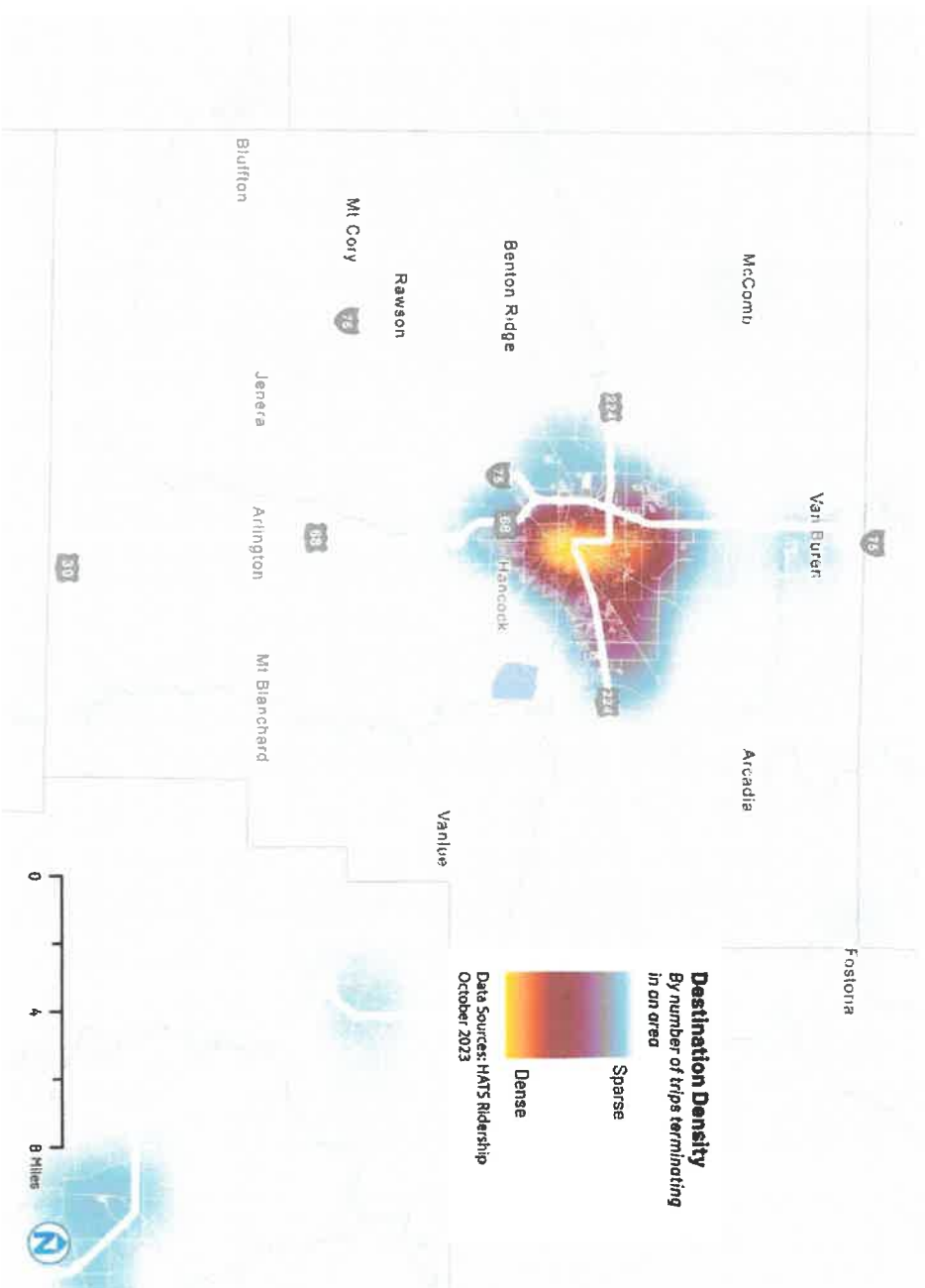
# About the Study



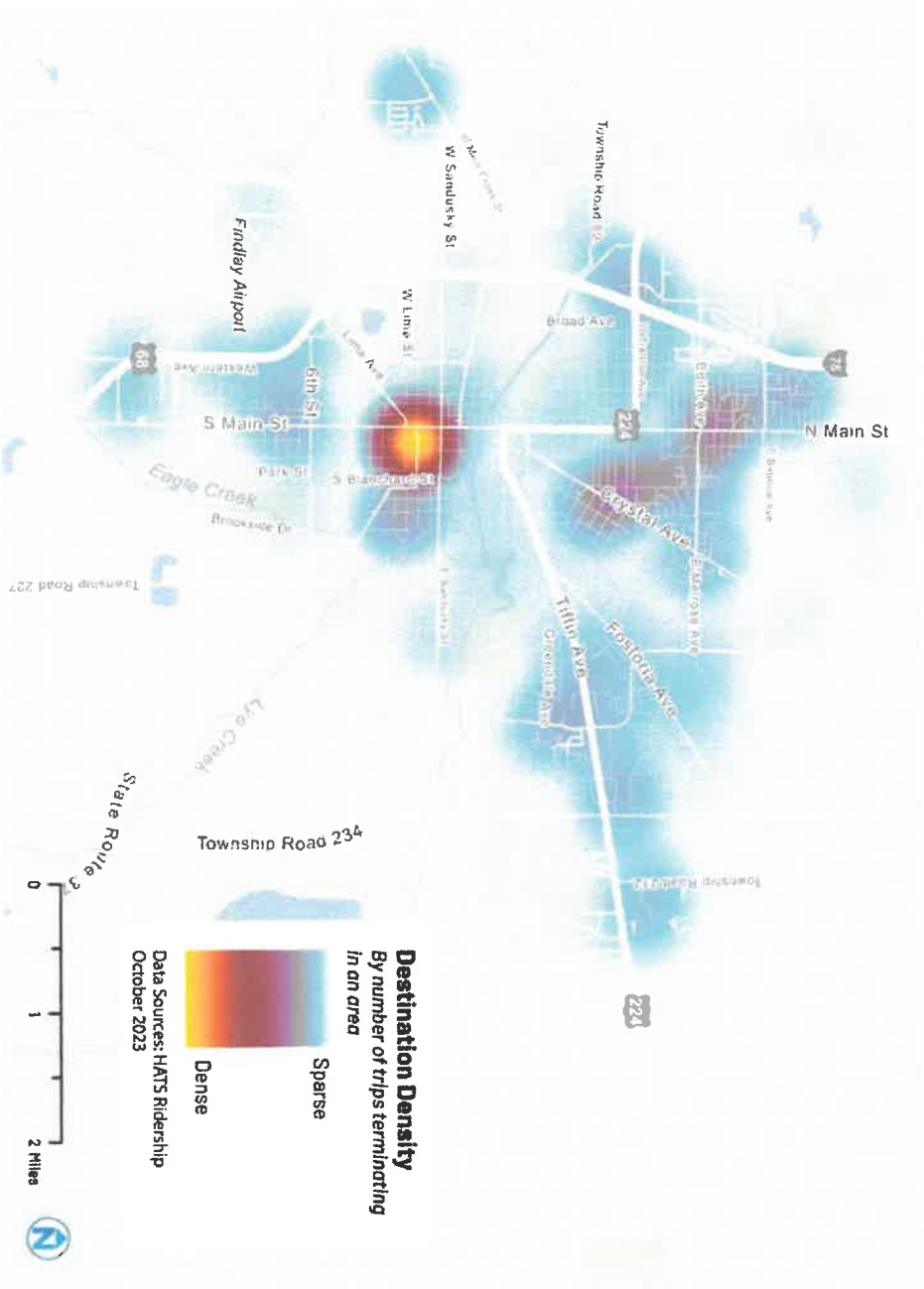
# **Community Participation**

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Rider & Community Surveys
- Pop-up Events & Community Meetings

# Transit Ridership – Hancock County



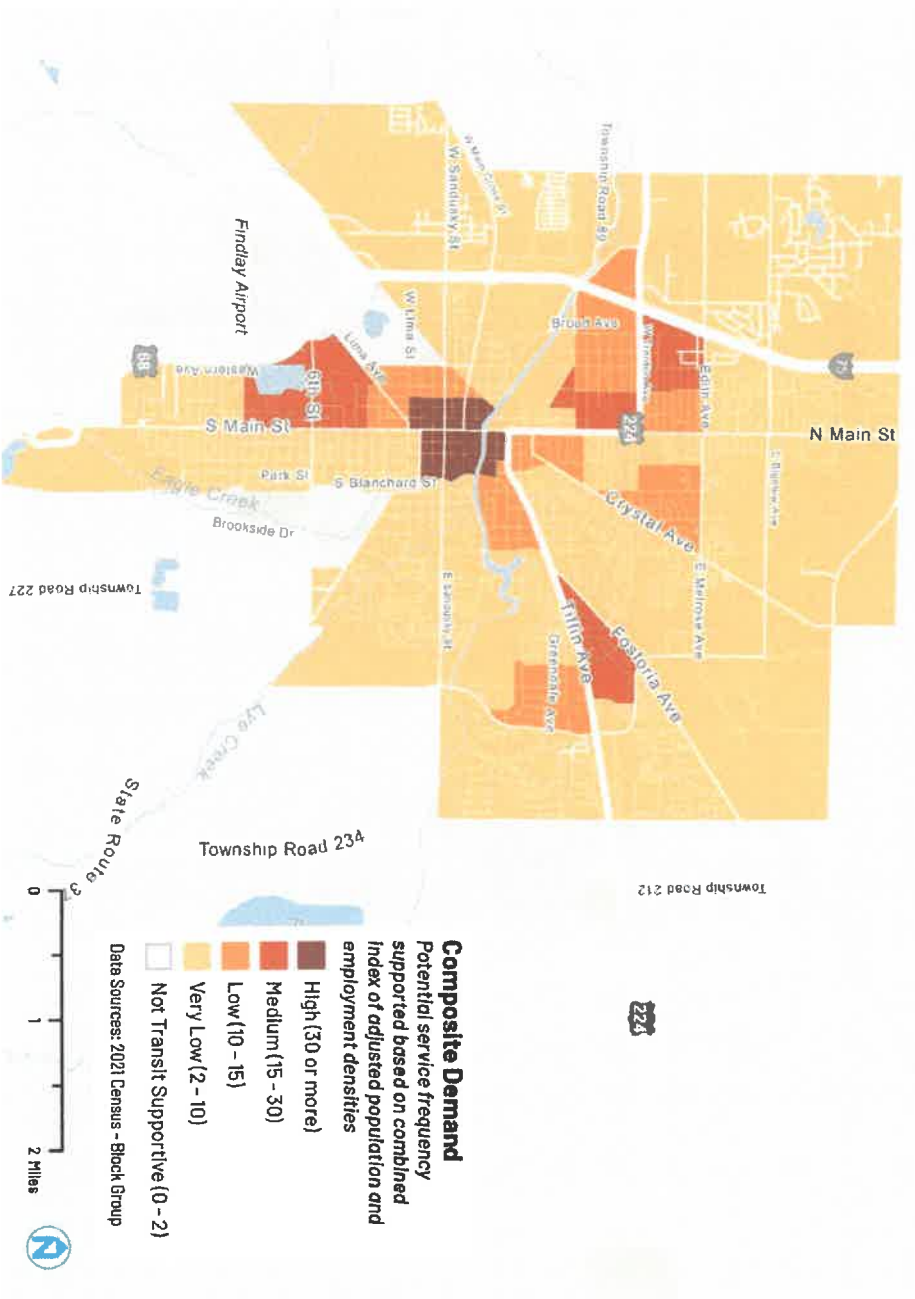
# Transit Ridership – Findlay



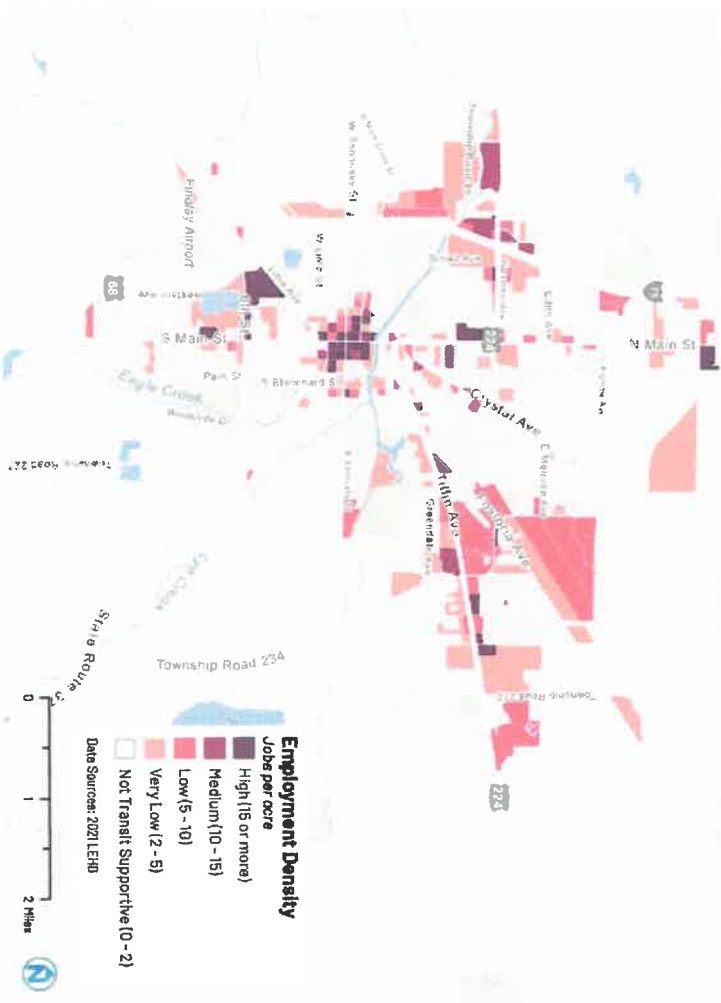
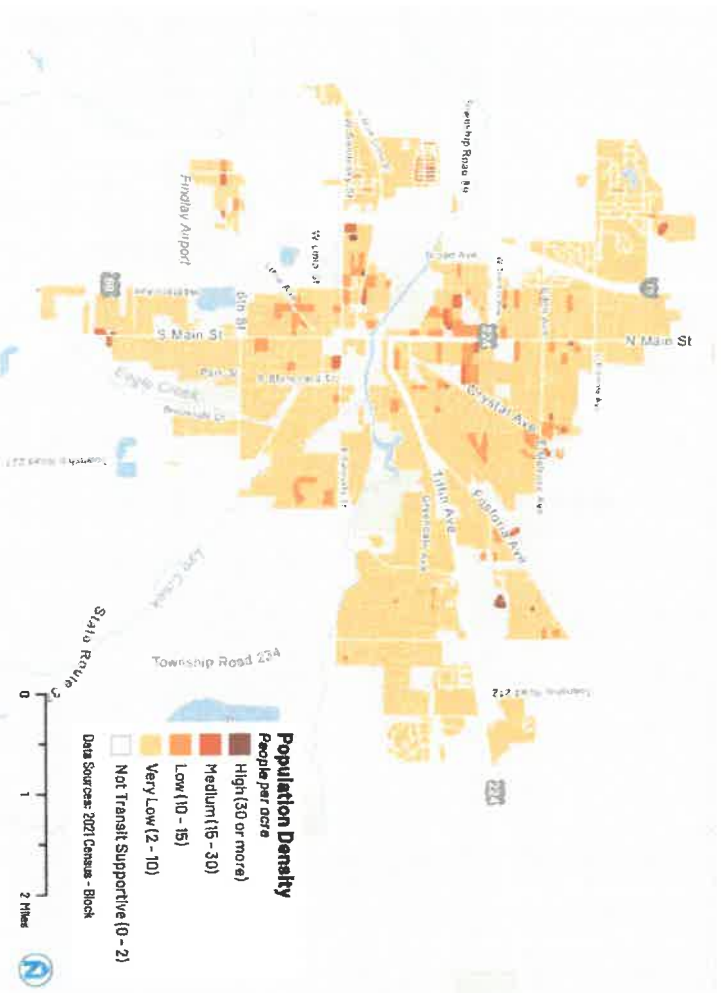
# Transit Demand – Hancock County



# Transit Demand – Findlay



# Population & Employment – Findlay





# **Service & Market Analysis**

- **Market Analysis**
  - Population and Employment Densities
  - Transit Need Index and Transit Demand
  - Major Activity Centers
  - Travel Flows
- **Service Analysis**
  - Current HATS Service Characteristics and Ridership
  - Fleet Analysis
  - Peer Analysis (MAT, ACRTA, TRIPS)