

PROGRESS REPORT

Project Components:

- Inventory of current transportation services provided by Douglas County, the State of Georgia, and adjacent counties.
- Best practices and “lessons learned” on the experiences of peer counties involved in providing mobility services for its citizens.
- Assessment of alternatives for improving and/or expanding transportation services, including commuter transportation; services for seniors, disabled and low-income persons; use of new technologies; and new approaches to delivering transportation services to the community.
- Assessment of the willingness of County residents to pay for new and/or expanded services.

Project Description:

The Douglas County Transportation Services Study is intended to help the citizens and decision-makers assess (1) current services and how well they meet local residents’ needs today, (2) how needs may change in the next 5 to 10 years, and (3) how transportation services should be modified or expanded to better serve the community.

The study will evaluate several options for improving services based upon analysis of growth and employment trends for the County and its cities, the experiences of similar counties across the U.S., and input from citizens and stakeholders.

Residents, employees, community stakeholders, and local officials will have opportunities to provide input and feedback through a variety of mechanisms, including e-mail, online surveys, community events, Commission District meetings, and targeted interviews. More information is available on the County’s website:

www.dctransportationstudy.com

Accomplishments To-Date:

- Project kick-off (April 2015)
- Commission District 2 meeting (April 2015)
- Agency meetings with Senior Services and Accountability Court (May 2015)
- Launched project survey (paper & online)
 - Received 1,030 responses to-date
 - Analysis and summary underway
- Created and updated project contact database with names/contact information from pop-up events and survey responses
- Set up “pop-up” tables at two community events, and summarized public input:
 - Senior Picnic (May 2015)
 - Hydrangea Festival (June 2015)
- Mapped transportation services within Douglas County and services offered by adjacent counties



PROGRESS REPORT - CONTINUED

Activities In Progress:

- Coordinating with Douglas DOT on identifying data zones for AirSage trip data (anticipated in July) to enable analysis of travel patterns
- Inventory and summary of demographics, with accompanying maps
- Inventory, summary, and analysis of current and planned transportation services
- Review and summary of prior studies and plans (in County, cities, and Metro Atlanta region)
- Identification of potential park-and-ride lot opportunities
- Development of portfolio of potential future service options
 - Considering flexible/dynamic route bus service, technology-enhanced services
 - Identified possible information for SRTA Bond funding request
 - Will meet to discuss potential ideas for 2016 Rideshare budget
- Identification of potential peer communities for case studies (anticipated in July)

Preliminary Findings

Demographics:

- 2014 County population: 138,776
- 10% are seniors age 65+
- 53% population growth projected by 2040, to more than 204,000 residents
- Total of 36,100 jobs in 2010
- 130% projected job growth by 2040, to more than 88,000 jobs

Existing services & travel patterns:

- 63,370 Douglas County residents are employed (April 2015)
- 35,000+ or 60% work outside the County
 - 85% of them drive alone to work
- 58 vanpools (*represents 20% of all vanpools in Metro Atlanta region*)
- Average commute time is 31.8 minutes
- 14% commute more than 60 minutes

Survey results:

Top 3 Most Important Qualities in a Transportation Service (based on % of respondents):

- Affordable Price 83.9%
- Safe & Secure Parking Areas 74.9%
- Well-maintained Vehicles 72.9%

Preliminary Ideas for Potential Service Improvements



Volunteer or faith-based service network



Flexible/Dynamic Bus with defined routes and flexible zones



New park-and-ride facilities and passenger amenities at waiting areas



Deploy GPS devices and enhanced website to provide real-time information and trip planning options

NEXT STEPS

The team will be working on the following activities throughout the summer and fall of 2015:

- Second survey on potential improvements to transportation services (*Aug./Sept. 2015*)
- One to two more "pop-up" events (*Aug./Sept. 2015*)
- Project update meetings in Commission Districts 1, 3, and 4 (*Sept. 2015*)
- Key stakeholder interviews and service agency meetings (*Oct. 2015*)