

MDOT Launches 'Advancing Rural Mobility' Trip Planner to Enhance Transportation Access in Rural Areas

Fast Facts:

- The Advancing Rural Mobility pilot project has launched a new online trip planning tool for four rural public transit agencies and their riders.
- The project is funded through a United States Department of Transportation SMART grant.
- Participating public transit agencies include Benzie Bus, Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority, Charlevoix County Transit, and Roscommon County Transportation Authority.

The Advancing Rural Mobility project's [trip planner tool](#) aims to enhance transportation access and efficiencies in rural areas. To meet the unique needs of Michigan's rural communities, the trip planner utilizes partner transit agencies' service data to display possible trip-planning options. Transit riders will benefit from increased awareness of available transportation options, helping improve access to essential services, reduce isolation, and ultimately foster greater connectivity and quality of life.

The launch is a significant step toward ensuring that all Michigan residents, regardless of location, have access to information regarding reliable and efficient transportation options.

The screenshot below illustrates how Benzie County residents are using the trip planner to arrange transportation from Crystal Lake, MI, to Homestead, MI, for a doctor's appointment in three weeks. They opted for the Benzie County Health Rides service because the trip meets the service's medical eligibility requirements and is more than 14 days away, as indicated by the trip planner.

