**Benzie Bus Press Release**

**Benzie Bus Launches New Online Trip Planning Tool to Enhance Rural Transit Access**

**Benzie County, MI** — Benzie Bus is proud to announce the launch of a new online [trip-planning tool](https://www.mitripplanner.org/help/) as part of the [Advancing Rural Mobility pilot project](https://miruralmobility.org/home/). This initiative, funded through a United States Department of Transportation [SMART grant](https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART), aims to improve transportation access and efficiency for riders across rural Michigan.

Benzie Bus is one of four public transit agencies participating in this project, alongside Charlevoix County Transit, Roscommon County Transportation Authority, and WexExpress.

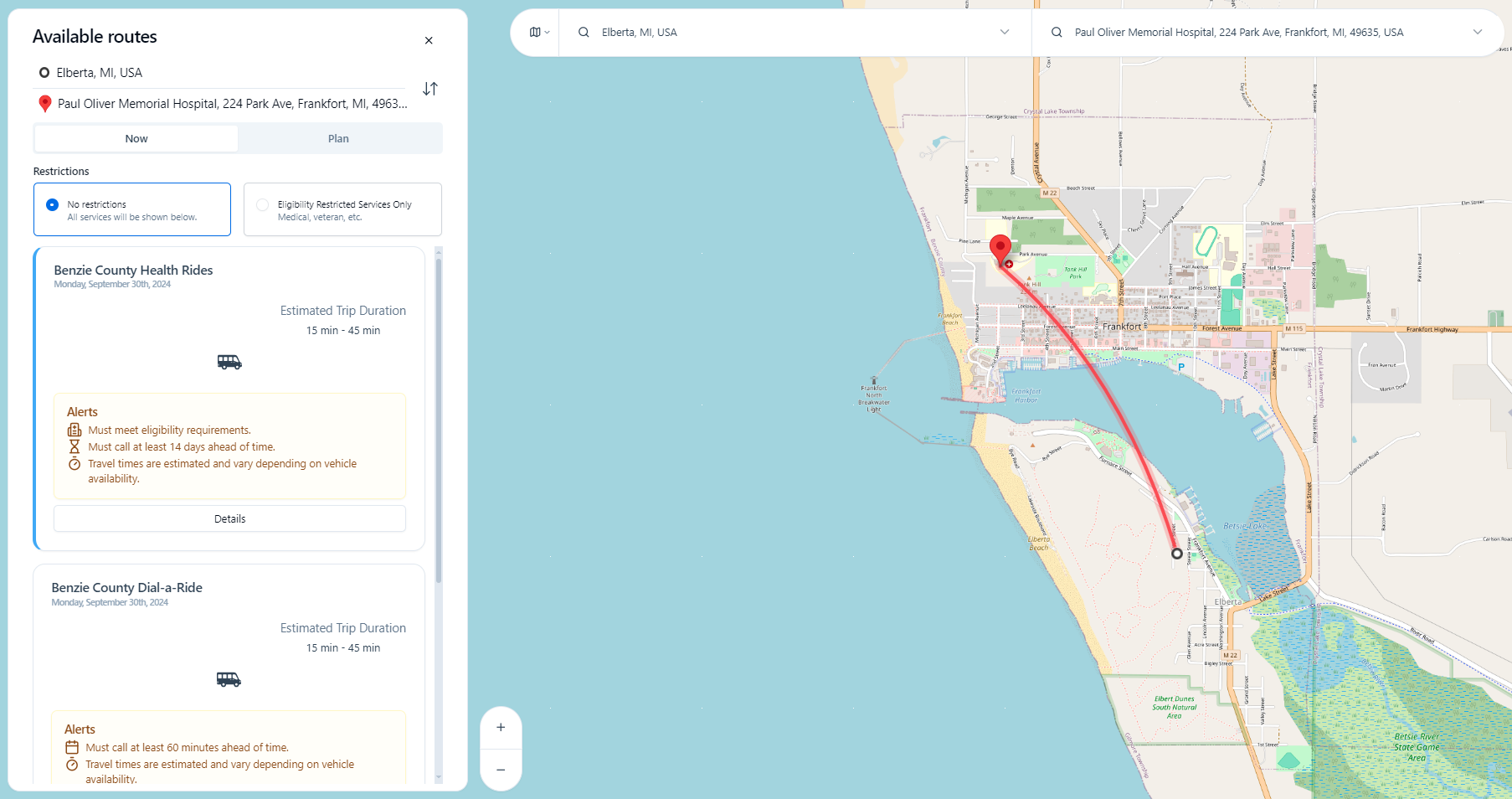
The new trip planner tool is designed to enhance the user experience by simplifying the process of navigating transportation options, increasing awareness of Benzie Bus services, and facilitating seamless connections with other transit providers.

Users can enter their starting location and destination, along with desired departure or arrival times, to receive personalized route options. For example, if you need to get from Elberta to Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital in Frankfort, simply enter your starting point, destination, and desired departure or arrival time. The tool generates a list of available transit services, including bus routes and schedules, allowing users to choose the most suitable travel option.

Additionally, the trip planner offers real-time updates on transit services, ensuring users stay informed about any delays or schedule changes.

The tool will allow users to easily access information on routes, schedules, and connections, making it easier than ever to plan travel across rural areas. This initiative is a critical step toward ensuring that all Michigan residents have the necessary resources to utilize public transit effectively.

For more information about the new trip planning tool and how it can enhance your travel experience, please visit <https://www.mitripplanner.org/help/>.



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