

## **Subject: ARMP Expands: Welcoming New Rural Transit Agencies to the Program**

### **Program Overview**

Public transit provides a critical lifeline in rural communities, but awareness of available services can be challenging. The [Advancing Rural Mobility Program \(ARMP\)](#) seeks to improve transit service discovery and trip planning in rural areas and provide passengers access to static and real-time transit information.

### **Virtual Discovery Meetings**

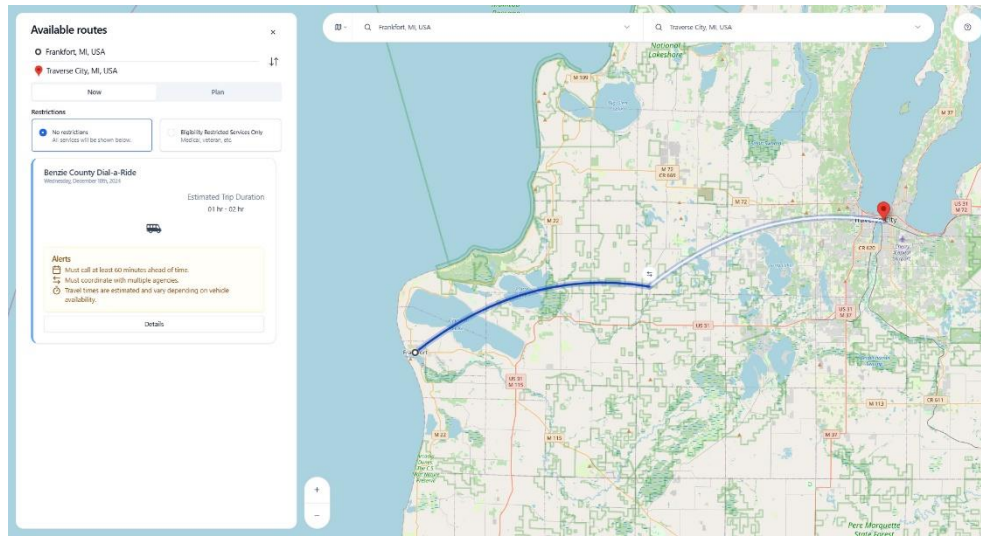
Welcome to our new transit agency partners! The Advancing Rural Mobility project team hosted virtual discovery meetings in early December 2024. These sessions brought together new agencies participating in the project and started the integration process of the new agency's service data information into the program's [online trip planner tool](#), enhancing accessibility and usability. The new agencies were chosen based on their technological readiness and geographic location to enhance trip planning features in the online tool.

The next phase of the project will include up to 15 rural transit agencies. The agencies confirmed so far are:

- Arenac Public Transit Authority
- Clare County Transit
- Crawford County Transportation Authority
- Gladwin City/County Transit
- Iosco Transit Corporation
- Kalkaska Public Transit Authority
- Manistee County Transportation
- Ogemaw County Public Transit
- Straits Regional Ride
- Thunder Bay Transportation
- Yates Dial-a-Ride

### **What's Ahead for the Trip Planner**

The project team is actively working to integrate the newly joined agencies and their corresponding data into the [trip planner](#). This process includes ensuring an accurate representation of each agency's services and comprehensive testing to facilitate a smooth user experience. Full integration of the new agencies' data will be completed by early February 2025.



## **Stay Connected**

Please get in touch with MDOT Project Manager Sherry Vandevender at [VandevenderS@michigan.gov](mailto:VandevenderS@michigan.gov) with any questions or comments.