**Thunder Bay Transportation Authority Press Release**

**Thunder Bay Transportation Launches New Online Trip Planning Tool to Enhance Rural Transit Access**

**Alpena County, MI** — Thunder Bay Transportation is excited 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. This initiative, funded through a United States Department of Transportation [SMART](https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART) grant, is designed to improve transportation access and efficiency for residents across rural Michigan.

Thunder Bay Transportation and 13 other transportation agencies in Michigan are participating in Stage 2 of the pilot project.

The new trip planner tool aims to simplify the process of navigating transportation options, increase awareness of Thunder Bay Transportation services, and provide seamless connections with other local transit providers.

Users can enter their starting location, destination, and desired departure or arrival times to receive personalized route options. For example, if you need to travel from Alpena to the Thunder Bay Community Health Service, simply input your starting point, destination, and travel preferences, and the tool will generate a list of available transit services, including bus routes and schedules, allowing you to choose the most suitable option.

Additionally, the trip planner provides real-time updates on transit services, so users can stay informed about any delays or changes to their scheduled routes.

This tool is designed to make accessing information on routes, schedules, and connections easier than ever, helping residents plan their travel efficiently across Alpena County. This project is an important step toward ensuring that all Michigan residents can effectively use public transit to meet their needs.

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

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