

Perry County

Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services

Transportation Plan

2022-2026

Perry County Job and Family Services

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Funding for the development of this plan was provided by ODOT



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Executive Summary

This plan is the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Perry County. The plan was initially developed in 2014, expiring 12-31-2021.

The Current plan covers period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026.

The annual update for 2023 has been submitted to ODOT by 12-31-2022 for approval.

This plan fulfills the requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, signed into law as a reauthorization of surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2026. According to requirements of the FAST Act, locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans must be updated to reflect the changes established by the FAST Act legislation. The FAST Act applies new programs and rules for all Fiscal Year 2022 funds and authorizes transit programs for four (4) years.

Transportation is a critical component of the communities in Perry County. Transportation provides access to jobs, education, healthcare, human services and allows all community members, including older adults and people with disabilities, to live independently and engage in community life. It is the purpose of this plan for local stakeholders to work collaboratively to do the following activities:

1. Identify all community resources including:
 - Perry County Commissioners
 - Perry County Mobility Management
 - Region 8 Mobility Solution Center
 - Perry County Transit
 - Perry County Transit Medicaid Billing
 - Perry County Job and Family Services
 - ODOT
 - FTA
 - Contract Sources
 - General Public
 - Perry County Courts
 - Perry County Schools
 - Perry County Agencies
 - Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 - Perry County Senior Center
 - Perry Behavioral Health Choices
 - Perry County Health Department
 - Perry County Veterans Service Commission
 - Hopewell Health Center
 - Allwell Behavioral Health Services
 - Fairview Assisted Living
 - Employers
 - Non-Profits

- Creating Healthy Communities Project funded through the Ohio Department of Health
- HapCap/PC CCMEP
- Buckeye Hills Regional Council
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- Genesis Perry County ER
- St. Vincent DePaul
- Perry County District Library
- Perco, Inc.
- Northern Local Schools
- SKLD New Lexington
- New Lexington Schools

2. Identify and Prioritize community transportation needs

- Sustaining Mobility Management for Transportation Coordination
- Countywide Safety Campaign
- Marketing, Education, and Additional Options for Transportation
- Low-Cost Transportation for Underinsured /Uninsured
- Expansion of Services and Projects

3. Establish a clear plan for achieving shared goals

Community collaboration is the most effective way to achieve Perry County's shared goals. Transportation is needed and relied upon for medical appointments, employment, daycare, school, after school programs, community events and everyday essentials. The Mobility Manager is able to focus on cultivating partnerships with various agencies and determine how to effectively meet transportation needs. The Mobility Manager will work with other transit focused organizations in securing funding for the area to help expand reliable transportation to the citizens that need it most. Growing and developing new partnerships will help provide routes and services that reach our consumer base while also supporting businesses and a healthy community.

Fundamental to the Coordinated Transportation Plan process is the active and meaningful involvement of stakeholders. For projects selected for funding under the Section 5310 program, participation in planning activities must include participation and/or representation of the following, at minimum:

- Seniors and Elderly
- Individuals with disabilities
- People with low incomes
- Public, private and non-profit transportation providers
- Human services providers
- Public Health services
- The general public

In order to ensure participation from the above groups the following stakeholder involvement activities were performed:

1. Public meetings were held quarterly by public notice, virtual, or email invite.
2. Planning committee meetings were held at Perry County Job and Family Services and hosted online via Microsoft Teams.

This plan was developed and adopted by a planning committee. More information about the planning committee can be found in Appendix A.

I. Geographic Area

Perry County Ohio is located in the southeast area of the State.

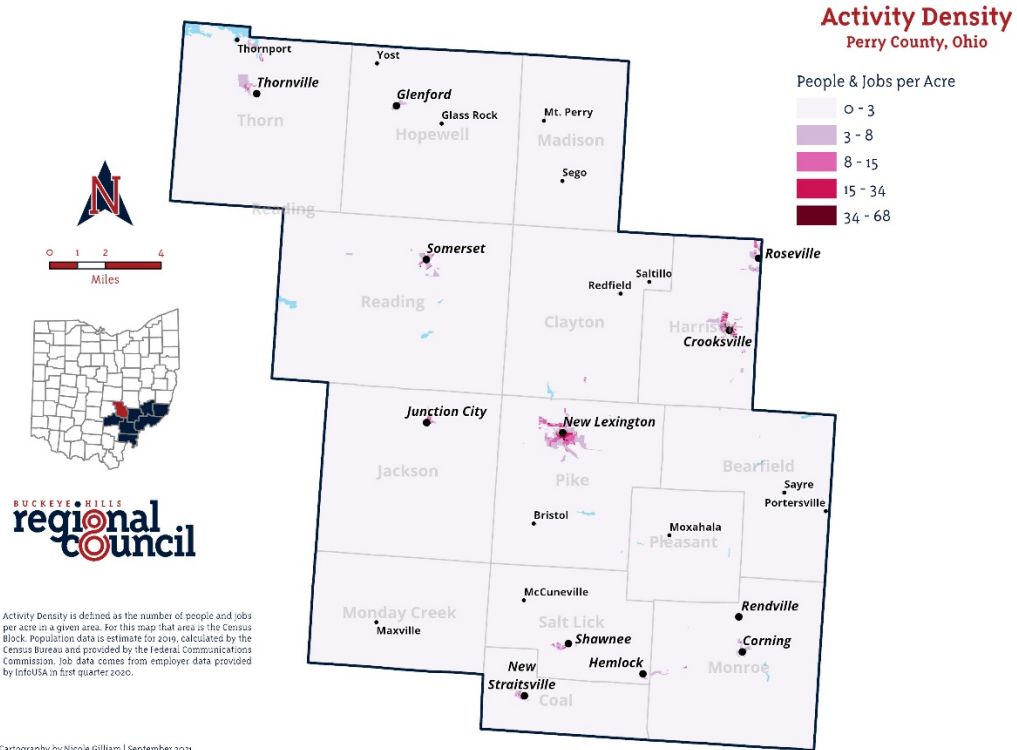
Map 1: Basic map of the geographic area Adjacent counties are Licking County (North), Muskingum (County Northeast),

Morgan County (Southeast), Athens County (South), Hocking County (Southwest) and Fairfield County (West). Founded on March 1, 1818 from parts of Fairfield, Washington, and Muskingum Counties it was the 55th county to be formed in Ohio.



The area is known to be economically depressed with a high rate of poverty (13.1% 2022 Federal Poverty Report Ohio DSA) and an unemployment rate of 4.3% (ODJFS OWD October 2022). These factors contribute to low socioeconomic status among Perry County residents. Perry County is comprised of small communities separated by miles of state highway. According to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the county consists of 413 square miles with 373 miles of ODOT maintained state highway. Due to its rural location and its low-income population, travel between communities can be difficult and costly for those without reliable transportation.

Map 2: Major trip generators in the geographic area.



II. Population Demographics

Chart 1: Total Population Current and Projected for Five Years

Chart 1 illustrates the change in population for Perry County from 2005 through projected numbers in 2025. Based on previous census information, Perry County's population is projected to increase throughout the next five years.

Source: Census Reporter/Profiles
 Source: Ohio Development Services Agency

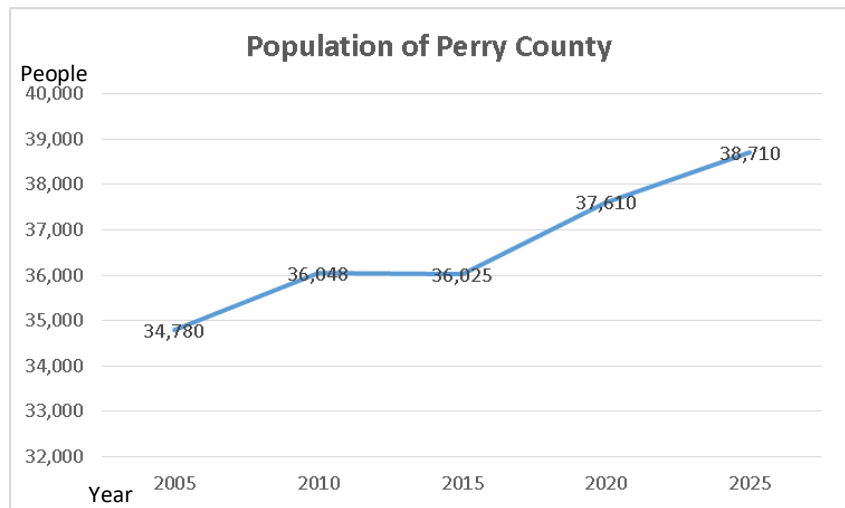


Chart 2: Total Population by Age Group

Chart 2 illustrates population by age category based off the 2020 Census.

Source: 2020 Census Reporter/Profiles

Age Category	Population	Population Percentage
Under 18 years of age	8,530	22.4%
18 to 64 years of age	21,646	61%
Over 65 years of age	5,846	16.7%

Chart 3: Total Population by Race

Chart 3 illustrates Perry County population by race compared to the United States.

Race and Hispanic Origin	Perry County	United States
White alone, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(a)	97.19%	61.6%

Black or African American alone, percent, July 1, 2019,

(V2019)(a)

0.39%

12.4%

American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(a)	0.34%	1.1%
Asian alone, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(a)	0.13%	6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(a)	0.15%	0.2%
Two or More Races, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	0.27%	2.9%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)(b)	0.03%	42.2%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	96.61%	57.5%

Source: United States Census Bureau

(Note: 2020 Data available November 30, 2021)

Chart 4: Number and percentage of people with disabilities

Chart 4 illustrates a total of 6,392 individuals with disability (17.7% of population) living in Perry County.

Source: 2019 United States Census Bureau
Population estimates

Disabled Individuals	Total Population	Population percentage
Under 18	717	8.4%
18-64	3,442	15.9%
64+	2,233	38.2%

Chart 5: Number and percentage of households with incomes below the federal poverty level

Chart 5 illustrates the number and percentage of households living below the federal poverty level. This number was based on 13,500 total households averaging 2.6 persons per household.
Source: 2019 Census Recorder/Profiles

Low Income Households	Number of Households	Percent of Households
Supplemental Security Income	1,474	10.9%
Cash Public Assistance Income	281	2.1%
SNAP Benefits	3,155	23.4%

Chart 6: Number and percentage of individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level

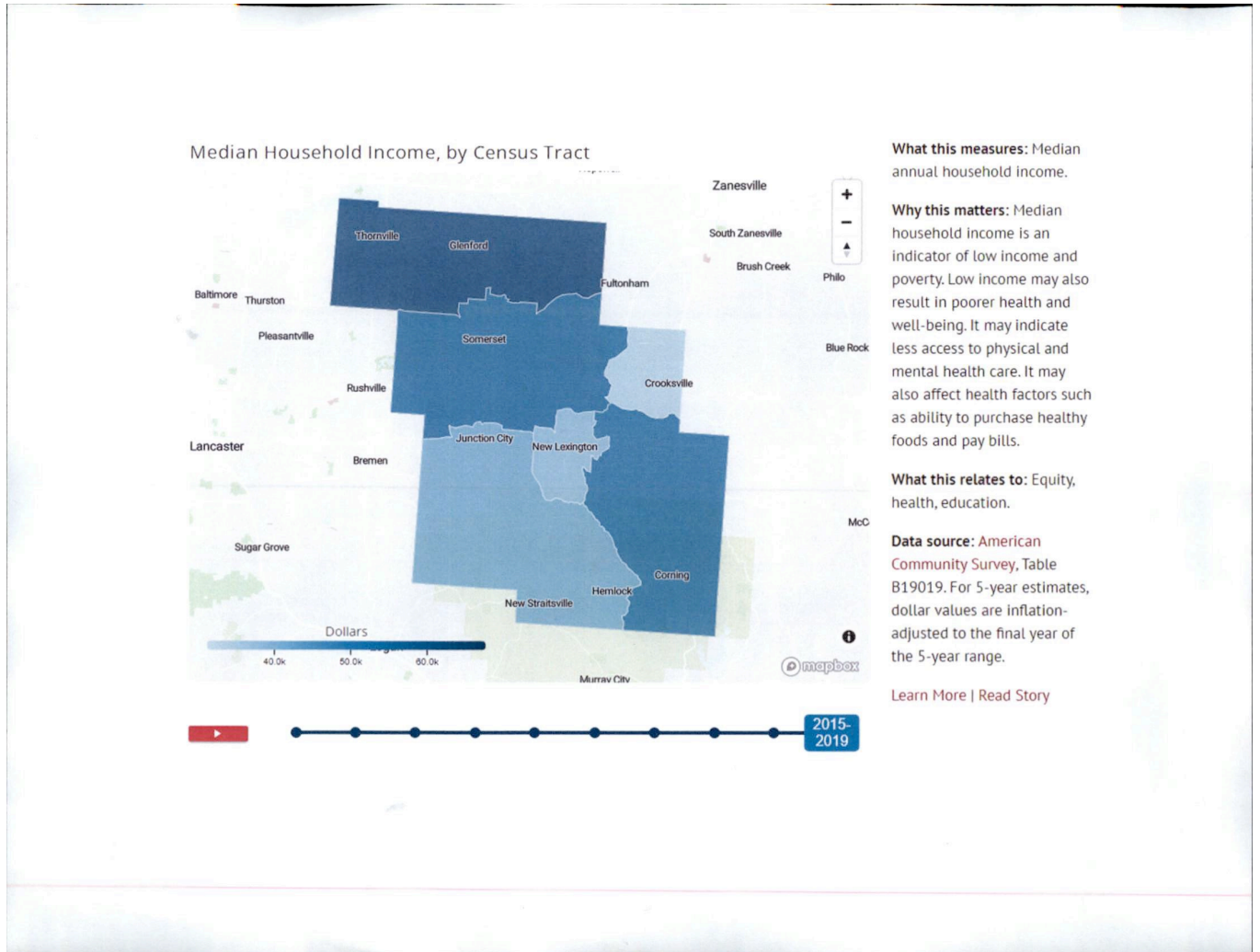
Chart 6 illustrates 13.1% of individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level distributed by age

Source: July 2021 United States Census Bureau

Individuals Below the Federal Poverty Level	Number of Individuals	Percent of Population
Under 18	2,320	23.6%
18 to 64 years	3,896	18%
Over 65 years	696	17.6%

Map 3: Income by Location

Map 3 illustrates the income by location in Perry County. This chart demonstrates that the need for low-cost transportation options is needed throughout the southern part of the county.



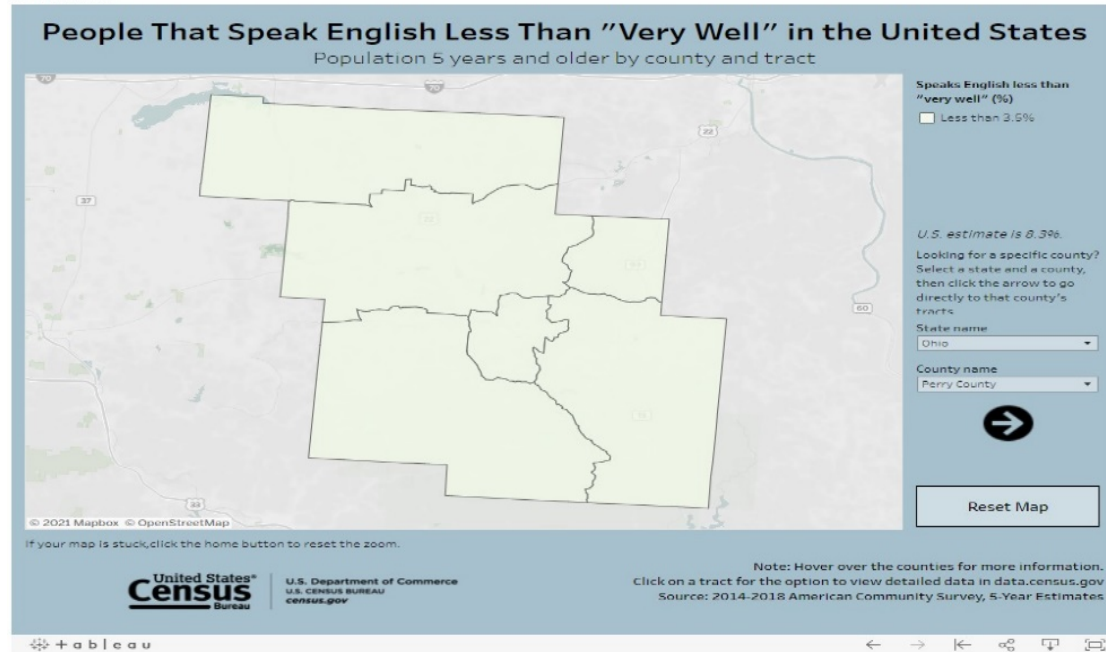
Source: Data USA

Maps 4&5 : Maps of population that speak English “Less than very well”

Perry County Map:

People That Speak English Less Than "Very Well" in the United States

APRIL 08, 2020

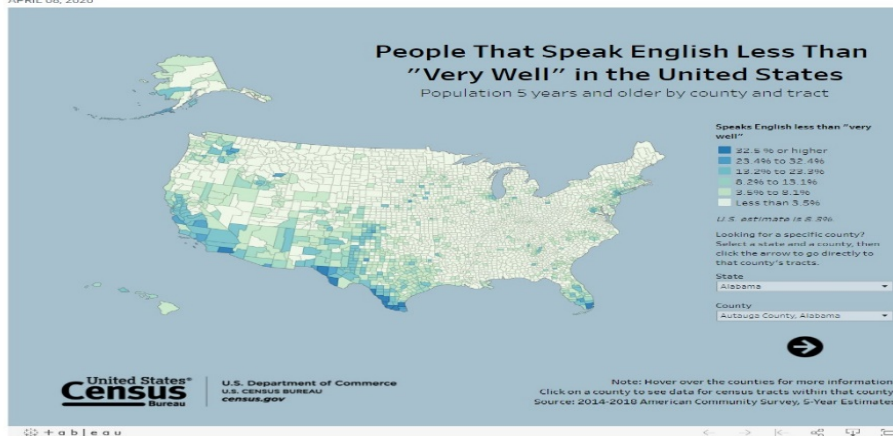


United States Map:



People That Speak English Less Than "Very Well" in the United States

APRIL 08, 2020



III. Assessment of Available Services

Conducting an evaluation of service provider capabilities and analyzing the existing gaps and duplications of services for transportation resources in each community, provides transportation planners with the information needed to implement changes that will improve the network of transportation resources and services in Perry County and across county lines.

The lead agency identified stakeholders to participate in the assessment of available services. These stakeholders included those who were represented in the current or past planning committees, as well as others who the planning committee identified as being appropriate stakeholders.

Interviews were conducted with each of the identified stakeholders.

The purpose of the interview was to offer the stakeholders an opportunity to discuss the specific transportation services, gaps, needs, and priorities for their respective service areas or communities.

When applicable, information reported in the previous coordinated plan was used to supplement information gathered during this planning effort, in order to provide updated and accurate figures.

Inventory of Transportation Providers

Agency Providers	Direct Transportation Services	Subsidized Transportation on a Local Level	Administers Transportation Programs	Arranges Transportation on Behalf of Individuals
Perry County Department of Job and Family Services	x	x	x	x
Crooksville Exempted Village School District	x	x	x	x
New Lexington Schools	x	x	x	x
Northern Local School District	x	x	x	x
Southern Local School District	x	x	x	x
Sech-Kar Company	x	x	x	x
Perry County Juvenile Court	x	x		x
Perry County Children Services	x	x		x
HAPCAP/SE Ohio Food Bank	x	x		x
Perry County Transit	x		x	x
Perry County Behavioral Health Choices	x			x
PerCo, Inc.	x		x	x

Mount Aloysius	x			x
On Time Transportation	x		x	x
Perry County Senior Center	x		x	x
Fairview Assisted Living	x	x	x	x
Perry County Veterans Service Commission	x		x	x
Genesis Community Ambulance	x			
Portsmouth Emergency Ambulance	x			
Residential, Inc.	x			x
Perry County RSVP	x			x
Perry County Board of Development Disabilities		x		