Community members who participated in the Rural Broome Counts Kick-Off identified transportation as one of rural Broome County’s top three challenges.

Access to employment, as well as to goods and services, often requires travel within rural areas and into the urban center.

Lack of affordable, reliable transportation is a barrier to rural viability and prosperity.

REPORT FINDINGS:
- A serious transportation inequity exists between rural Broome and the rest of the county.
- Rural Broome County has few affordable transportation services.
- The number of emergency medical services (EMS) volunteers and ambulance services in rural areas is in decline.
- Inappropriate use of non-emergency EMS increases cost and response time for true medical emergencies.

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MAP

BC Country Service Areas

401 (Whitney Point) 404 (Conklin/Kirkwood) Travels to 402
402 (Windsor/Harpursville) 405 (Vestal) Can Travel to Service Area
403 (Port Crane) 406 (Chenango Forks) BC Lift

Fixed Routes


FURTHER RESEARCH:
• Engage job training and employment services and employers’ human resource departments to better understand the impact of transportation on employment, quality of employment, and retention.
• Consider addressing the increasing need for door-through-door transportation for seniors and individuals with diverse abilities. This service includes going into a residence or facility, to assist the rider with mobilizing to and into the vehicle.
• Continue research on inappropriate rural EMS transportation use for non-emergency needs.
• Research public transit systems serving rural populations of comparable size and adopt their best practices.

CHALLENGES:
• Existing public transportation services in rural Broome are limited and inconvenient, while private transportation services are expensive.
• Little information regarding employment and unemployment exists at the township and/or ZIP code levels.
• Lack of information makes it difficult to target affordable, employment-oriented transportation services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Encourage Broome County public transportation to adopt the best features of a reservation-based system and a fixed route system to increase access and ridership.
• Develop ride sharing, van pooling, and car sharing services.
• Add park and rides in rural village centers to serve as common pick up points.
• Expand utilization of the GetThere Call Center and similar transportation information and coordination services.
• Identify areas in which Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant paratransit services are unavailable.
• Encourage health and human service providers to use technology connecting transportation services to riders in real time.
• Include transportation information when establishing a patient’s electronic medical records.
• Promote entrepreneurship and social enterprises creating transportation-related services and employment.

A Deposit Foundation volunteer driver drops off a Deposit resident in Binghamton for a health care appointment.

TOOL TO ASSESS TRANSPORTATION VULNERABILITY

Below is an example of a specific strategy that can be utilized to survey transportation vulnerability.

Which of the following is most true?
A. I have access to a dependable vehicle or public transportation.
B. I have some, yet limited, transportation options (undependable personal vehicle, lack income for gas, maintenance/repairs, licensure/registration & insurance).
C. I lack access to a personal vehicle or public transportation for most of my mobility needs including: employment, education/training, healthy foods/shopping, medical or social service appointments.

A responses indicate Transportation Independence.
B responses indicate Transportation Vulnerability.
C responses indicate Transportation Dependence.

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