



Transportation: How Do We Get There?

Ed Thomas

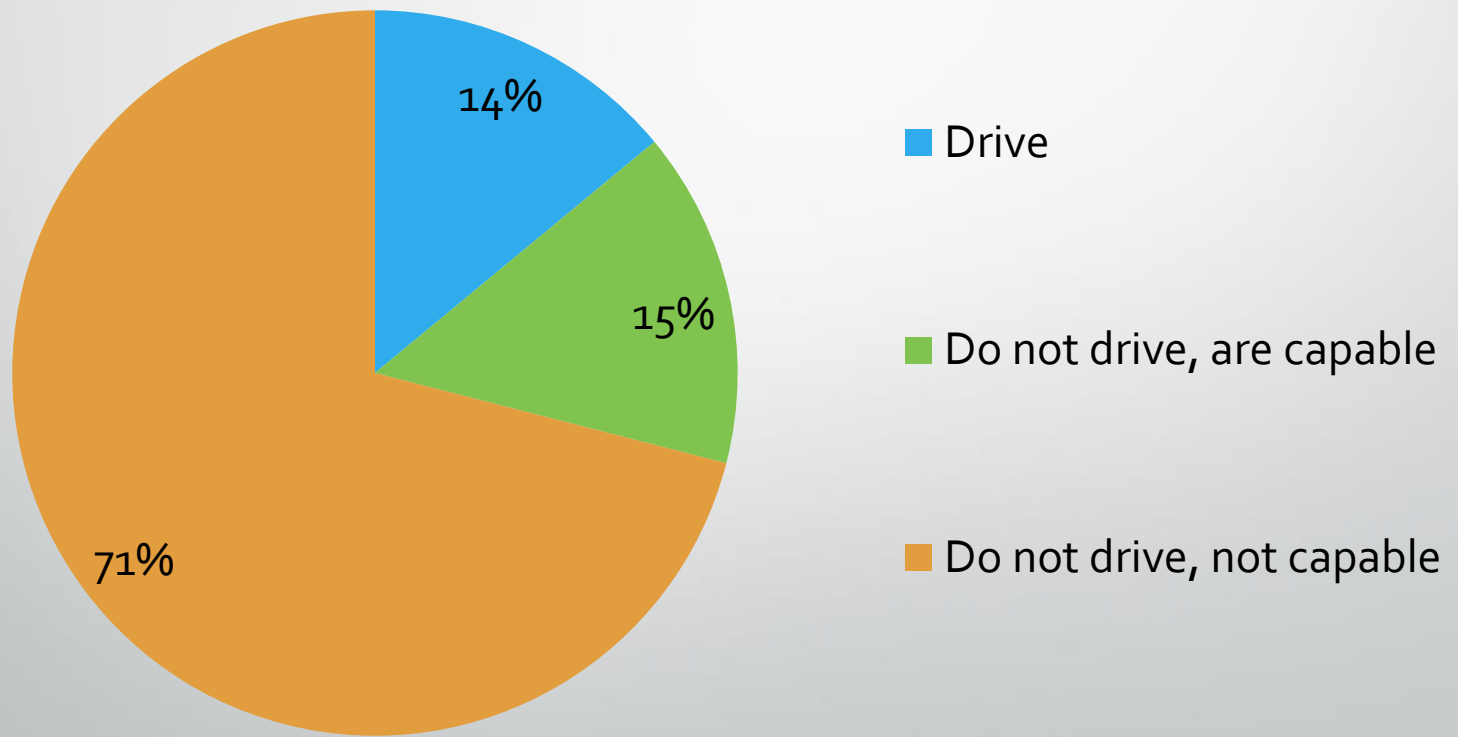
Executive Director

Camden County Developmental Disability Resources

Camden County Developmental Disability Resources (CCDDR)

- We Began with a Focus on Competitive Integrated Employment Opportunities
- CCDDR Distributed Employment Surveys to its Clients and completed its analysis in early 2016
- Survey Results Showed Overwhelming Interest in Competitive Integrated Employment
- During the Surveys, CCDDR Identified Transportation as a Significant Barrier to Competitive Integrated Employment

CCDDR Clients Working Age



Tri-County Transit: Community Partnership

- **Stakeholder collaboration:** In April of 2016, CCDDR reached out to other organizations. These organizations collaborated and formed a local “task force” to look at transportation systems and develop a comprehensive plan to improve public transit services the Lake Area for all community members.
- **Research and analysis:** The task force used available data and formulated new, raw data to determine the need, which began with a focus on employment.
- **Formation of a not-for-profit:** The task force evolved into the Lake of the Ozarks Transportation Council (LOTC), whose mission is “to promote, develop, operate and/or fund mass transportation related facilities and/or programs in and around the Lake of the Ozarks region”.

What the Task Force Discovered: General Population Survey Data

- **20%** need transportation
- **13%** need transportation for employment
- **13%** need transportation daily
- Only **50%** know OATS can provide transportation to EVERYONE
- **79%** are willing to pay for a ride: **39%** - up to \$5, **33%** - \$6 to \$10, **7%** - more than \$10
- **50%** would use a public transportation system
- **13%** have lost a job or been unable to get a job due to lack of transportation

What the Task Force Discovered – Local Employers Raw Data (61 Employers in the Tri-County Area)

- **42%** have employees with transportation barriers
- **69%** said employees would benefit from public transportation
- **82%** of those employees had an annual income of less than \$25,000
- **53%** were willing to have a transportation stop at their facility
- **39%** lose up to 5 employees annually due to a lack of transportation

The Creation of Tri-County Transit

- **OATS, Inc. managed and operated the service:** OATS is the recognized public transit service provider for our area and receives FTA funding to provide public transit services.
- **50% of the total cost was funded through local match:** 50% of the cost was secured by OATS through the FTA/MoDOT, and 50% through Local Match (CCDDR).
- **The service operated 7 days per week:** Service hours were Monday to Friday from 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM and 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday to Sunday.
- **Inexpensive for riders:** Fares were inexpensive (\$1 per trip) because of the collaboration in funding, and a deviated route created more access to public transit for a larger population than the traditional “door-to-door” service
- **The route was “deviated” for easier access:** There were many designated “pick-up/drop off” locations for the general public, and there was a 1.5-mile deviation to accommodate seniors & people with disabilities

Impact in Camden County

- 2015 to 2016: 12,467 Rides
- 2016 to 2017: 22,652 Rides *
- 2017 to 2018: 27,919 Rides
- 2018 to 2019: 33,635 Rides

** Began Using Tri-County Transit*

Funding is Always an Issue

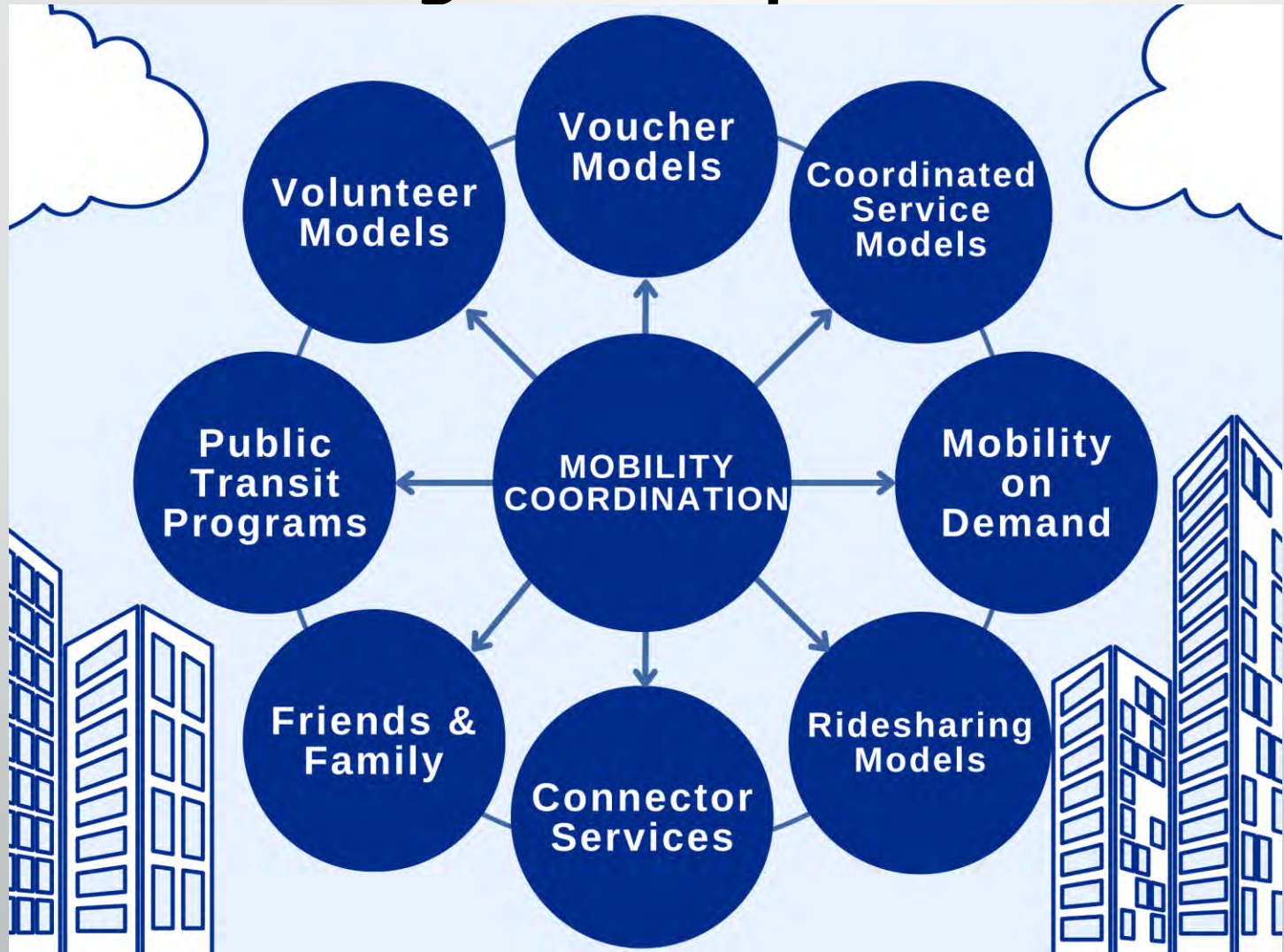
- Lake of the Ozarks Transportation
- In early 2020, Tri-County Transit suspended services temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Tri-County Transit ridership began to gradually increase back to its previous levels before the pandemic
- Unfortunately, operational costs significantly increased from 2020 to 2022, and available funding from the CCDDR could not be continued
- Attempts to secure additional local match to continue Tri-County Transit services were unsuccessful
- CCDDR could no longer support funding Tri-County Transit beginning in 2023

New Focus in Camden County and the Lake Area

Establish a Mobility Coordination Program

- 4 CCDDR employees will become certified Mobility Managers
- Seek funding sources to start and sustain a Mobility Coordination Program
- Establish a volunteer driver program
- Establish a robust network of transit options and mobility coordination partnerships
- Collect raw data for future reference

Mobility Coordination Program Snapshot



Questions??????



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