



**2024**

A N N U A L  
R E P O R T



# History of the Blue Bus

1984

Bill Richards founded Community Resource Volunteers (CRV). Also known as the "Blue Bus," CRV's system of volunteers provided transportation to elderly and disabled community members.

2001

CRV became Clinton Transit under the Public Transportation Authority Act 196 of 1986.

2005

Clinton County residents approved the agency's first local millage.

2006

Extended service to include all Clinton County residents.

2009

Purchased Scott Road property.

2010

Expanded routes into Lansing.

2017

Moved into the new Scott Road facility.

2020

Clinton County residents voted "Yes" to increase the local millage.

2021

Added Saturday service and expanded weekday service hours; launched a new mobile app for scheduling convenience; added tablets on buses.

2023

Completed renovations at the Scott Road administration facility, including construction of the Watkins Conference Center; engaged in Transit Development Plan.

2024

Finalized Transit Development Plan; launched Michigan Mobility Wallet pilot

## MISSION

Keeping people connected.

## VISION

Providing mobility as a service.

## CORE VALUES

### Service Orientation

We value, above all, compassion for others; going the distance for our staff and the community we serve.

### Communication

We value open, honest, and frequent communications with our staff and our community partners. Our internal and external communications will continue to be open, constructive, and empowering.

### Adaptability

We are committed to the mindset of remaining willing when able and able when unwilling.

### Accountability

We are committed to delivering results that make a difference in Clinton County and being accountable for those results.





# Board of Directors



**Gail Watkins**  
Chairperson  
2018-Present



**Jack Phillips**  
Vice Chairperson  
2022-Present



**Dan Skorich**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
2013-Present



**Josephine Smith**  
Board Member  
2001-Present



**Deb Shaughnessy**  
Board Member  
2022-Present



**Patrick McPharlin**  
Board Member  
2023-Present



**Zachary Rudat**  
Board Member  
2023-2024

# Dear Clinton County Residents,

I am pleased to present the 2024 Clinton Transit Annual Report to the Community!

There has never been a greater need in Clinton County for convenient, curb-to-curb transportation. We are humbled by the county's incredible show of support as voters were asked to consider a millage proposal for public transit services—and 69% of voters said "yes."

Local millage funding allows Clinton Transit's Blue Buses to operate, maintain competitive wages and benefits for dozens of local drivers and staff, and increase services to meet rising demand.

Thank you, Clinton County voters, for your ongoing support of mobility as a service. As a rural, on-demand service, we are deeply committed to forward thinking, improvement, and meeting the unique mobility needs of our community members.

In the pages that follow, we'll talk about Clinton Transit's participation in the Michigan Mobility Wallet Challenge. We'll introduce a few of Clinton Transit's biggest fans—our passengers. Then we'll take a look at our plans for 2025 (and beyond). We'll continue to share updates at [MyBlueBus.com](https://MyBlueBus.com) and [facebook.com/ClintonTransit](https://facebook.com/ClintonTransit).

Again, thank you for trusting our Blue Buses and friendly, compassionate drivers to provide safe, accessible transportation. Please reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss your mobility needs.

We look forward to seeing you around town!

**THANK YOU!**



**MALISSA SCHUTT**   
Executive Director

# Year In Review

- In the spring, Clinton Transit finalized its Transit Development Plan (TDP), a year-long project that culminates in a comprehensive roadmap for future expansions and improvements. Resident input was key and is woven throughout the plan—directly impacting recommendations for the future.
- Following its completion, the agency has focused on process and workflow improvements aimed at efficiency. The goal is to address identified needs by expanding Saturday service hours; offering new Sunday service; establishing a scheduled, fixed-route connector between St. Johns and DeWitt and implementing on-demand microtransit technology solutions.
- Clinton Transit again offered election workers and voters a safe, convenient way to get to the polls and back on Election Day.
- Clinton Transit’s “free rides for veterans” program is funded by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners to honor our nation’s heroes.
- Blue Buses continued to play a critical role in emergency response, using specialized communications equipment to back up the Clinton County Emergency Operations Center dispatch.





# Year In Review (continued)

## LEADING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

### *Blue Buses Pilot Michigan Mobility Wallet*

Imagine traveling across Michigan, solely via public transit—all from one, easy-to-use and universally accessible interface. That’s the vision behind the Michigan Mobility Wallet, a collaboration aimed at increasing interoperability and expanding access to transit services.

Clinton Transit is leading that charge in mid-Michigan as the first to offer cashless, contactless and queue-less boarding—the combined features made possible by the Michigan Mobility Wallet with Clinton Transit’s compatible, ADA-compliant ticket validation scanners.

“This account-based feature automatically validates Michigan Mobility Wallet tickets ‘over the air.’ Passengers do not need to take out their phone from a pocket or bag, they can just board and an audible beep from the validator verifies when they’ve been checked in,” explains MaLissa Schutt, executive director for Clinton Transit.

The Michigan Mobility Wallet Challenge was launched by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME), with support from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and the Michigan Poverty Task Force. The free app allows users to plan, book and pay for trips (and more) on one seamless, easy-to-use interface.

The app is free and available in the App Store and Google Play.



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## BLUE BUS DELIVERS BOOKS TO AREA CHILDREN

Clinton Transit and Clinton County RESA have partnered to get more books into the hands of area youth. With support from Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), Talking is Teaching, and the Clinton Great Start Collaborative, more than 4,000 books have been purchased and placed on 28 Clinton Transit buses.


Talking is Teaching helps boost early brain and vocabulary development in children—which is something Clinton Transit is proud to get behind. CCRESA and the Clinton Great Start say that “utilizing the local campaign ‘Talking is Teaching’, encourages parents and caregivers to engage in simple, everyday activities like talking, reading, and singing to boost their children’s early brain and vocabulary development.”

“It’s really to be cognizant of how when we’re talking to children, we’re teaching them,” explains Scott Koenigsnecht, Superintendent of Clinton County RESA. “And when you’re reading to children, that’s exactly what you’re doing.”

“As children board the Blue Bus, they will be invited to choose a free book,” shares MaLissa Schutt, executive director for Clinton Transit. “We’re thrilled to participate, ensuring children and families throughout Clinton County have access to materials that promote childhood literacy.”

The books will be available on Clinton Transit’s buses for the next several weeks or until they’ve all been dispersed.

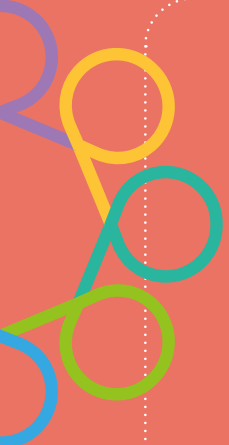




**"The freedom it gives me to go where I want in town and out of town, and the services it provides for others that need it for jobs and education is amazing."**

*"Being independent and having the ability to take the blue bus has been one of the best things that's happened to me since I've moved to Clinton County."*





**"When I found out about the Blue Bus, it was a game changer for me. Prior to that, I felt as if I was, basically trapped. The blue bus is independence on wheels."**

*"I take the bus because, the program gives me an incredible amount of independence. It allows me to schedule commitments and opportunities on my timetable, my schedule, and not have to worry about somebody being able to come and pick me up."*



MARK HENTEMAN 

# Key Statistics



**1,091,965**

TOTAL MILES  
(14% increase over 2023)



**76,157**

TOTAL ONE-WAY TRIPS  
(5% increase over 2023)



**42%**

of all rides were  
employment related



**80%**

of Saturday rides were  
employment related



**20%**

of passengers were  
new in 2024



**20%**

of rides were to  
access medical care



**15%**

of rides were  
education related



**7%**

of rides were to recreational  
or community events



**16%**

of rides were to shop  
and run errands



# A Look Ahead

## VISION FOR MOBILITY IN CLINTON COUNTY

- **Regional Collaboration Success with CATA:** Our successful regional collaboration with CATA continues to enhance mobility for riders across the Tri-County region. The convenience of one-seat rides has transformed travel for our passengers, providing seamless and reliable connections to key destinations. Looking ahead, we are excited to partner with CATA to implement a new connector route, further expanding equitable access—ensuring that no matter where someone lives, they have a direct and efficient way to reach their destination. This initiative builds on CATA's proven expertise in connector services and Clinton Transit's personalized door-to-door service, reinforcing our shared commitment to accessible, community-driven transportation solutions.
- **Michigan Mobility Fellowship Program:** Our project was one of 10 selected statewide for transportation planning. We're developing a tool to help Clinton Transit and other rural transit agencies in Michigan more effectively evaluate performance metrics and improve on-demand services. – [cedamichigan.org/programs/mi-mobility-fellows-program/](http://cedamichigan.org/programs/mi-mobility-fellows-program/).
- **Michigan \$15 Million Equitable Mobility Challenge Grant Awarded:** The goal is to expand services and create a Coordination Committee tasked with identifying unique mobility needs, especially of our most vulnerable residents. More importantly, the committee coordinates transportation resources and leverages non-dot funding, i.e., Medicaid and Older Americans Act funding to meet Clinton Transit's commitment to revenue diversification and service expansion. These efforts contribute to the success of Clinton Transit's paradigm shift to our VISION for mobility in Clinton County.
- **Internal evaluation of the value and viability of Microtransit services in Clinton County:** Microtransit is a shared, on-demand transportation service that offers a flexible alternative. It's characterized by smaller vehicles, like vans or shuttles, that are used to provide flexible routing and scheduling based on real-time demand.
- **Finalize the maintenance facility design and kick-off construction in the fall.**





**"It's amazing that the buses are so available so I can go where I need to go and do what I need to do. I don't know what I would do without the (blue) bus."**

*"I thank God every day for everyone that has anything to do with the blue buses. I really do."*



BONNIE BRADLEY 



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