



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Our Foundation, our Future.

Built by community trust. Guided by purpose.

What began as a small volunteer effort has grown into a countywide transit system that connects people to opportunity and community. Each chapter of our story has strengthened our foundation – a foundation built on fiscal responsibility, accessibility, and service to every resident of Clinton County. Today, Clinton Transit stands as a trusted, independent organization rooted in its mission, vision, and core values – the principles that continue to guide our path forward.

MILESTONES THAT BUILT US

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.

2006

Extended service to include all Clinton County residents.

2021

Added Saturday service and expanded weekday service hours; launched mobile app; added tablets on buses.

2001

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

2010

Expanded routes into Lansing.

2023

Completed renovations at the Scott Road administration facility.

2005

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

2017

Moved into Scott Road facility.

2024

Finalized Transit Development Plan; launched Michigan Mobility Wallet pilot.

2020

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

2026

Celebrating 25 years of keeping Clinton County connected.

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.

Adaptability

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

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.

Accountability

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



Meet the Board



Gail Watkins

Chairperson

"Transit connects people to what matters – work, healthcare, and each other."



Jack Phillips

Vice Chairperson

"Public transportation keeps our community accessible for everyone, no matter their age or ability."



Dan Skorich

Secretary/Treasurer

"Transit is more than a ride – it's independence for so many of our neighbors."



Josephine Smith

Board Member

"A good transit system reflects who we are: caring, responsible, and community minded."



Deb Shaughnessy

Board Member

"Transit means opportunity – every trip helps someone reach their goals."



Patrick McPharlin

Board Member

"Reliable transportation is the foundation of a strong, connected community."



Jessica Tramontana

Board Member

"Public transit ensures that rural residents have the same access as those in larger towns."



Brian Hurtekant

Clinton County Board of Commissioners Representative

"Transit matters because it brings our entire county together – one ride at a time."

From Our Leadership

A message from the Board Chairperson:

Dear Clinton County Residents,

As Chairperson of the Clinton Transit Board of Directors, I am proud to share the continued progress of an organization guided by purpose, accountability, and community impact.

Clinton Transit exists for a simple but powerful reason: to keep people connected. That mission informs every decision we make as a Board — from long-term planning and investment, to ensuring public resources are used responsibly and in alignment with community needs. Our vision of providing mobility as a service reflects a commitment to flexible, modern transportation that supports access to jobs, education, healthcare, and daily life across Clinton County.

Public transportation is more than a service — it is essential infrastructure that strengthens local economies, supports independence, and fosters inclusion. Through mission-driven leadership and strong partnerships, Clinton Transit continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of the communities it serves while remaining grounded in transparency and local accountability.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued trust and support. We are committed to thoughtful stewardship and to ensuring Clinton Transit remains a reliable, forward-looking resource for today and for the future.

Sincerely,
Gail Watkins
Board Chairperson



A message from the Executive Director:

Dear Clinton County Residents,

It's my honor to share Clinton Transit's 2025 Annual Report – a reflection of another year of growth, accountability, and community connection.

Thanks to your continued support, Clinton Transit stands stronger than ever as a trusted, locally accountable system built on fiscal responsibility and service to the people of Clinton County. This year, we're proud to share how your investment in local mobility continues to deliver results – from launching a new microtransit service that expands access and flexibility, to advancing the Maintenance Facility Project that will improve efficiency and extend fleet life, all while supporting economic growth and opportunity throughout the county.

We're especially honored to be recognized on the national stage as a finalist in the PRNEWS Platinum Awards for community engagement and transparency during our 2024 millage renewal. That recognition belongs to you – the passengers, voters, and partners who make our work possible. Your trust allows us to innovate while staying rooted in the values that define Clinton Transit: accessibility, reliability, and accountability.

Our focus for the year ahead remains simple – to build on our strong foundation. We'll continue strengthening regional partnerships, improving technology for passengers, and exploring new ways to connect people to opportunity.

On behalf of our Board and the entire Clinton Transit team, including our drivers, schedulers, maintenance staff, and administrative support, thank you for believing in the vital role public transportation plays in everyday life across our county. We are proud to be part of your daily journeys and your community.

See you on the road,
MaLissa Schutt
Executive Director



Clinton Transit Leadership Team



Malissa Schutt
Executive Director



Ty Piontek
Director of Operations



Matthew Dethlefsen
Finance Manager



Fran Evans
Office Manager

Building on Progress

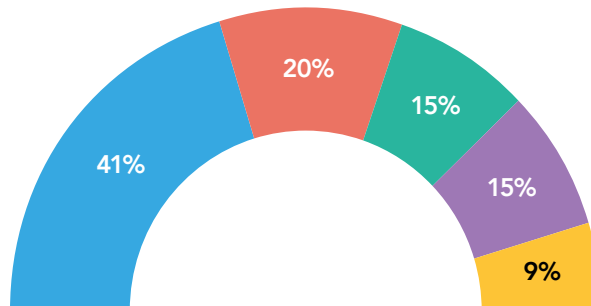
2025 AT A GLANCE

In 2025, Clinton Transit continued to deliver on its commitments by expanding service, improving convenience, and connecting residents to work, healthcare, education, and community life.

Here's a look at this year's impact in motion:

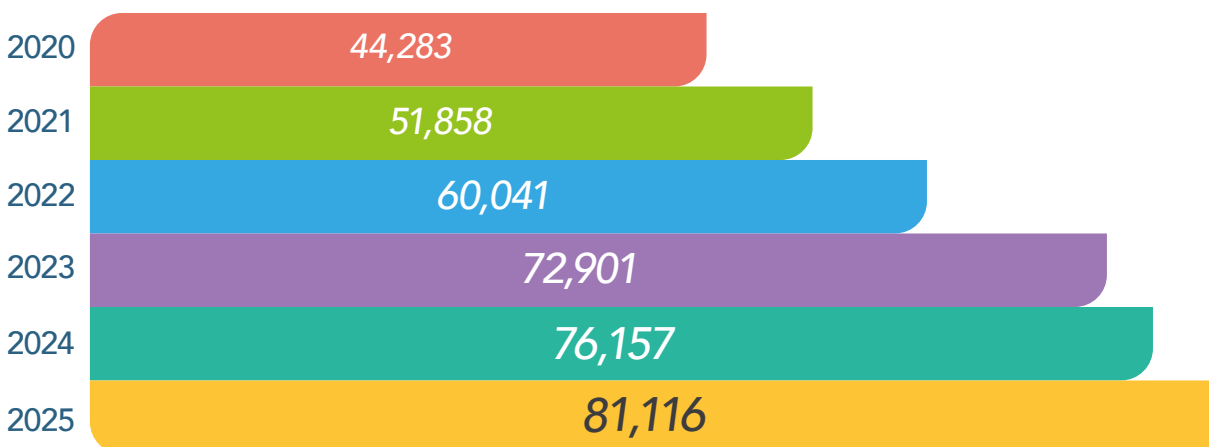


- 41% of rides were employment-related
- 20% of rides were for medical care
- 15% of rides were education-related
- 15% of rides were for shopping and errands
- 9% of rides supported participation in recreational and community events



Ridership Trends:

Number of One-Way Trips



Financial Overview

Clinton Transit is committed to responsible financial management that maximizes the value of every taxpayer dollar and grant investment. Through careful budgeting, strategic use of state and federal funding, and ongoing operational efficiencies, the agency works to deliver reliable, accessible transportation services while maintaining long-term financial stability.

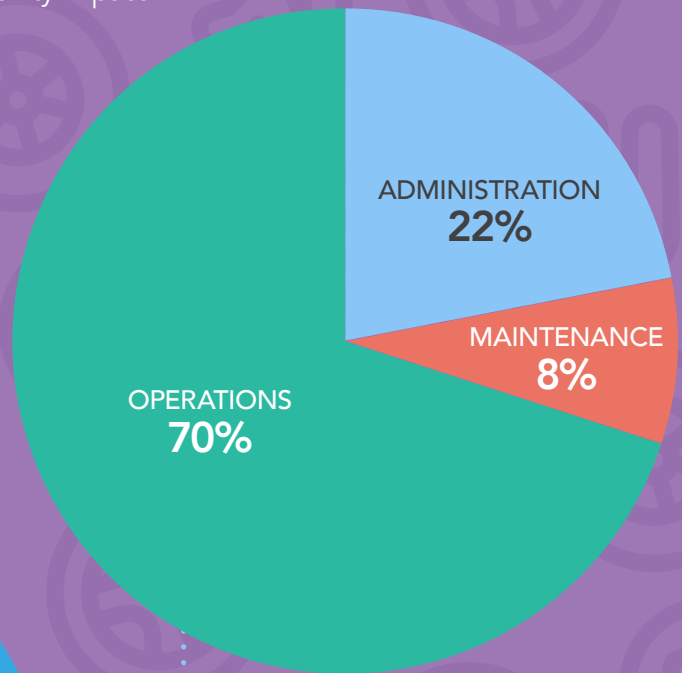
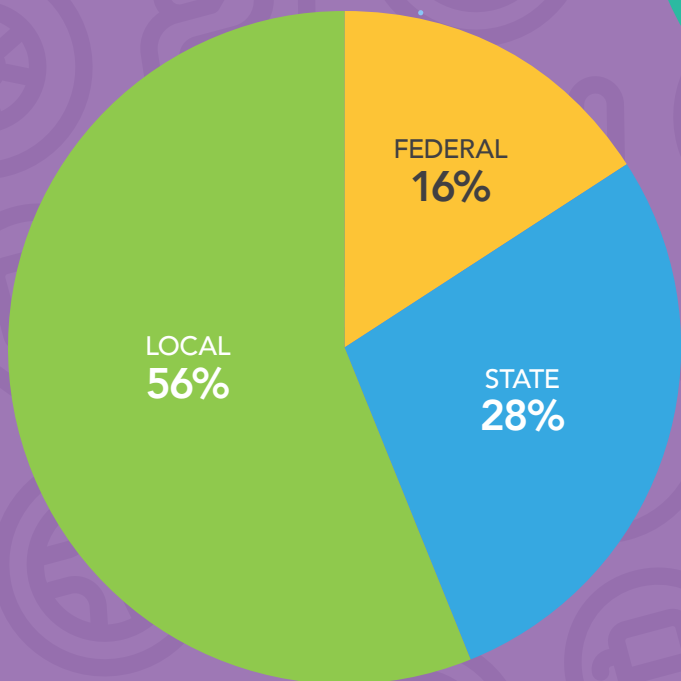
This disciplined approach allows Clinton Transit to respond to community needs without overextending resources. **In 2025, ridership growth outpaced expense growth, with ridership increasing 7% while expenses rose just 3%**—a key indicator of efficient service delivery and strong return on public investment.

At the same time, Clinton Transit maintained a clear focus on day-to-day operations, directing the majority of resources toward keeping vehicles on the road and passengers moving. This balanced approach supports reliable service today while building a strong foundation for future growth and continued community impact.

Operating Revenues

- Federal ●
- State ●
- Local ●

*Local revenues include property taxes levied, passenger fares, and contracted services.



Expenses by Department

- Administration ●
- Maintenance ●
- Operations ●

Connecting People to Jobs and Education

For many passengers, Clinton Transit is not optional — it is essential infrastructure that makes work and education possible. In 2025, the Blue Bus continued to play a direct role in supporting workforce participation and student success by providing reliable, affordable transportation where other options may not exist.

Passengers use Clinton Transit to maintain consistent employment schedules, attend classes, and manage daily responsibilities. Alexis, who rides the Blue Bus to her job at Michigan State University, relies on the service multiple days each week to get to work safely and on time.

Colton, a student at Lansing Community College, uses the Blue Bus to attend classes as he works toward becoming a high school English teacher. “It allows me to focus and get to school on time,” he shared. “It’s fast, affordable, and gives me peace of mind.”

For Tsz-yan, the Blue Bus provides dependable weekday transportation to and from work — even in challenging weather. “The Blue Bus always shows up on time,” she said. “It takes me to work and brings me home.”

These stories reflect a consistent reality across Clinton County: public transit supports economic stability by connecting people to jobs, education, and opportunity.



Building for the Road Ahead

In 2025, Clinton Transit launched its Maintenance Facility Project, a major investment in the infrastructure that keeps transit services running safely, efficiently, and reliably. While largely behind the scenes, this project plays a critical role in supporting day-to-day operations and long-term service quality.

The new facility is designed to improve maintenance efficiency, reduce vehicle downtime, and extend the life of the fleet. By providing a purpose-built space equipped to meet modern transit needs, the project allows the maintenance team to work more effectively and proactively, helping identify issues earlier and keeping vehicles on the road longer. The result is greater reliability for passengers and a stronger foundation for consistent service.

The project also enhances the work environment for transit employees, supporting safer, more efficient maintenance practices and reinforcing the Agency's commitment to operational excellence.

Importantly, the Maintenance Facility Project is funded through secured federal grants and strategic partnerships, minimizing reliance on local tax dollars. This approach reflects a focus on fiscal responsibility while continuing to invest in the systems that serve the community every day.

Now fully underway, the project marks 2025 as a pivotal year of progress. This investment strengthens Clinton Transit's ability to meet future transportation needs and ensures the fleet – and the community it serves – keeps moving forward.



Maintenance Facility Project Rendering

What to Expect in 2026

Clinton Transit is preparing for the next phase of service expansion, focused on increasing flexibility, improving regional connections, and responding to evolving passenger needs—positioning the system to better serve the community in 2026 and beyond.

BLUGO: FLEXIBLE, ON-DEMAND SERVICE

Blugo is a new microtransit service designed to complement existing routes by providing on-demand, technology-enabled transportation within designated service areas. These service zones focus on the county’s most densely populated areas—primarily St. Johns and DeWitt/Bath—where key stores and services are located. This focused service model allows the agency to maximize efficiency in high-demand areas while expanding access to communities across the county that need it most.



REGIONAL CONNECTOR ROUTE WITH CATA

Clinton Transit is advancing a new Connector Route in partnership with the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), expanding access between Clinton County and the greater Lansing area. Supported by a \$1 million state DOT grant investment, this new service is designed to improve access to employment, medical care, and essential destinations through stronger regional connectivity.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Join us on September 26, 2026 — at 215 N Scott Rd, St. Johns, MI 48879 — as we celebrate Clinton Transit’s 25th Anniversary, honoring 25 years of service and sharing our vision for the future of mobility.





Moving Forward, Together.

The journey continues – guided by our mission, strengthened by community partnerships, and powered by the people we serve. Together, we're building a future where every ride matters.

Hours of Operation

Clinton Transit serves all Clinton County residents with scheduled curb-to-curb transportation services.

Transportation Hours:

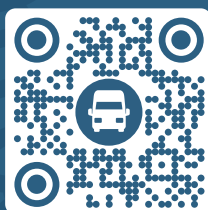
Monday-Friday: 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dispatch Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Walk-on service:

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Ready to ride? Need more information?

Call our Dispatch Office or visit mybluebus.com – ask about the Clinton Transit mobile app now available in the App Store or Google Play.



215 North Scott Road, St. Johns, MI 48879

mybluebus.com | 989-224-8127

