



Wayne County Transit Public Meeting

July 18, 2024



MEETING PURPOSE AND AGENDA

- Explain what county service is ending on August 31 and why
- Share preliminary plans to address transportation gaps
- Listen to how residents, employers and organizations will be affected
- Collect ideas for future service
- Let you know who you can call or email



INTRODUCTIONS

- Chuck Dyer, ODOT Office of Transit
- Sally Sharrow and Marie Keister, consultant team
- James Fox, Janet Conrad and Kathryn Hardinger, Community Action of Wayne/Medina
- Kirt Conrad and Clayton Popik, SARTA
- Wayne County Commissioners Ron Amstutz, Jonathan Hofstetter and Dave McMillen
- Richard Owens, Alysia Morris, Lisa Gunnels, Stacey Tanner, and Dawn Streit, Wayne County Jobs and Family Services
- Joel Montgomery and Phil Turske, City of Wooster
- Dave Ashley, Chris Yurik and Ken Kelly, Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities



FORMAT AND DISCUSSION GROUND RULES

- Hold questions and comments until we open it up to discussion
- Raise your hand so I can call on you in order and get to all of you
- Summarize your situation or question quickly so we can hear from everyone
- Please be respectful, polite and kind; we are all working together to find solutions



What Service is Ending and Why



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WCT SERVICE TO END ON AUGUST 31

- Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) will **discontinue Wayne County Transit (WCT) service**. Wayne County Commissioners gave SARTA the authority to receive federal funds to operate curb-to-curb service in the county
- **Community Action** will no longer register riders on SARTA's behalf, but will continue its role as the local mobility manager
- SARTA will also **discontinue contracted services with the Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities**



SERVICE TO END WHEN FUNDS SPENT

- **County-funded morning/evening service** provided by SHARE Mobility to end August 31, or after funds are spent
- **Subsidized rides (2/month for elderly/disabled)** will end this fall after funds are spent



WOOSTER CITY TRANSIT WILL CONTINUE

- **Wooster City Transit** will continue to provide fixed-route transit service for registered riders on the shuttle loop within the City of Wooster
 - SARTA does not operate this service
 - CAW/M contracts with SHARE Mobility to operate this service
- **Wooster Transportation Assistance Program** (taxi trip passes) will remain available for eligible residents within Wooster City limits
- **Community Action** will continue to work with you on this service



HOW WE GOT HERE

- Pilot started in 2021 with COVID-19, ODOT and federal funds accessed by SARTA for the county
- There is currently no local funding to match federal funds (50-50 match required)
- ODOT was providing the match but is responsible for distributing funds to 60+ transit systems through a competitive process, which requires more local funding
- Wooster and the county cannot pay the \$1.7 million annual cost on their own
- The current system setup doesn't allow Wooster and the county to access federal funds



WHAT'S NEXT

- ODOT is helping the City of Wooster stand up a new transit system that meets federal requirements
- This will position the new transit system to qualify for federal funds, which in turn will fund county service again when a local match is secured
- This will take time due to the many steps involved



Transit in Wayne County



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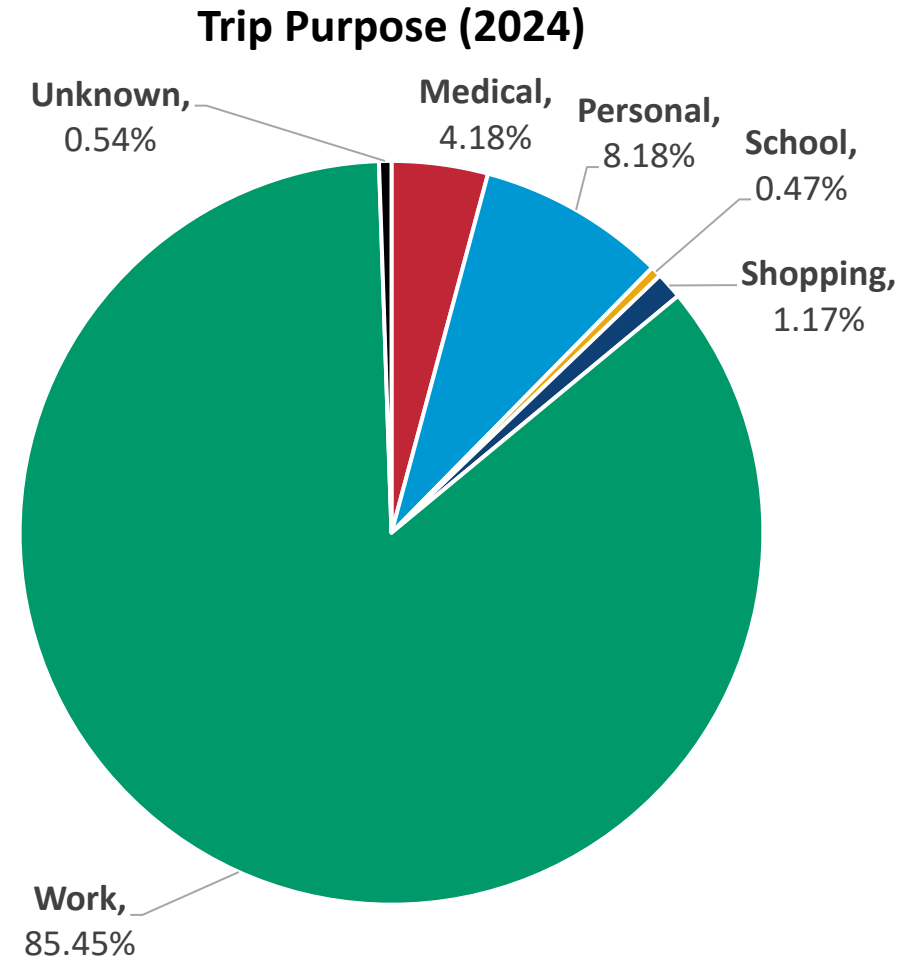
WAYNE COUNTY TRANSIT

- Provides curb-to-curb transportation within the county for members of the public, Monday–Saturday, 7 a.m.- 9 p.m.
- Contracted trips for certain groups
- Operated by SARTA, funded by FTA and ODOT
- Independent of service in Wooster
- 567 applications for service since 2019
- Service was reduced in 2023 but was supplemented by SHARE Mobility, funded by the county



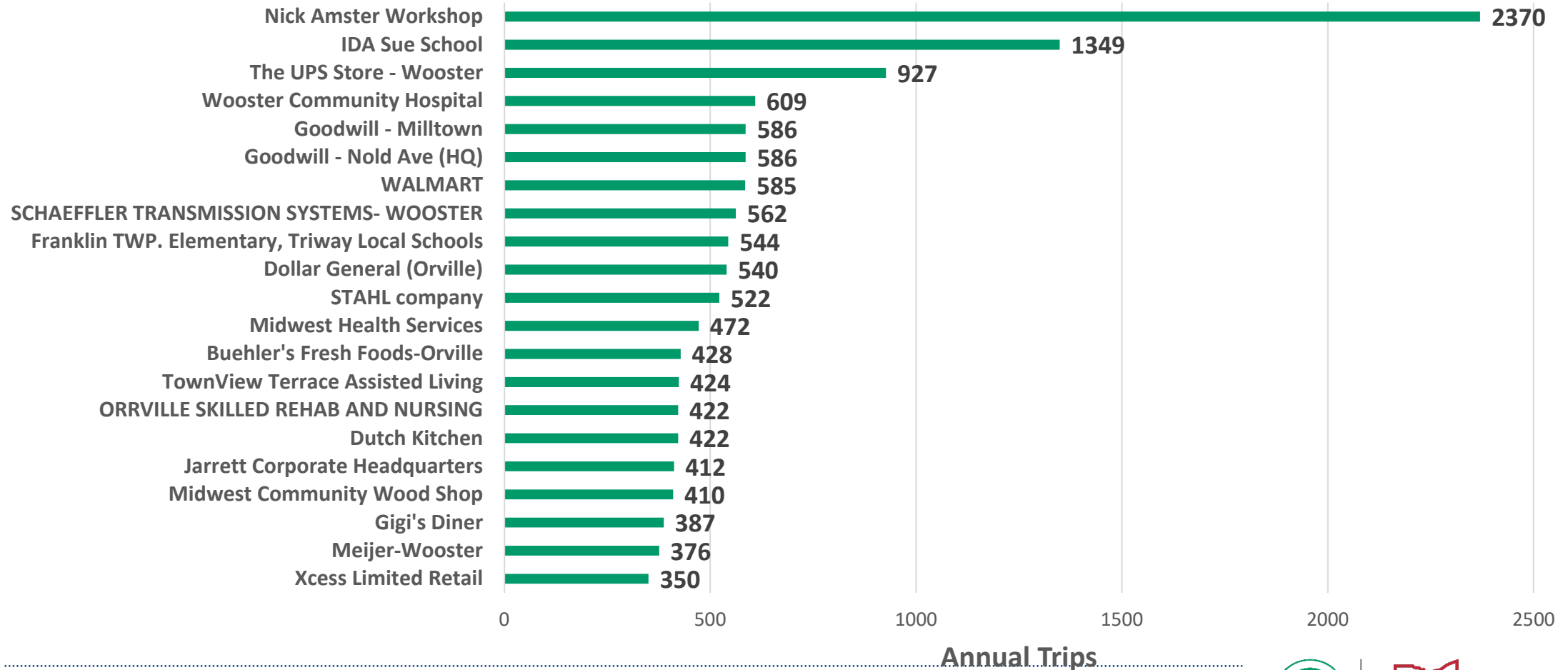
TRIPS AND CUSTOMERS

- Annual trips (2023)
 - Public: 10,724
 - Contract: 9,062
- Average monthly trips: 827
- Registered public customers: 179 (102 riders to date in 2024)
- Contracts: Board of Developmental Disabilities and associated organizations
- Annual cost: \$1.7 million



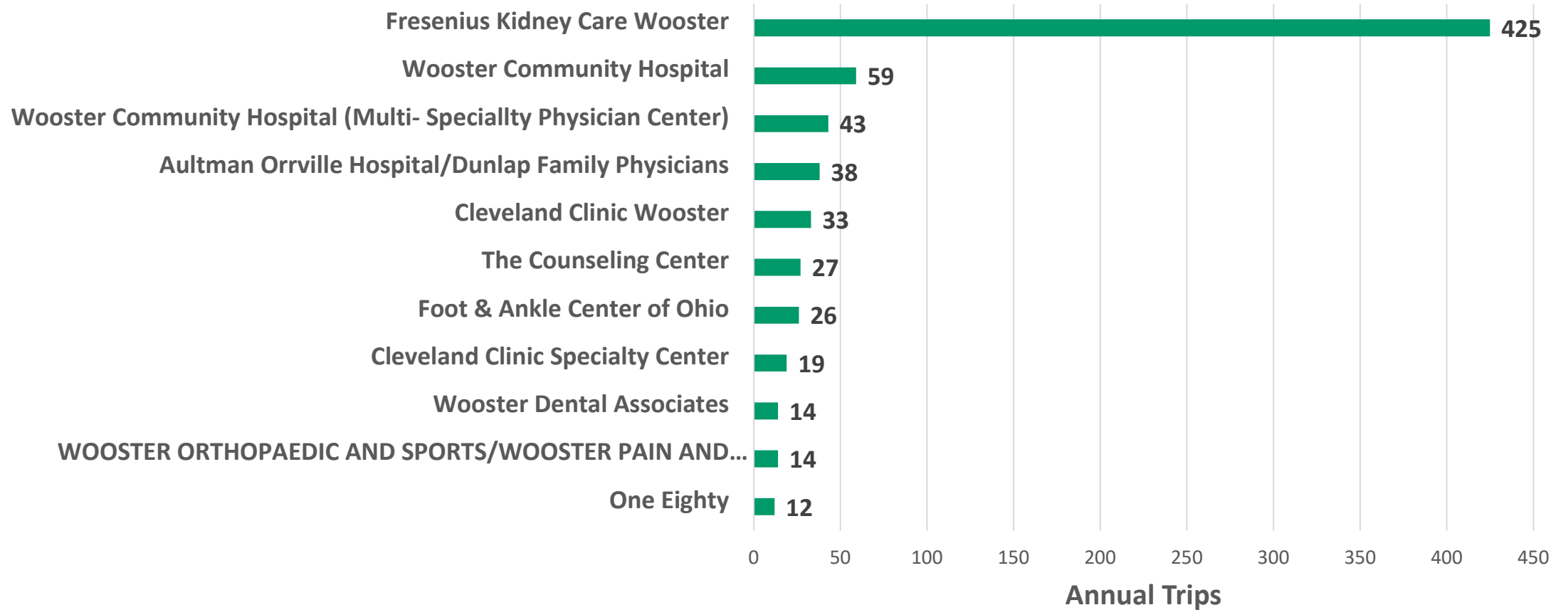
TOP 20 WORK DESTINATIONS

Top 20 Work Trip Destinations (2023 Total)

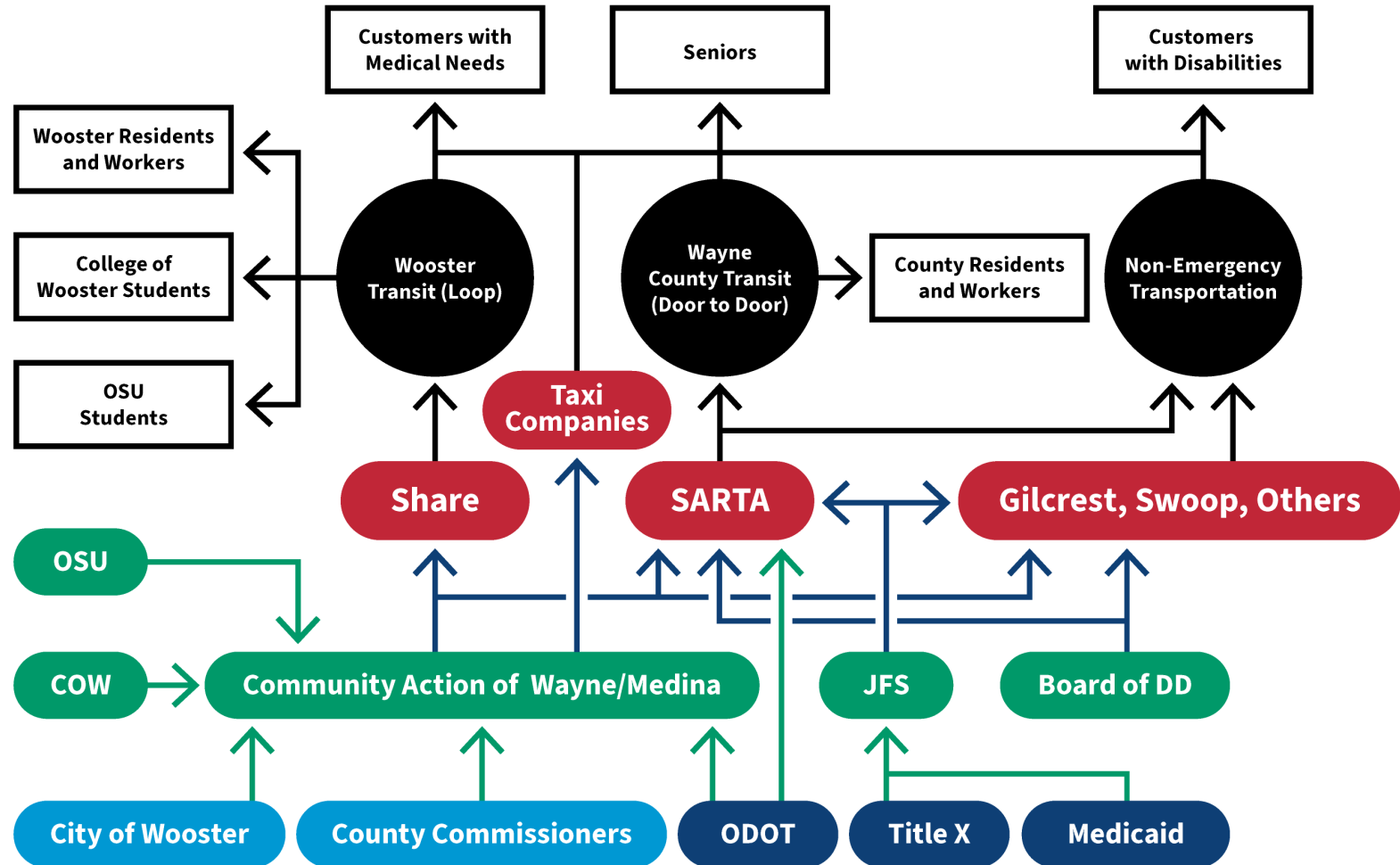
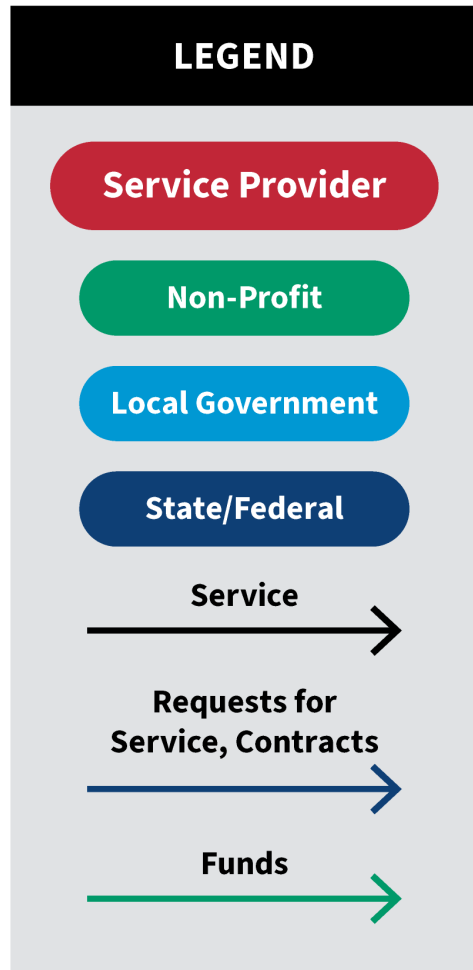


TOP MEDICAL DESTINATIONS

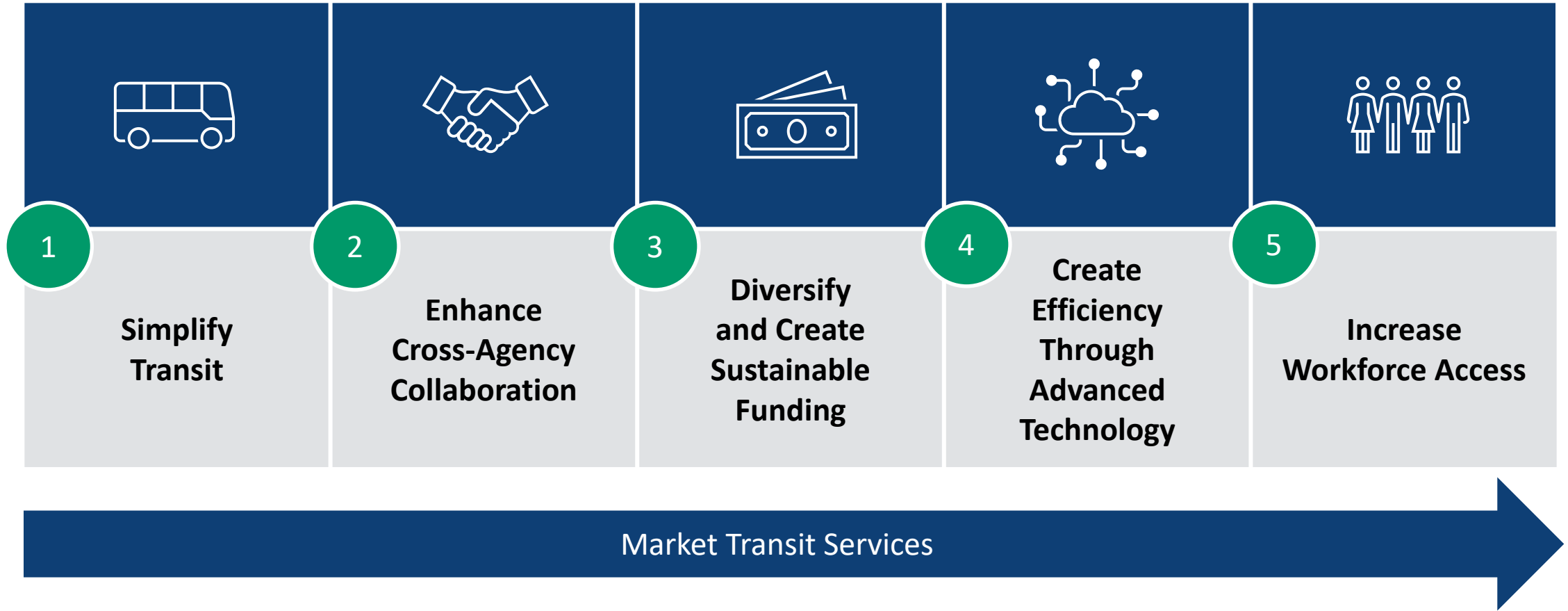
Top Medical Destinations (2023 Total)



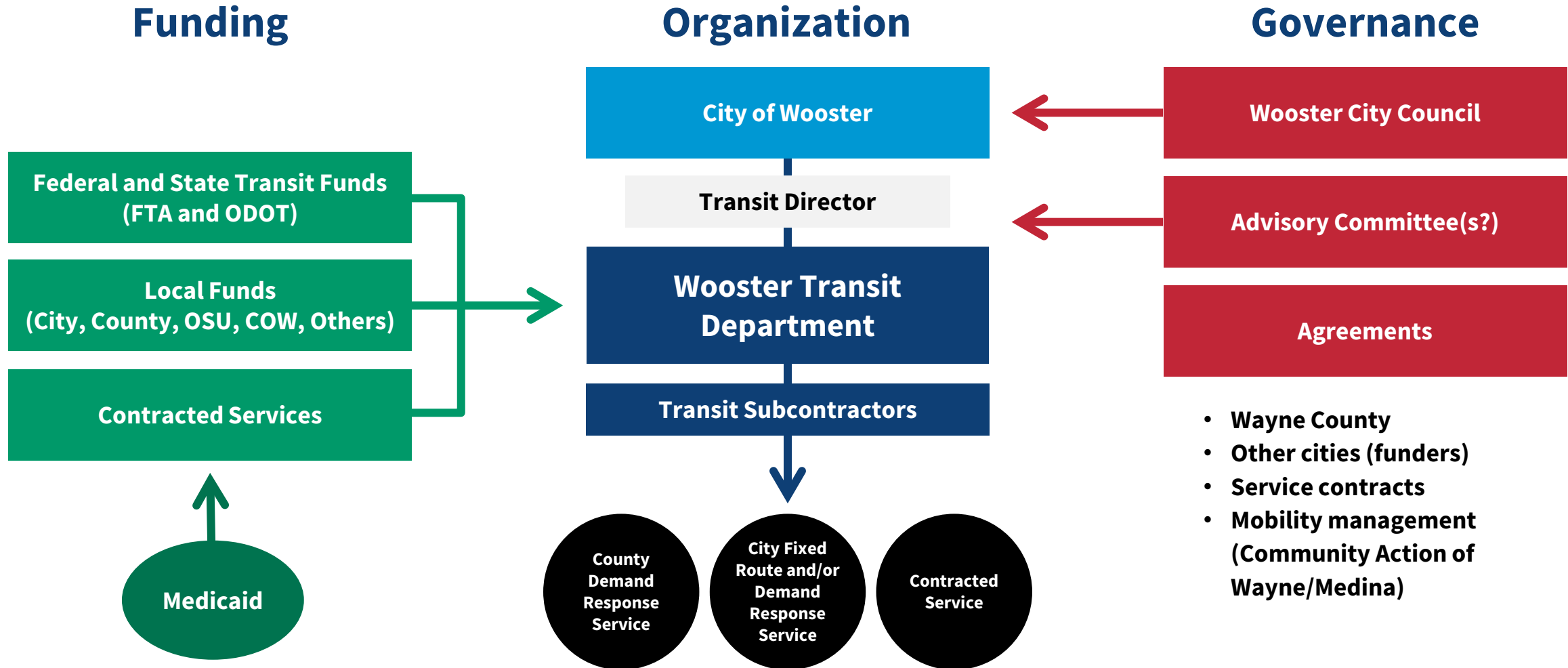
WOOSTER & WAYNE COUNTY TRANSIT TODAY



VISION



NEW ORGANIZATION, NEW GOVERNANCE



NEXT STEPS TO START THE NEW SYSTEM

- Hire the Transit Director and establish a structure that meets federal requirements
- Plan for future service
- Establish all federally required documents and processes
- Issue a Request for Services and hire contractors
- Seek more local funding
- Introduce new county service when possible



What We've Heard So Far



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SUMMARY OF COMMENTS TO DATE

Who we have heard from

- 25 impact forms
- 1000+ calls and emails from:
 - People with disabilities (and their parents, advocates)
 - Older adults
 - Workers who can't drive
 - Concerned community leaders

Their concerns

- Getting to:
 - Medical appointments
 - Dialysis
 - Work
- Wheelchair access
- Missing social connections
- Decreased quality of life



Interim Options (In Process)



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OPTIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE (HANDOUT)

- City of Wooster transportation program remains
- Medical-specific transportation providers
- Private providers in Wayne County
- Long-distance transportation connections
- Gas assistance programs through Jobs and Family Services



OTHER SOLUTIONS WE ARE EXPLORING

- Seeking \$500,000 in funding to meet urgent needs (medical, work) to:
 - Continue transportation provider contracts
 - Help pay rider fares
- Engaging larger employers
- The Wayne County Commissioners are seeking community volunteer drivers



WHO TO CONTACT

- Be sure you provide your contact information today so we can update you when we have more details
- Call Mobility Management at CAW/M at 330-264-8677
- Individuals with disabilities should contact Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities at 330-264-6902



Facilitated Questions and Comments



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DISCUSSION FRAMEWORK

- Let us know how you will be affected by this loss of service
- Give us your ideas on how the future service could work better once it can be funded again in a year or so
- I will facilitate your questions and may repeat it so others can hear



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Reflections



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Thank you

