Enhancing Community Infrastructure: Transportation

Moderator: Alan Ormsby, AARP Utah

Presentations

Amelia Bland Waller, Grayson County, Virginia
  *Getting Around in the Sticks*

Margaret McDonough & Wendy Krom, Age-Friendly Berkshires
  *Stranded in the Berkshires: A multi-sector approach to filling transportation gaps*

Ivory Craig, AARP Mississippi
  *Holly Springs 7588—Let’s Ride!*
GRAYSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Grayson County is located in the southwestern part of Virginia.

The population is 15,533 (2010 Census). Population is declining.

The County has a total area of 446 square miles of which 3.8 square miles (.08%) is water.

Mount Rogers (5,729 feet) is in Grayson County. It is Virginia’s highest peak.

Population density is approximately 35 people per square mile. Housing units have an average density of 20 per square mile.

15% of households are someone living alone who is 65 or older.

15% of the residents of the county have incomes below the poverty line. Per capita income for the county is less than $17,000.
Local population declining

Virginia sees overall boom, but also an exodus from rural areas — especially those bordering other states

RICHMOND — So far this decade, Virginia has grown — and shrunk — in population.
Seventy of the state’s 133 cities and counties gained population between April 1, 2010, and July 1, 2018, according to data released this week by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

But the remaining 63 localities — largely rural areas in the southern and western parts of the state — saw population declines.
Locally, the numbers from the past eight years show a decline.

Between 2010 and 2018, Galax’s population dropped from 7,042 to 6,587, a loss of 455 residents or 6.5 percent.

Grayson County’s population decreased from 15,533 to 15,380, a loss of 203 residents or 1.3 percent.
Carroll County’s population fell from 30,042 to 29,141, a loss of 901 residents or 3 percent.

Galax saw a large decline, but not as significant as Buchanan County on the borders of West Virginia and Kentucky.

See POPULATION, Page 3A
Mount Rogers Health District Community Assessment Survey

Mount Rogers Health District wants to know what you think are the biggest public health concerns in your community. The health district is working with community leaders and health care providers to improve the health of our communities. We will use your feedback to create strategies to improve health and well-being. All answers will be kept confidential.

If you have questions about the survey, please email breanne.forbes-hubbard@vdh.virginia.gov.

1) Please enter your zip code.
   * must provide value

2) Select the top 5 concerns that impact your community.
   * must provide value
   - Access to healthy foods
   - Aging issues
   - Alcohol use/abuse
   - Air pollution
   - Availability of health care
   - Bullying
District Three Governmental Cooperative

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & SENIOR SERVICES IN SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

Serving the citizens of Abingdon, Bristol, Galax, Marion, Wytheville, Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe.
Mountain Lynx Transit provides weekly service to various parts of Grayson County. You can determine on which day of the week your area is served below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd &amp; 3rd &amp; 4th</th>
<th>1st &amp; 3rd &amp; 5th</th>
<th>2nd &amp; 4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baywood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridle Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elk Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassy Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td>To Marion</td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Cove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence Area</td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td>To Whitetop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konnarock</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td>To Whitetop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouth of Wilson</td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td>To Whitetop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td>To Marion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reavistown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td>To Whitetop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Valley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Whitetop</td>
<td>To Marion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troutdale</td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Marion</td>
<td>To Galax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volney</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Independence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitetop Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Whitetop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Ridge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Whitetop</td>
<td>To Abingdon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no Monday service in Grayson County.

Customers are picked up at or near their homes in the county. The bus then proceeds to a designated commercial center where customers are taken.
WE ALSO VISITED OUR LOCAL DSS

AND LEARNED THAT LOGISTICARE (A PRIVATE COMPANY) IS THE ONLY LOCAL PROVIDER FOR MEDICAL TRANSPORT . . .

AND ONLY FOR THOSE WHO MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Friendship Cafés

Join us for tasty, nutritious food and pleasant conversation with other seniors at a Friendship Café near you. Enjoy old friends and make new ones in a friendly atmosphere, often with live entertainment, games, informational programs, outings, and other social activities.

Who May Attend?

Age 60 or older.
Not home-bound.
Living in a private residence (not a current resident of an adult care facility, assisted living facility, or nursing home)
GRAYSON COUNTY SALT (SENIORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOGETHER)

COMPOSED OF ELDERS,
THE GRAYSON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE,
THE COMMONWEALTH’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE,
GRAYSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
PERSONNEL OF OTHER COMMUNITY AND CIVIC GROUPS.

THE LOCAL SALT COUNCIL DETERMINES THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY’S SENIOR POPULATION AS THEY RELATE TO CRIME PREVENTION AND SAFETY AWARENESS, AND COORDINATES ACTIVITIES TO MEET THOSE NEEDS. WE ENDEAVOR TO FIND WAYS TO MINIMIZE THE DIFFICULTIES SENIORS FACE IN A CHANGING WORLD. WORKING TOGETHER, WE TRY TO FIND WAYS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND SELF-DEFENSE STRATEGIES FOR GRAYSON COUNTY’S AGING POPULATION.
SO WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

GRAYSON SENIORS WON’T USE AN APP

FQHC MAY HAVE FUNDS FOR MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

THE COUNTY HAS A BUS

WE MAY NEED TO RECOMMEND A PRIVATE OR QUASI-PRIVATE SOLUTION
THANK YOU!

AMELIA BLAND WALLER
ELK CREEK, VIRGINIA

WIDEOPENSKYE@GMAIL.COM
Stranded in the Berkshires:
A multi-sector approach to filling transportation gaps
Peg McDonough  
*Regional Planner & Coordinator*  
Age Friendly Berkshires  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Wendy Jill Krom  
*Lead Organizer*  
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing

All photos are courtesy of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, except where outside attribution is provided.

Photo: Adams Council on Aging
**Quick Facts: Berkshire County**

Population = 126,348 (U.S. Census, 2018 estimate)

- 17.1% under 18
- 22.8% 65 and over
- Persons in poverty 10.6%

32 Municipalities – 2 Cities, 30 Small towns

Employment (2017) 53,467

Median HH Income $55,190

Miles of Road: 2,101

Average Commute 20.4 min. by car

Rank 43rd out of 50 for Transportation provision
The Berkshires: A leisure and retirement destination

**Museums**

Photo: Beyond My Ken

**Performing Arts**

Photo: Jacob’s Pillow

**Outdoor Recreation**

Photo: Pablo Sanchez

**Ski Areas**

Photo: MA Office of Travel and Tourism

**Shopping + Dining + Wellness**

Photo: Anc516

**Music**

Photo: Natalie Maynor
We are automobile-dependent!

Loss of manufacturing jobs and associated benefits; shift to service economy. Decline of concentrated employment centers means more people traveling to different areas for work/leisure/medical services. Work-at-home businesses are common, but constrained by incomplete telecommunications infrastructure.
Transportation Challenge: Limited Transit

- Bus stops and routes with poor or no signage
- Limited service hours/days
- Travel time reliability is an issue

Photo: David Wilson
Fixed Routes buses & schedules are limited.

COA vans & SBETC - 48 hr. advance notice

All communities have at least 1 human service transport option – but no coordination among providers with overlapping routes.
Berkshire County Transportation Strategies

• Work with MPO, TAC, BRPC, BRCCOT, multiple private providers and legislators to advocate at the state and federal level for *fair share* of funding for BRTA

• Support continued COA Car and Van-sharing (3 pilots – Medical, Cross-border sharing, Nights & Weekends)

• Human Service Transportation – Allow sharing and coordination - Legislators to help

• Advocate for Broadband installation to support Autonomous vehicles and greater access to App-based services, like Uber/Lyft/GoGoGrandparent
Berkshire County Transportation Strategies

- Begin Transportation Mgmt. Assn. (TMA) planning 2020
- Support creation of additional Volunteer Driver Programs (ESBCI, Villages of the Berkshires, VIM and BIO)
- Hold additional Safe Driver and Driving Decisions Programs county-wide with AARP, MA DMV and Dementia Friendly partners
- Promote seasonal Cultural Connection trolleys
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing

Mission: We work together to make social justice real in our Community and increase the quality of life for all in the Berkshires.

We bring together people of faith and values by sharing our stories:

To increase our power to act for justice
To develop skills to be more effective in the public arena
To take action on issues of common concern for our member groups
To ensure that those affected by the issues craft the solutions.
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing

We build relationships and strengthen community; We identify and develop diverse local leaders; We achieve systemic solutions.

**Transportation GOAL:** Work to increase public and private transportation options for Berkshire County, to increase access to jobs, medical care, and affordable, nutritious food for low-moderate-income residents.

**STRATEGY:** Support and expand our local transportation system to meet the needs of low-income residents; provide additional transportation options for Berkshire residents.
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing
Transportation-as-Social Justice Campaigns

Berkshire Rides Campaign, 2015
Regional Transportation Ballot Initiatives 2016
Passage of MA Real ID Act (Safe Driving Act Campaign) 2016
Effective Transit Accountability Campaign, 2016
Berkshire Volunteer Driver Program (TRUTH) 2018-2019
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing
Volunteer Driver Program 2019-2020

$10,000 Grant from T4MA (Transportation for Massachusetts)

TRUTH (Transportation Resource Unification Towards Health) Campaign:

Bring together transportation providers, riders from under-resourced communities and healthcare providers to address inadequate transportation access in our County;

To build a county-wide volunteer driver program, modeled on the state-recognized VIM (Volunteers in Medicine) program, based in Great Barrington, MA
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing
Volunteer Driver Program Partners

Berkshire Community Action Council
Berkshire Health Systems
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Brien Center
Community Health Programs

State Senator Adam G. Hinds
Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
Volunteers in Medicine
Age Friendly Berkshires
More Information?

Margaret (Peg) McDonough
Regional Planner & Coordinator
Age Friendly Berkshires
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

(agefriendlyberkshires@gmail.com)
Holly Springs 7588
Let’s Ride!
Facts

- Population in 2018 – 7,588
- 50+ Population in 2018 – 2,177
- AARP Network of Age Friendly Cities – March 2018
Community Mapping
Mayor Buck’s Plan
Ivory Craig
AARP Mississippi
(601) 898-5420
icraig@aarp.org
Enhancing Community Infrastructure: Health

Moderator: Alan Ormsby (AOrmsby@aarp.org)

Presentations/Contacts
Amelia Bland Waller, (wideopenskye@gmail.com)
  *Getting Around in the Sticks*
Margaret McDonough (agefriendlyberkshires@gmail.com)
  *Stranded in the Berkshires: A multi-sector approach to filling transportation gaps*
Ivory Craig, (ICraig@aarp.org)
  *Holly Springs 7588—Let’s Ride!*

Time for your questions, comments, ideas, and experiences