



**SECTION 1**  
**INTRODUCTION**



**INTRODUCTION****OVERVIEW OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SENIOR TRANSPORTATION**

Seniors, defined as persons over 60 years of age, comprise almost twenty percent of the County's population, according to the 1990 Census of Population. Surveys of this population consistently reveal that transportation is a critical need necessary to maintain basic living standards. Without access to safe, reliable, efficient, and affordable transportation, senior may be unable to obtain medical care, groceries, banking services, or entertainment isolates seniors and diminishes their quality of life.

The Cuyahoga County Department of Senior & Adult Services (DSAS) and the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission (CPC) have undertaken a comprehensive study to develop a strategic plan that will provide for the availability of, and access to, sufficient transportation services for older adults in Cuyahoga County. This study is known as the "Cuyahoga County Strategic Plan for Senior Transportation."

**Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to develop a strategic plan to provide comprehensive, coordinated, efficient, sustainable, and affordable transportation for seniors with mobility problems in Cuyahoga County. Specifically, the plan is designed to:

- ◆ Increase the quantity of transportation services available to seniors;
- ◆ Increase the quality of transportation available to seniors;
- ◆ Recommend a management plan to coordinate the delivery of these services;
- ◆ Identify the activities that should be undertaken by Cuyahoga County to achieve these objectives;
- ◆ Identify the facilities that will be needed to achieve these objectives; and
- ◆ Identify the funding required to achieve the study objectives.

**Study Work Program**

Work to prepare the Cuyahoga County Strategic Plan for Senior Transportation was undertaken in phases, as follows:

**Overview of the  
Cuyahoga County  
Strategic Plan for  
Senior  
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- ◆ Phase I – Define Community Standards
- ◆ Phase II – Inventory and Analysis of Existing Conditions, Needs Assessment, Needs Projections, and Best Practices Review
  - Existing Conditions
  - Needs Assessment
  - Demographic Characterizations and Forecasts
  - Identification of Gaps
  - Best Practices Review
- ◆ Phase III – Identify Models, Short-Term, Intermediate Actions, and Long Term Strategies
- ◆ Phase IV - Prepare a Financial Analysis
- ◆ Phase V – Prepare an Organizational Analysis and Implementation Plan

Individual reports summarizing work completed in each phase were developed during the period March 2002 through March 2003. This draft final report contains the results of all work completed under the project.

**Senior Transportation Working Group**

Overseeing work conducted by the consultant on the project is an interagency committee known as the Senior Transportation Working Group. The group consists of representatives from the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission (CPC), the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)), the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the City of Cleveland Department of Aging, and the Transportation Consortium Coordinating Committee (TC<sup>3</sup>) of the Jewish Community Center of Cleveland. A representative from the United Way's Senior success Vision Council also actively participated in the study process.

A list of Working Group members is contained in Appendix A of this report.