

Watkins Glen, NY

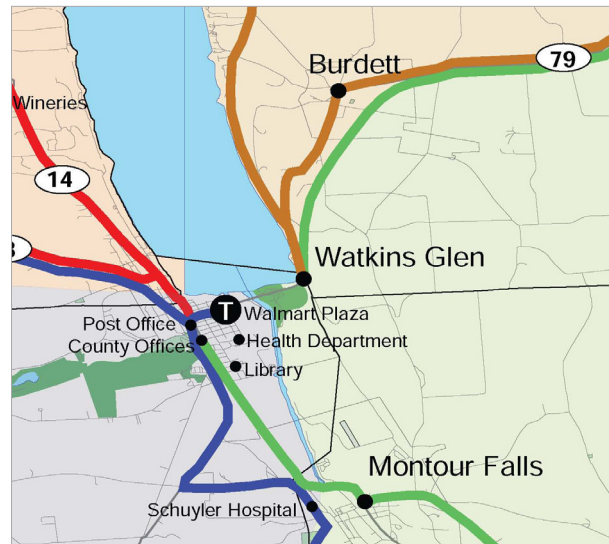
Schuyler County Public Transportation Needs Assessment



Schuyler County is a predominantly rural county located on the northern fringes of the Appalachian region in New York State's Southern Tier. Existing public transportation services were limited to regional commuter bus routes operated by the Chemung County Transit System between the cities of Elmira, Corning and Ithaca via Schuyler County. Additionally, a dozen or more human service agencies operate individualized client transportation programs.

Nelson\Nygaard was retained by the County Legislature to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of existing services. Key study objectives included a multi-faceted outreach process to quantify unmet needs, analysis of existing fixed routes and design of new flex-route services for rural areas without public transportation, and turn-key development of an ongoing process to better coordinate agency transportation programs. Additionally, the study considered the feasibility of a private-public partnership to support seasonal shuttle service for visitors to area wineries, NASCAR and other special events. Three case studies of successful seasonal trolley services in Cooperstown, Lake Placid and Lake George, New York were undertaken to help visitor industry and local officials better understand the economic development opportunities that such services offer.

Project recommendations included refocusing regional routes to better serve local residents, and a countywide flexible route network to extend transit access into the rural townships. A forum and process for human service agency transportation coordination was created. The final report, which included a detailed financial plan and a three-year action plan, was adopted by the County Legislature and endorsed by NYSDOT for Federal New Freedom funding and State Operating Assistance.



Project Duration: 2006-2007

Total Budget: \$51,000

For more information:

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