



COUNT ME ON



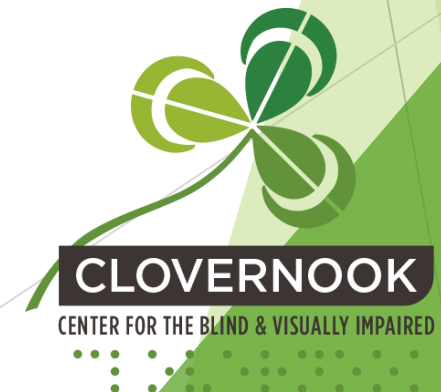
ACL INCLUSIVE PLANNING PROJECT WEBINAR
February 2019



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Project Objectives

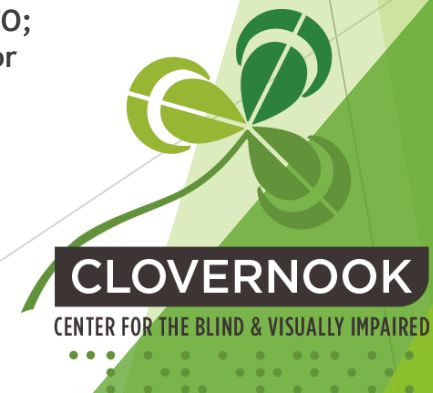
- ▶ Establish inclusive, collaborative transit planning process and outcomes to benefit older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers.
- ▶ Evaluate choice, safety, and independent travel among neighborhood based pedestrians, fixed bus route service, and new city-center electric streetcar, focusing on transitions between modes of travel.
- ▶ Bridge inclusive transportation planning processes between the small commuter city of North College Hill and Cincinnati's regional transit stakeholders.





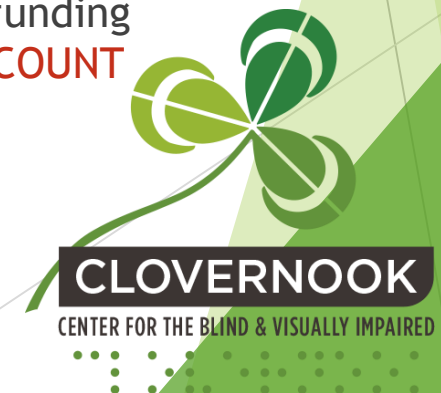
Accomplishment #1: Inclusive Representation at the Transit Planning Table

COUNT ME ON FOCUS GROUPS hosted by Bridgeable featured Count Me On Participants and Stakeholder Transit Partners including but not limited to Southwest Ohio Regional Transportation Authority (SORTA) Board Chair; Cincinnati METRO, CEO; Ohio Department of Transportation, Deputy Director; Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), Senior Planner; and Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering, Senior Architect.



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Accomplishment #1:
Inclusive Representation at the Transit Planning Table
BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS

- ▶ Barrier: Audio messaging is not often activated on fixed route buses.
 - ▶ Solution: METRO's CEO addressed issue through METRO driver training. He noted to riders, "If you don't hear me greeting you when you get on the bus, I want to know - send me an email."
- ▶ Barrier: The absence of a *Bus Rider Inclusive Advisory Board* for Southwest Ohio Regional Transportation Authority (SORTA) leadership.
 - ▶ Solution: SORTA is considering creating this Advisory Board to strengthen inclusive planning and outcomes.
- ▶ Barrier: ACCESS/paratransit services particularly for medical appointments are unreliable and limited.
 - ▶ Solution: Transportation partners acknowledge limitations due to current funding model. A new transit tax levy is being developed; METRO's CEO requested **COUNT ME ON's** advocacy and voice.





Accomplishment #2: “Travel Buddies” - Learning by Doing

Rose, at 89 is a frequent bus rider and never drove a car. “Her doctor says walking is her best medicine”. Janet, 79, enjoyed the Travel Buddy experience walking to the bus stop, getting on Bus 17, learning how to use the fare kiosk, and riding the Streetcar for the first time. Janet is considering a “Metro Fare Deal” senior discount card - Rose saved 50% off her fares.



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Accomplishment #2:
“Travel Buddies”: Learning by Doing
BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS

- ▶ Barrier: Bus audio announcements were not activated or sufficiently loud.
 - ▶ Solution: METRO addressed through bus driver training.
- ▶ Barrier: The needs of a rider with a disability that may not be apparent can be overlooked by drivers. For example, drivers may not facilitate the bus extender step or may drive past the waiting rider.
 - ▶ Solution: During focus groups and steering committee meetings, solutions were identified including participant strategies to advocate for themselves and effectively communicate their needs to drivers and others.
- ▶ Barrier: Bus stops may or may not be convenient to Streetcar stations. No map exists with helpful intersect information.
 - ▶ Solution: **COUNT ME ON** is plotting an accessible map with both bus and streetcar stations.



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Accomplishment #3: Effective, Inclusive Advocacy

White Cane Awareness - City Hall



Cha-Cha Slide on Fountain Square



CLOVERNOOK
CENTER FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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Lessons Learned



- ▶ Inclusive transit planning creates better processes and products.
- ▶ Accessible materials are imperative but often not available.
- ▶ A participant with a particular disability does not represent everyone with the same disability.
- ▶ Private, public partnerships are key to positive outcomes.
- ▶ Social media is effective and fun.



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Lessons Learned



- ▶ Scheduling travel during pleasant weather can't be overstated.
- ▶ Need more, varied, effective, interesting, and accessible satisfaction measurement tools.
- ▶ Transit partners are welcoming, value different perspectives, and benefit from inclusive leadership and advocacy.
- ▶ Audio recordings work best by selecting quiet spots to capture participant experiences as compared to moving buses.



SUSTAINABILITY AND COLLABORATION GO TOGETHER

COUNT ME ON Steering Committee: Howard Baum, Mike Horn, Susan Bragassa, Jackie Conner, Jon Lawniczak, Christopher Alan Roberts, Julie Combs, Lisa Dubois, Matthew David Gellin, Deanna Lewis, and Mambo. Not in photo: Sheri Albers, Lisa Aulick, Keith Crothers, Chris Faust, Marshá Gerton, Pete Metz, Florence Parker, Mark Samaan, and Dee Sunderman.



COUNT ME ON Sustainability

Working Together and Leveraging Resources

Comprehensive Summary with Links

"Count Me On"

Prepared by Howard Baum, Steering Committee Member

A SUMMARY OF LOCAL AND OTHER RESOURCES TO IMPROVE INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR PERSONS OLDER THAN 62, FOR THE "COUNT ME ON" PROJECT



BACKGROUND

The "Count Me On" project is the result of Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired applying for a monetary grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), in partnership with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). <https://acl.gov/programs>

They created "TRANSIT PLANNING 4 ALL", which is an inclusive and coordinated transportation-planning project funding a series of pilot projects across the nation, each seeking to increase inclusion in transportation planning and services for people with disabilities, older adults, and caretakers. <http://www.actoolkit.com/>



The following is a link describing all of the aspects of the grant, projects, recommended guidelines for creating a Steering Committee and completing grant application forms. http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/articlefiles/Complete_Application_Package_March_2018_Funding_Availability.pdf

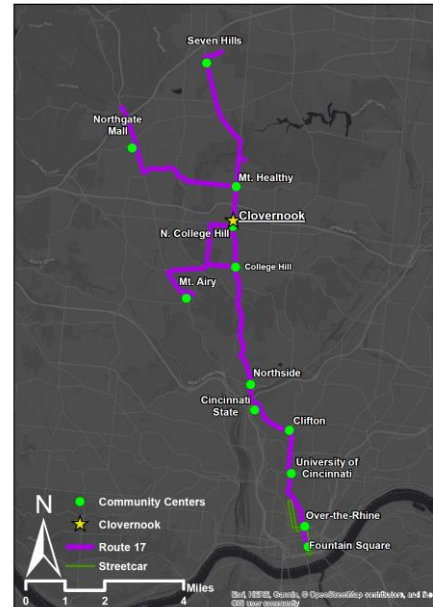
Clovernook's "Count Me On" project summary includes:

Page 1 of 8

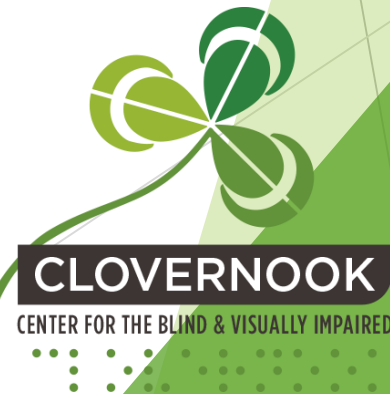


Travel Buddy Route

Cincinnati Metro - Route 17



Mapped by Mark Samaan, Better Bus Coalition 2019
Data from ESRI, SORTA 2019



Count Me On: Commitments For Change

Transportation Partners	Sustainable Commitments
City of Cincinnati	Participant Cincinnati Accessibility of Advisors (CABA)
City of Cincinnati (Streetcar)	Travel Buddy Outreach: Councilmember, City Manager
City of Cincinnati	Member Golden Partners and SHARE, AARP Livable Communities
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber	Member Transportation Coalition
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber	Member “Blink” Arts Event Accessibility Taskforce
Metro Fixed Route Bus / Paratransit	Collaborative Outreach and Accessible Materials
Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI)	Member Tristate Transportation Equitable Opportunity Team (TTEOT)
Woman’s Transportation Seminar (WTS)	Hosting WTS Southwest Ohio Chapter Meeting Featuring Accessible Travel



*“To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step.”
Rosa Parks*

Path of Inclusion: Internal Assessment

Level 2: Similar Level As Project’s
Beginning Due to Fewer Internal
Organizational Meetings

Path of Inclusion: External Assessment

Level 4: More Inclusive Level from
Beginning Due to Significant, New Inclusive
Planning with Transportation Partners





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THANK YOU