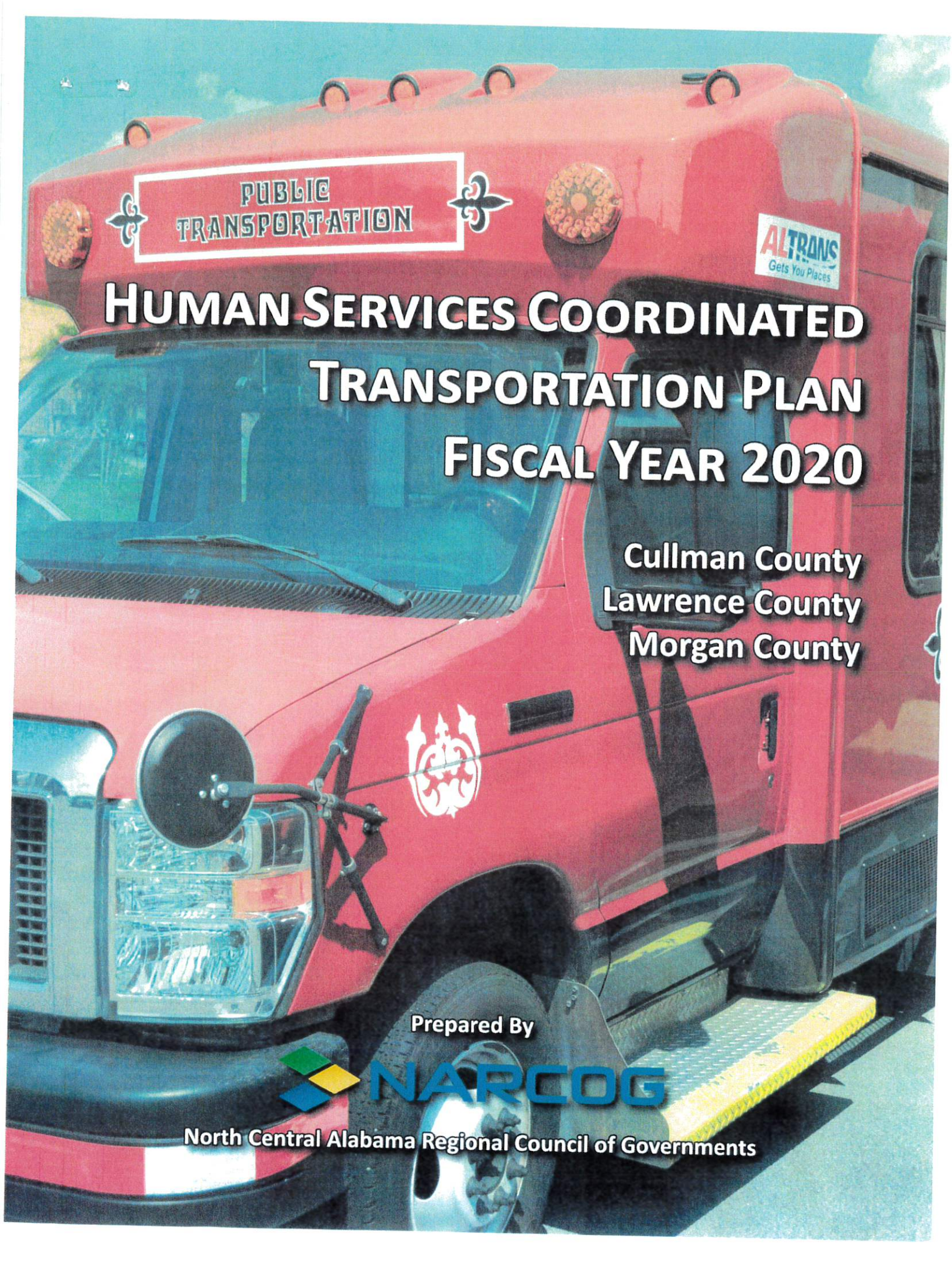

HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2020

Cullman County
Lawrence County
Morgan County

Prepared By

NARCOG

North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments

Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan
Fiscal Year 2020

Cullman County
Lawrence County
Morgan County

North Central Alabama
Regional Council of Governments
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NOV 13 2020

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TRANSPORTATION
TRANSIT
DEPT. OF TRANS

This Public Involvement Plan was financed in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Alabama Department of Transportation, and produced by the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) in fulfillment of requirements set forth in Title 23 USC 134 and 135 (as amended by the FAST Act Sections 1201 and 1202). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

NORTH CENTRAL ALABAMA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Resolution Number 2020 –0015

Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan FY 2020

WHEREAS, the most recent transportation authorization bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), and the prior transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), require the development of a coordinated human services transportation plan in order to be eligible for specific Federal Transit Authority (FTA) funds appropriated from both bills, including Sections 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Grants), Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities), Section 5311 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas) and Section 5317 (New Freedom) funds; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments in cooperation with the Alabama Association of Regional Councils and the Alabama Department of Transportation developed the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan for North-Central Alabama 2020; and

WHEREAS, the HSCTP is the instrument by which the NARCOG describes the current status and future plans for human services transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the NARCOG staff has updated the HSCTP for FY 2020, which includes new demographic and regional context information.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NARCOG Board of Directors hereby adopts the FY 2020 Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan.

RESOLVED this 23 day of September 2020

Jesse J. Byrd
Chairman

Executive Director

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Regulations and Guidelines

On August 10th, 2005, President Bush signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). In this legislation, a Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan is required in several of the grant funds, including, 5310 (Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities), 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute), and 5317 (New Freedom). The primary goals of this coordinated plan is to minimize duplication, increase transit services, and receive input from transportation service providers, human service providers and the public. The purpose of the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (HSCTP) is to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that communities coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs.

In Alabama, The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has contracted with the Alabama Association of Regional Councils (AARC) to develop regional plans. In North Central Alabama, the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) is the agency responsible for this plan. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) provides 80 percent of the funding while the remaining 20 percent is local matching funds. AARC is responsible for final delivery of the completed plans.

1.2 Vision Statement

The staff of the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) worked with the Regional Stakeholders Group (human service providers, transit providers, general public, etc.) to develop the following Vision Statement for the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan:

> *We envision an efficient, coordinated transit system, where the local transit providers and human service organizations work together to meet the transportation needs of the people of North Central Alabama.*

1.3 Goals

The North Central Alabama Regional Stakeholders Group developed the following Goals for the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan:

Goal 1: Enhance Transportation Access

It is the goal of the Regional Stakeholders Group and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments to enhance and sustain transit services in the North Central Alabama Region through the coordination of existing and future transit services.

Goal 2: Minimize Duplication

It is the goal of the Regional Stakeholders Group and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments to minimize the duplication of transit services in the North Central Alabama Region through coordination of existing and future transit services.

Goal 3: Provide Cost-Efficient Transit Services

It is the goal of the Regional Stakeholders Group and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments to develop the most cost-efficient transit system possible in the North Central Alabama Region through the coordination of existing and future transit services and to identify and maximize the necessary resources to accomplish this.

Goal 4: Sustain and Maintain Existing Services

It is the goal of the Regional Stakeholders Group and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments that this plan supports maintaining the status quo where possible.

Goal 5: Enhance Existing Traditional Transit Providers

It is the goal of the Regional Stakeholders Group and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments to exploit available opportunities to enhance and expand existing traditional transportation services within the region. This includes (but is not limited to) Sections 5307 and 5311, Sections 5316 and 5317, Section 5310 as well as intercity bus transportation as defined in Section 5311.

Goal 6: Explore and Implement Emerging Transportation Opportunities

It is the goal of the Regional Stakeholders Group and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments to identify various service opportunities and associated funding streams to provide enhanced transportation opportunities to expanded populations in less traditional venues.

Central to these goals, will be the emphasis on cooperation and coordination among transportation service providers, regional and state transportation agencies, city and county governments and eligible clients. This plan will incorporate the coordination and development policies that will both eliminate overlapping services and fill gaps where services in the Region are lacking.

2.0 Regional Overview

2.1 Cullman County

(Detailed demographic maps are located in the Appendices)

2.1.1 Geographic Information

Cullman County is located in North Central Alabama and is situated between the William B. Bankhead National Forest, to the west, and the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River, to the east. Cullman County is bordered by Lawrence and Morgan Counties in the NARCOG Region as well as the counties of Marshall, Blount, Walker, and Winston. The County Seat is the City of Cullman and there is a total of 12 incorporated municipalities within Cullman County. The total land area of Cullman County is approximately 735 square miles.

Cullman County is bisected by Interstate 65 and U.S. Highway 31 running north and south; and U.S. Highway 278 running east and west. Cullman County is convenient to Decatur, Birmingham and Huntsville. The City of Good Hope, which is located near the County center, is approximately 42 miles from Decatur, 45 miles from Birmingham, and approximately 58 miles from Huntsville.

2.1.2 Population Characteristics

Cullman County has a total population of 82,313, according to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. 75,826 or 92.1 percent of the population are White, 954 or 1.2 percent are Black, and 3,543 or 4.3 percent are Hispanic. 40,560 are males and 41,753 are females.

The population of Cullman County 65 years old and older is 14,803 or 18 percent. Cullman County has a disabled population of 14,310 or 17.6 percent.

The median household income, according to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, was $42,558 for Cullman County, and there were 11.7 percent of families or 15.8 percent of all persons living below the poverty level. 4.2% of all households have no access to an automobile. The highest number of homes with no automobile are found in and around the City of Cullman at 393 homes, however South Vinemont has a high percentage of homes, 14.7%, with no vehicles.

2.1.3 Common Destinations

The vast majority of shopping areas, medical facilities, employment centers and restaurants are located within the City of Cullman along Alabama Highways 31, 69, and 157, as well as along U.S. Highway 278. Cullman County has one hospital (Cullman Regional Medical Center in Cullman), four nursing homes (three in Cullman, one in Hanceville), six assisted living facilities (three in Cullman, one in Hanceville, Holly Pond, and South Vinemont), two mental health facilities (Cullman), and eight senior centers (Brushy Pond, Colony, Cullman, Fairview, Hanceville, Holly

Pond, West Point, and Crane Hill). There is one institute of higher education, Wallace State Community College in Hanceville.

2.2 Lawrence County

(Detailed demographic maps are located in the Appendices)

2.2.1 Geographic Information

Lawrence County is located in North Central Alabama and is situated between the William B. Bankhead National Forest, to the south, and the Tennessee River, to the north. Lawrence County is bordered by Cullman and Morgan Counties in the NARCOG Region. The Tennessee River forms the northern border between Lawrence County and the counties of Winston, Franklin, Colbert, Lauderdale, and Limestone. The County Seat is the City of Moulton and there are a total of five incorporated municipalities within Lawrence County. The total land area of Lawrence County is approximately 691 square miles.

Lawrence County is bisected by Alabama Highway 24 running east and west; and Alabama Highway 33 running north and south. Alabama Highway 157 also bisects the County from the southeast corner to the northwest corner with U.S. Highway 72/Alabama Highway 20 cutting across the northern third of the County. Lawrence County also has heavily travelled sections of Alabama Highway 36, in the southeast and Alabama Highway 101 in the northwest. Lawrence County is convenient to Decatur, Huntsville and Florence. The City of Moulton, which is located near the County center, is approximately 21 miles from Decatur, approximately 48 miles from Huntsville and, approximately 35 miles from Florence.

2.2.2 Population Characteristics

Lawrence County has a total population of 33,171, according to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. 25,390 or 76.5 percent of the population are White, 3,615 or 10.9 percent are Black, and 707 or 2.1 percent are Hispanic. 16,003 are males and 17,168 are females.

The population of Lawrence County 65 years old and older is 5,787 or 17.4 percent. Lawrence County has a disabled population of 6,750 or 20.5 percent.

The median income, according to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, was $44,515 for Lawrence County, and there were 13.4 percent of families or 16.8 percent of all persons living below the poverty level. 5.5% of all households have no access to an automobile. The highest number of homes with no automobile are found in and around the City of Moulton at 138 homes, however the area of Hatton and the town of North Courtland have high percentages of homes with no vehicles, at 32.8% and 26.4% respectively.

2.2.3 Common Destinations

The vast majority of shopping areas, medical facilities, employment centers and restaurants are located within the City of Moulton along Alabama Highways 24, 33, and 157. Lawrence County has one hospital (Lawrence Medical Center in Moulton), one nursing home (Moulton), and seven senior centers (Caddo, Hatton, Moulton, Mount Hope, North Courtland, Speake, and Town Creek).

2.3 Morgan County

(Detailed demographic maps are located in the Appendices)

2.3.1 Geographic Information

Morgan County is located in North Central Alabama and is situated just south of the Tennessee River. Morgan County is bordered by Cullman and Lawrence Counties in the NARCOG Region as well as the counties of Limestone, Madison, and Marshall. The County Seat is the City of Decatur and there are a total of seven incorporated municipalities within Morgan County. The total land area of Morgan County is approximately 579 square miles.

Morgan County is bisected by Interstate 65 and U.S. Highway 31 running north and south, and Alabama Highway 36 running east and west. Alabama Highway 67 also bisects the County from the southeast corner to the northwest corner with a section of U.S. Highway 72/Alabama Highway 20 in the northwest corner of the County. Morgan County also has heavily travelled sections of Alabama Highway 157, in the southwest and U.S. Highway 231 in the northeast. Morgan County is convenient to Huntsville and Birmingham. The City of Hartselle, which is located near the County center, is approximately 35 miles from Huntsville and, approximately 70 miles from Birmingham.

2.3.2 Population Characteristics

Morgan County has a total population of 119,122 according to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. 90,497 or 76 percent of the population are White, 15,141 or 12.7 percent are Black, and 9,691 or 8.1 percent are Hispanic. 58,660 are males and 60,462 are females.

The population of Morgan County 65 years old and older is 19,865 or 16.7 percent. Morgan County has a disabled population of 19,687 or 16.8 percent.

The median income, according to the 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, was $49,751 for Morgan County, and there were 12.5 percent of families or 15.3 percent of all persons living below the poverty level. 5.3% of all households have no access to an automobile. The highest number of homes with no automobile are found in and around the City of Decatur at 1,522 homes, however, Hartselle and Somerville have similarly high percentages of homes with no vehicles at 4.7% and 7.5% respectively.

2.3.3 Common Destinations

The vast majority of shopping areas, medical facilities, employment centers and restaurants are located within the Cities of Decatur, Hartselle, and Priceville. Morgan County has three hospitals (Decatur Morgan Hospital – three campuses in Decatur), four nursing homes (two in Decatur, two in Falkville), six assisted living facilities (four in Decatur, one in Falkville, and Priceville), one mental health facility (Decatur), and eight senior centers (Decatur, Eva, Falkville, Hartselle, Lacey's Spring, Morgan City, Neel, and Somerville). There is one institute of higher education, the Alabama Center for the Arts, located in downtown Decatur. The Alabama Center for the Arts is centered around a cooperative agreement between Calhoun Community College, Athens State University, City of Decatur, and Morgan County and serves as an economic driver for downtown Decatur and the region.

3.0 Transportation Services

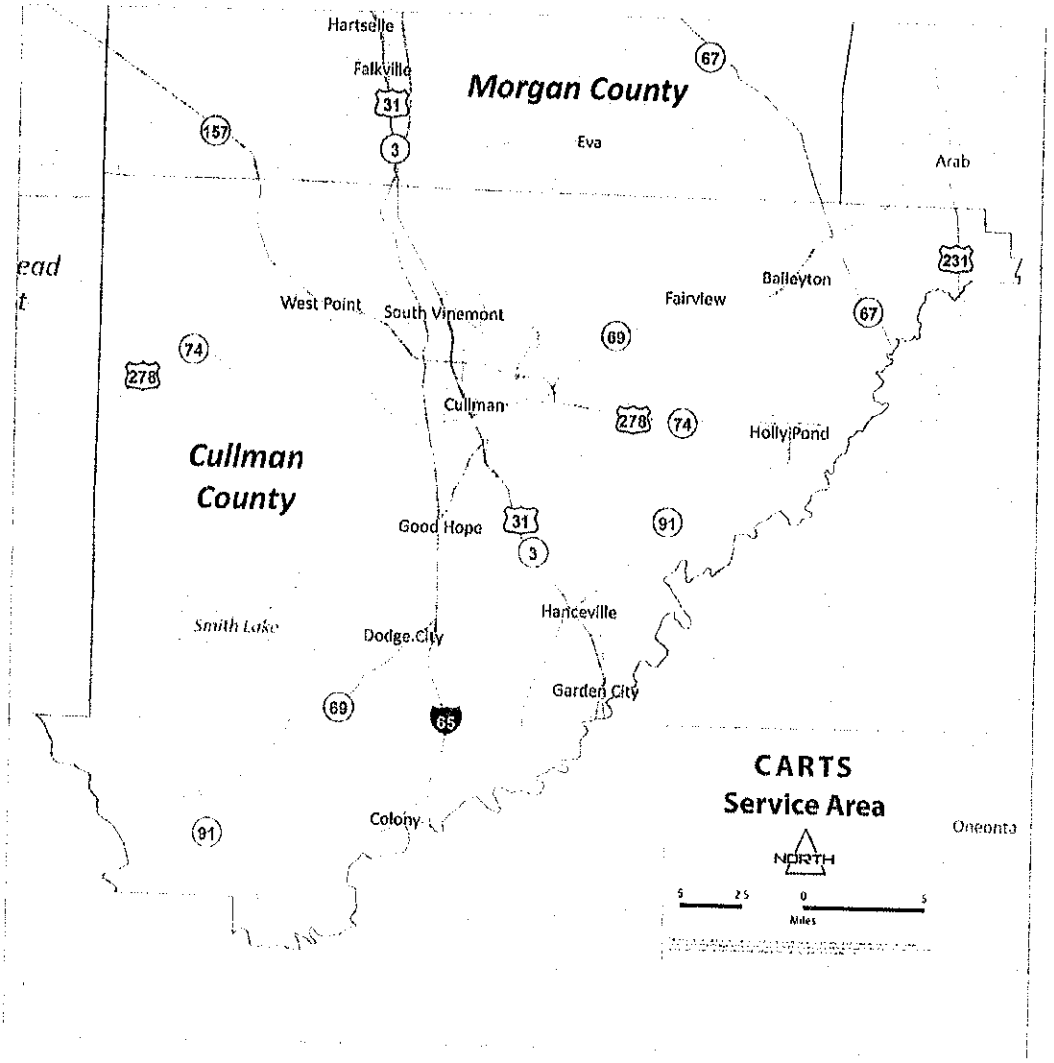
The NARCOG Region has a variety of public, non-profit, and private transportation service providers in the region. The public transportation service providers will be discussed in detail by county and the private and non-profit transportation service providers will be discussed region-wide.

3.1 Cullman Area Rural Transit System (CARTS)

The Cullman Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) operates services throughout Cullman County. The following is current information and services provided by CARTS:

Service Area and Scheduling

The CARTS service area is all of Cullman County. Presently all CARTS routes are Demand/Response. The CARTS system also has four contract routes which are coordinated with Demand/Response.



Days and Hours of Operation

Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 6:30 AM till 4:00 PM (Except Holidays)

Shopping Routes

1. City Shopping Routes – Rider must live within the Cullman City Limits. Pick-ups are scheduled for 8 AM, 10 AM, or Noon on a first come – first served basis. Farebox rates apply to City Shopping Routes.
2. County Shopping Routes – County Shopping rates are $3.00 round trip (which includes 3 scheduled stops) and $0.50 per additional stop.
    a. Monday – Vinemont, West Point, and Jones Chapel areas
    b. Tuesday – Holly Pond, Welti, and Berlin areas
    c. Wednesday – Cold Springs, Dodge City, and Good Hope areas
    d. Thursday – Baileyton, Gold Ridge, Fairview, Joppa, Simcoe, Hanceville, Colony, Garden City, and White City areas
    e. Friday – Crane Hill and Logan areas

Vehicles, Para Transit and Drivers

CARTS currently has thirty seven (37) vehicles ranging in size from a standard van to a twenty-five (25) passenger bus. Thirty-six of these vehicles are lift equipped. CARTS is a rural system provider and is not required to operate Para transit services. The CARTS currently has eight (8) full time drivers, twenty five (25) part time drivers and no volunteers.

Fares

Fares vary, based on location and distance from the City of Cullman with distribution at one way fares of $6.00 for one way over fifteen (15) miles, $4.00 for one way fares from seven (7) to fifteen (15) miles, $2.00 one way fares from zero (0) to seven (7) miles. Elderly and disabled riders receive a fifty percent (50%) discount.

Social Service Providers / Transportation Services

CARTS has annual contracts with agencies such as Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled, Cullman County Commission on Aging, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, and other agencies.

Service Access

Ride reservations can be made from 6:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Monday through Friday Reservations must be made by 2:30 PM on the previous business day. No reservations made after 2:30 PM.

CARTS Contact Information

Mailing Address: CARTS, P.O. Box 2518, Cullman, AL 35056
Physical Address: 1950 Beech Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35056
Telephone: 256-734-1246
Website: http://www.co.cullman.al.us/carts/carts.html

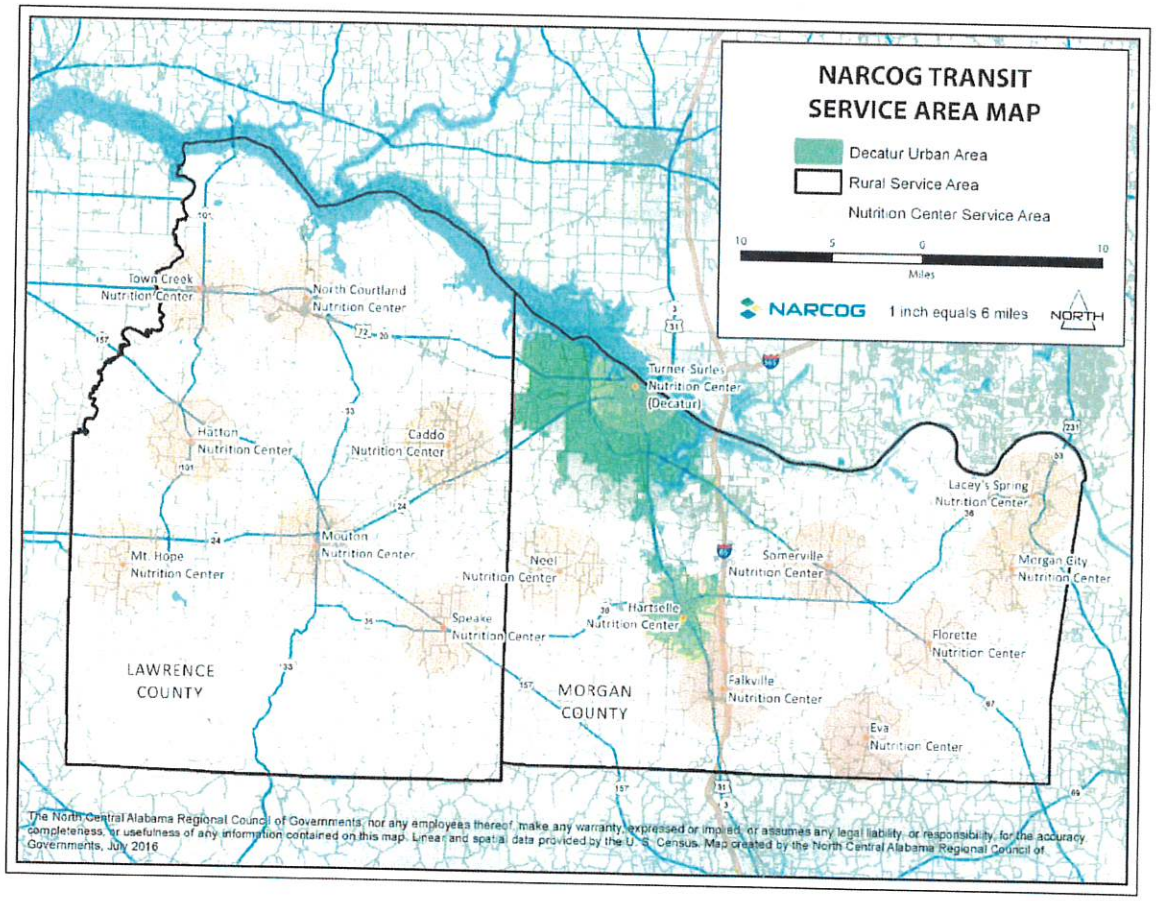
3.2 NARCOG Regional Transit Agency (NARCOG Transit)

The NARCOG Regional Transit Agency operates services throughout Lawrence and Morgan Counties. The following is current information and services provided by NARCOG Transit:

Service Area and Scheduling

The Regional Transit Agency of the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) is commonly referred to as NARCOG Transit. The service area of NARCOG Transit includes all of Lawrence and Morgan County. NARCOG Transit began operations on October 1, 2016 with the consolidation of Lawrence County Public Transportation, which began operations in August 1982 and the Morgan County Area Transportation System, which began operations in October 1996. The Mission of the NARCOG Regional Transit Agency is to provide safe and affordable public transportation services to the people and businesses of Lawrence and Morgan counties in North-central Alabama.

Service outside the service area is provided infrequently for medical trips and for charter exempt trips within a 50-mile radius of the NARCOG Transit Office, located at 401 2nd Avenue SE, Decatur, AL, 35601. NARCOG Transit does not cross any state line.



Days and Hours of Operation
NARCOG Transit is currently open Monday thru Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Vehicles, Para Transit, Drivers
NARCOG Transit currently operates forty-seven (47) vehicles with twenty-one (21) of the vehicles having wheelchair lifts. While not currently required to operate Para Transit services, NARCOG Transit could develop the need and capability to provide such a service. NARCOG Transit currently has 12 full-time drivers, 26 part-time drivers and no volunteers.

Fares
Standard fares for each demand response trip within the service area are:

$2.00 for 0 to 5.0 miles
$4.00 for 5.1 to 10.0 miles
$6.00 for 10.1 to 15.0 miles
$8.00 for 15.1 to 20.0 miles
$10.00 for over 20 miles and up to the extent of the NARCOG Transit service area

Fares for trips outside of the NARCOG Transit service area are calculated at $1.00 per mile, round trip, beginning at NARCOG Transit office, located at 401 2nd Ave SE, Decatur, AL, 35602. Trips outside the service area are generally restricted to medical or other charter exempt trips, and are limited to one stop.

Social Service Providers / Transportation Services
NARCOG Transit provides transportation services on a daily basis to Terrell Industries, Department of Human Resources (DHR), Community Action Partnership of North Alabama, Mental Health Centers, Senior/Nutrition Centers, dialysis centers and medical centers in Lawrence County and Morgan County.

Service Access
NARCOG Transit requires that anyone wanting to ride the transit system must call and schedule an appointment no later than twenty four (24) hours in advance and before 2:00 PM. Return or "will call" trips must be scheduled before 4:00 PM each day.

Special Events
NARCOG Transit provides transportation services for special events as long as the event does not interfere with the normal daily service operations and service remains open to the public. Normal fares are applied to these services.

NARCOG Transit Contact Information
Mailing Address: NARCOG Transit, 401 2nd Ave SE, P.O. Box C, Decatur, AL 35602
Telephone: 256-580-2088

4.0 Private and Non-Profit Systems

4.1 Ability Plus, Inc

Morgan County

Ability Plus, Inc. (API) serves Limestone, Madison, Morgan, and St. Claire counties in North Alabama. API provides door-to-door transportation services to existing clients using ten (10) fifteen passenger vans. 5310 funding is used for these vehicles. These vans are operated Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM and as needed on weekends and holidays.

Contact Information
Address: Ability Plus, Inc., 111 Research Blvd, Madison, AL 35758
Telephone: 256-489-4696
E-mail: services@ability-plus.org
Website: www.ability-plus.org

4.2 The ARC of Morgan County

Morgan County

The ARC of Morgan County transports its clients in one van equipped with a lift. These clients participate in the programs offered by ARC on Wednesdays.

Contact Information
Address: The ARC of Morgan County, 2234 Graham Avenue SW, Decatur, AL 35601
Telephone: 256-355-6192
E-mail: info@arcofmorgancounty.org
Website: www.arcofmorgancounty.org

4.3 Boys and Girls Clubs of North Central Alabama

Lawrence County, Morgan County

The Boys and Girls Club of Morgan and Lawrence Counties service inner-city, low-income children with two vans. They provide after school activities for these children at six locations in the City of Decatur (Morgan County) and one location in the Town of North Courtland (Lawrence County).

Contact Information
Address: Boys and Girls Clubs of North Central Alabama, 245B Jackson Street SE, P.O. Box 1431, Decatur, AL 35602
Telephone: 256-340-3464
E-mail: bandgsports@charter.net
Website: www.asafeplaceforkids.com

Locations

Beech Street Unit, 1602 Beech Street SE, Decatur, AL 35601, 256-355-2909
Third Street Unit, 407 Third Street SW, Decatur, AL 35601, 256-353-8782
Sixth Street Unit, 1404 Sixth Street NW, Decatur, AL 35601, 256-340-3460
St. Paul's Unit, 1700 Carridale Street SW, Decatur, AL 35601, 256-350-2611
Morgan County Systems of Service Unit, 2531 Highway 20, Decatur, AL 35601, 256-350-8434
Priceville Unit, 103 Faye Drive, Priceville, AL 35603, 256-686-1915

4.4 Centers for the Developmentally Disabled, North Central Alabama

Lawrence County, Morgan County

The Centers for the Developmentally Disabled of North Central Alabama (CDDNCA) uses eight vans and buses to transport their clients to employment opportunities in the Decatur area. Three of the vehicles are equipped with lifts for wheelchair bound clients. CDDNCA is a grant recipient of Federal 5310 funds.

Contact Information

Address: Central Office, 1602 Church Street SE, P.O. Box 2091, Decatur, AL 35602
Telephone: 256-350-1458
Website: www.cddnca.org

Address: Bill Stewart Activity Center, 42 Morgan Street, Moulton, AL 35650
Telephone: 256-974-9185

Address: Decatur Day Program, 2806 Central Parkway SW, Decatur, AL 35603
Telephone: 256-355-7590

Address: Pine Ridge Day Camp, 113 Pine Hill Drive, Somerville, AL 35670
Website: www.pineridgedaycamp.org

4.5 Cullman Area Mental Health Authority

Cullman County

The Cullman Area Mental Health Authority has a van route for patients participating in day treatment programs. Providers working with developmentally-disabled patients also provide transportation assistance as part of their client care. The Center also employs case managers to help arrange rides for clients, either through public transit or the Center's own transportation service, if it positively impacts their ability to manage symptoms.

Contact Information

Address: Cullman Area Mental Health Authority, PO Box 2186, Cullman, AL 35056
Telephone: 256-734-4688
Website: http://www.mentalhealthcareofcullman.org/
Email: hr@camha.com

4.6 Decatur Youth Services

Morgan County

Decatur Youth Services helps facilitate and encourage a community-wide effort in combating the problems in our community involving our youth. These services are provided within the City of Decatur. Decatur Youth Services currently has five (5) vans that operate on weekdays and some Saturdays based on the needs of the participants.

Contact Information
Address: Decatur Youth Services, 1202 5th Ave SW, Building B, PO Box 488, Decatur, AL 35602
Telephone: 256-341-4690
Website: http://www.decaturalabamausa.com/departments/youthservices/index.html

4.7 Kid One Transport

Cullman County, Morgan County

Kid One Transport is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides transportation to medical, dental, and mental health care services for children and expectant mothers who are transportation disadvantaged. They are the only transportation service of this kind within the state, facilitating access to a variety of health care services, including preventive care, behavioral counseling, high-risk prenatal care, and pediatric dialysis. Kid One operates in Morgan and Cullman counties. Approximately two-thirds of Kid One's transports are local, and the remaining one-third are long-distance to receive specialty care at hospitals in major metropolitan areas.

Kid One provides strictly non-emergency healthcare-related transportation. Clients can schedule appointments as many as thirty days in advance and ask for at least three days' advance notice. The scheduling system is "first come, first serve." Currently, they only provide transportation on weekdays, at times of day when healthcare providers are open to receive patients. Kid one will provide transportation to children up to age 19, as well as expectant mothers of any age, and they maintain a low denial rate of approximately 3%. No patient is denied a ride on the basis of their ability to pay. Families must register and fill out an application in order to start accessing service.

Contact Information
Address: Kid One Transport System, Inc., 110 12th Street N, Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: 800-543-7143
Website: https://www.kidone.org/

4.8 Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama

Lawrence County, Morgan County

The Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama (MHCNCA) is a recipient of Section 5310 funding. The MHCNCA has thirteen (13) fifteen (15) passenger vans that operate in Lawrence and Morgan Counties. Two of these vehicles are lift vehicles. The MHCNCA provides transportation

to clients attending day treatment programs through a van system that runs on a set schedule. This is generally well-utilized or at or near capacity. The MHCNCA will be replacing one 5310 vehicle that was destroyed in an automobile accident in June 2015. The MHCNCA submitted two 5310 applications for replacement vehicles in 2015.

Contact Information
Address: Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama, 1316 Somerville Rd SE, Ste 1, Decatur, AL 35601
Telephone: 256-355-5904 or 800-365-6008
Website: http://www.mhcnca.org/

5.0 Sources of Regional Transportation Funding

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Urban Area, Section 5310 Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities, Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area, Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), and Section 5317 New Freedom programs are sources of transportation funding for human service agencies and transit programs in the NARCOG Region. For agencies to receive Section 5307, 5310, 5311, 5316, and 5317 grant funds, the projects they propose must be consistent with strategies and recommendations contained in this Coordinated Transportation Plan. This section details the governance, eligible activities, funding requirements, and existing sub-recipients of these programs in Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties.

5.1 Section 5310 Overview

This FTA program is intended to address the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. In Alabama, the funding is distributed to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program. The funds are generally limited to capital purchases, which require a 20% local match. The FAST Act combines the Section 5317 (New Freedom) program with the 5310 program. Eligible 5317-type projects can now be funded with this program.

5.2 Section 5307 and 5311 Overview

Section 5307 provides funding to census designated urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more. These funds are intended to be used for general public transit service (no qualifications are placed on riders). However, specialized transit service can be provided with these funds to address the needs of persons with disabilities that would involve rider qualifications. These funds can be used for planning, capital purchases, and operating expenses. Under the FAST Act, job access and reverse commute projects are also eligible activities. Planning and capital projects generally require a 20% local match. Operating funds require a 50% local match.

Section 5311 provides funding for areas with a population fewer than 50,000. These funds are intended to be used for general public transit service (no qualifications are placed on riders). In Alabama, the funding is distributed to the ALDOT, who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program. The funds may be used for capital purchases, operating expenses, and administrative costs. Under the FAST Act, job access and reverse commute projects are also eligible activities. The local matching requirements are generally 20% for capital and administrative expenses and 50% for operating expenses. Government agencies, transit operators, and non-profit agencies are eligible recipients.

5.3 Section 5316 Overview

Under the FAST Act, this program is combined with the 5307 and 5311 programs. The purpose of this FTA program is to provide job-related transportation services to welfare recipients, low-income individuals, and reverse commuters. In Alabama, the funding is distributed to the ALDOT, who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program. Eligible program charges include planning, capital purchases, operating expenses, and administrative costs. The local matching requirements are generally 20% for planning, 20% for capital projects, and 50% for operating expenses.

5.4 Section 5317 Overview

Alabama has not used all of the funds made available under the previous transportation bill. The program will remain open until the remaining funds are exhausted. The purpose of this FTA program is to provide additional transportation options to persons with disabilities. In Alabama, the funding is distributed to the ALDOT, who then distributes the funds based on a competitive grant program. The funds may be used for planning, capital purchases, operating expenses, and administrative costs. The local matching requirements are generally 20% for planning, 20% for capital projects, and 50% for operating expenses.

5.5 State Funding

The State of Alabama does not provide any funding for transit service. State law prevents fuel taxes from being used for anything except road maintenance or construction. In addition, most of the state general funds are put aside for specific projects.

6.0 Strategies to Address Unmet Needs

Some of the greatest unmet needs in our Region are funding levels, lack of resources, days and hours of operation, and limitation of use outside of the Region as identified below as challenges to providing good and efficient transit to the people that depend on it.

Challenge 1: The lack of state and local government funding for transit projects.

- **Strategy A**: Education of elected officials, senior Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) staff, and the general public about the benefits of a viable transit system in this region.
- **Strategy B**: Increased funding can be achieved by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) increasing funding levels for various transit programs, local or state tax measures specifically for transit, or more private investment in transit in the region.

Challenge 2: Changing the mindset of the populace of the NARCOG region to be more accepting of transit.

- **Strategy**: The perception of mobility can be altered by using advertisements in print, television, and radio as well as the internet.

Challenge 3: The expansion of transit service areas and hours of operation.

- **Strategy A**: Expand into contiguous geographical areas in order to open additional opportunities in commuting to work, shopping, medical needs (located in Huntsville, Birmingham/UAB, or Montgomery (Veteran's Hospital), and other activities through the 5310 program as well as other, traditional transit programs.
- **Strategy B**: Expand the service areas in the Region in order to open additional opportunities for commuting to work, shopping, medical needs, and other activities through the 5310 program as well as other, traditional transit programs.
- **Strategy C**: Expand the hours and days of operation of current services to provide better benefit to all users
- **Strategy D**: Expand service areas and hours of operation where residents/disabled veterans and other citizens dependent upon transit services can be identified.
- **Strategy E**: Develop and support a methodology to sustain and support existing services, especially 5310, 5311 and 5316, and exploit opportunities to move forward with the establishment of regional transportation solutions and alternatives.
- **Strategy F**: Education of elected officials and the general public would help bring this issue to the forefront.

Challenge 4: The lack of coordination among public service providers, private service providers, and non-profit service providers.

- **Strategy**: Participation in the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan process is a beginning to open the lines of communication and coordination between these agencies.

Challenge 5: Coordination of services at common origins and destinations.

If the service providers could setup daily or weekly circular routes from common origins to common destinations and back, a synergy might be reached where the needs of the service providers and the needs of the travelling public might be more efficiently met.

- **Strategy A**: Identify common origins and destinations of the Low and Moderate Income (LMI) population (i.e. big box retails, medical and health facilities).
- **Strategy B**: Identify means and methodology of solutions for enhanced and more efficient scheduling.
- **Strategy C**: Consider solving scheduling issues/problems through technology such as routing and dispatching software, mobile data terminals, vehicle locating devices, and other web-based technologies.

Challenge 6: The establishment of work related transit services.

- **Strategy A**: Explore, and implement where practicable, van and work routes within the region and from within the region to contiguous areas with high employment potential.
- **Strategy B**: The sustainment and/or expansion of the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program is one solution specifically suited for this type of activity.
- **Strategy C**: Promote employers and employees partnering with service providers to achieve the goal of more efficient transportation to and from work, as well as lower cost of transportation to the workers.

7.0 Continuing Efforts

The NARCOG staff will monitor transit issues in the Region in order to determine whether this plan needs modification. The plan was reviewed and updated in Fiscal Year 2020. If the FAST Act planning requirements continue past 2020 and funds are available, the plan will likely be revised in 2023.

Across the Region, transit providers, local agencies and the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments will work to address the most pressing transportation-related needs of the citizens of the Region.

To begin addressing the issues surrounding transportation barriers, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) conducted a series of email surveys and interviews (telephone and in-person) with representatives of 115 safety-net healthcare providers across the state. This sample of providers primarily included rural hospitals, rural health clinics, federally-qualified health centers, community mental health centers, and Department of Public Health social workers. The results of the survey, of the NARCOG Region, performed for the Alabama Community Health Improvement Plan (ACHIP) can be found in the Appendix.

7.1 Public Review

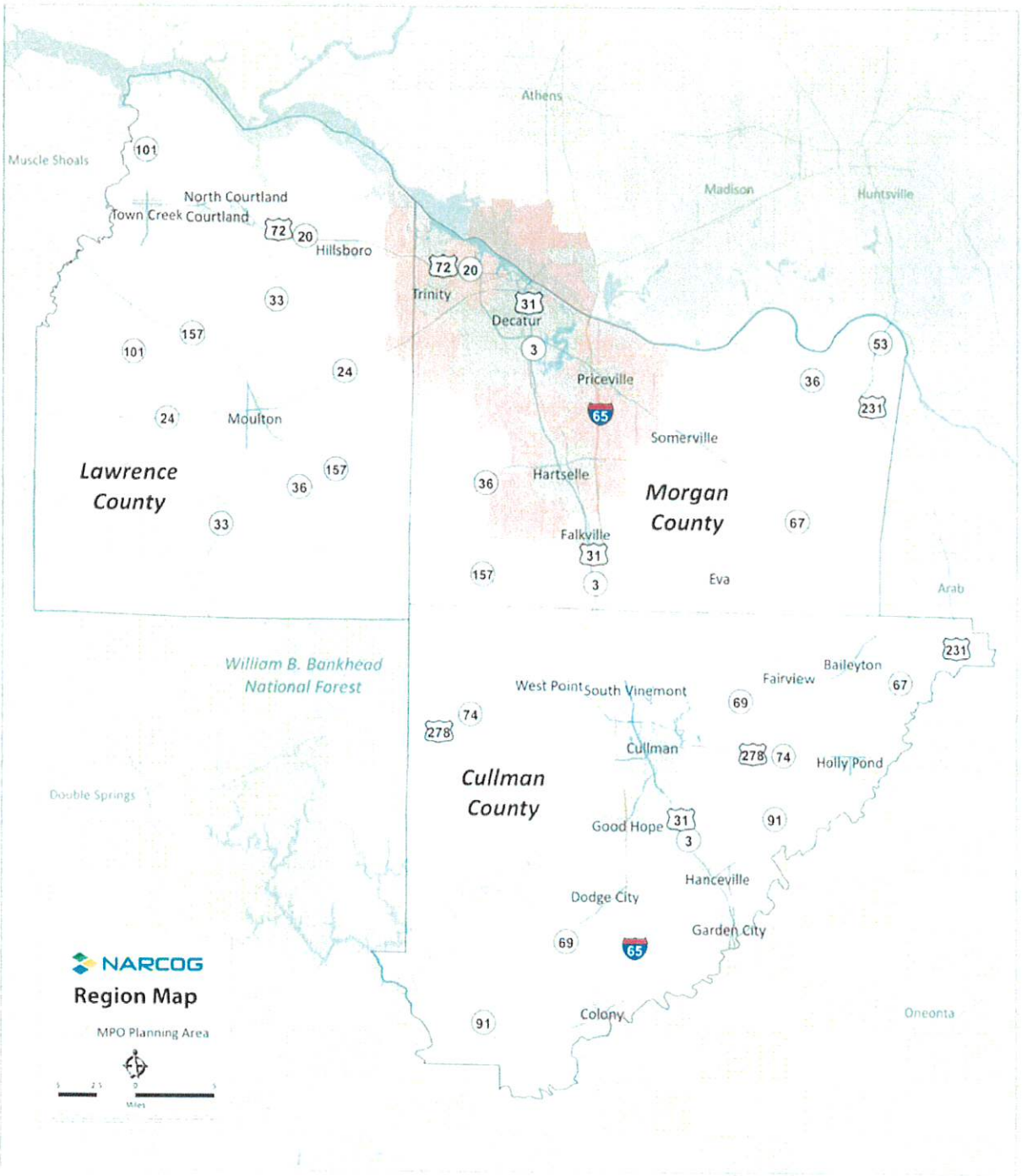
The NARCOG staff held a public regional stakeholders meeting on August 11th, 2020, in the NARCOG Board Room in Decatur, Alabama. Notification for this meeting was published in print media in all three counties in the NARCOG Region. Notifications were also posted on the NARCOG website, the NARCOG RPO website, as well as on the NARCOG Facebook page.

The NARCOG Staff presented the body of this plan as an update to the 2017 plan at the August 11th, 2020 meeting. As this plan is updated frequently, the public is welcome to comment on or contribute to this plan at any time. Documentation and notes related to the stakeholders meeting are included in the Appendices.

7.2 Endorsement of the Plan

The NARCOG Board of Directors reviewed and adopted the plan on September 23rd, 2020 and the plan was submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation on September 30, 2020.

Appendices



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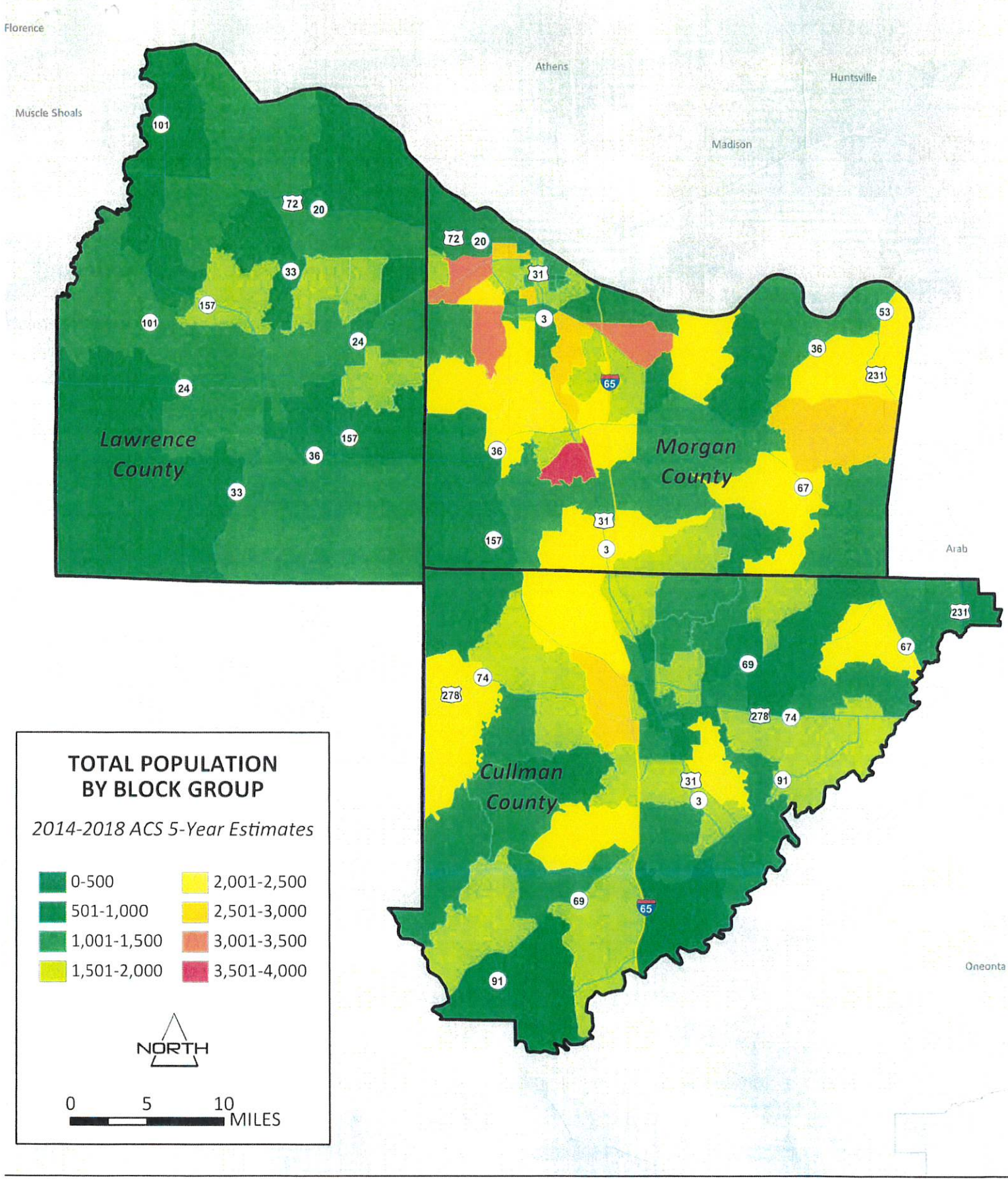

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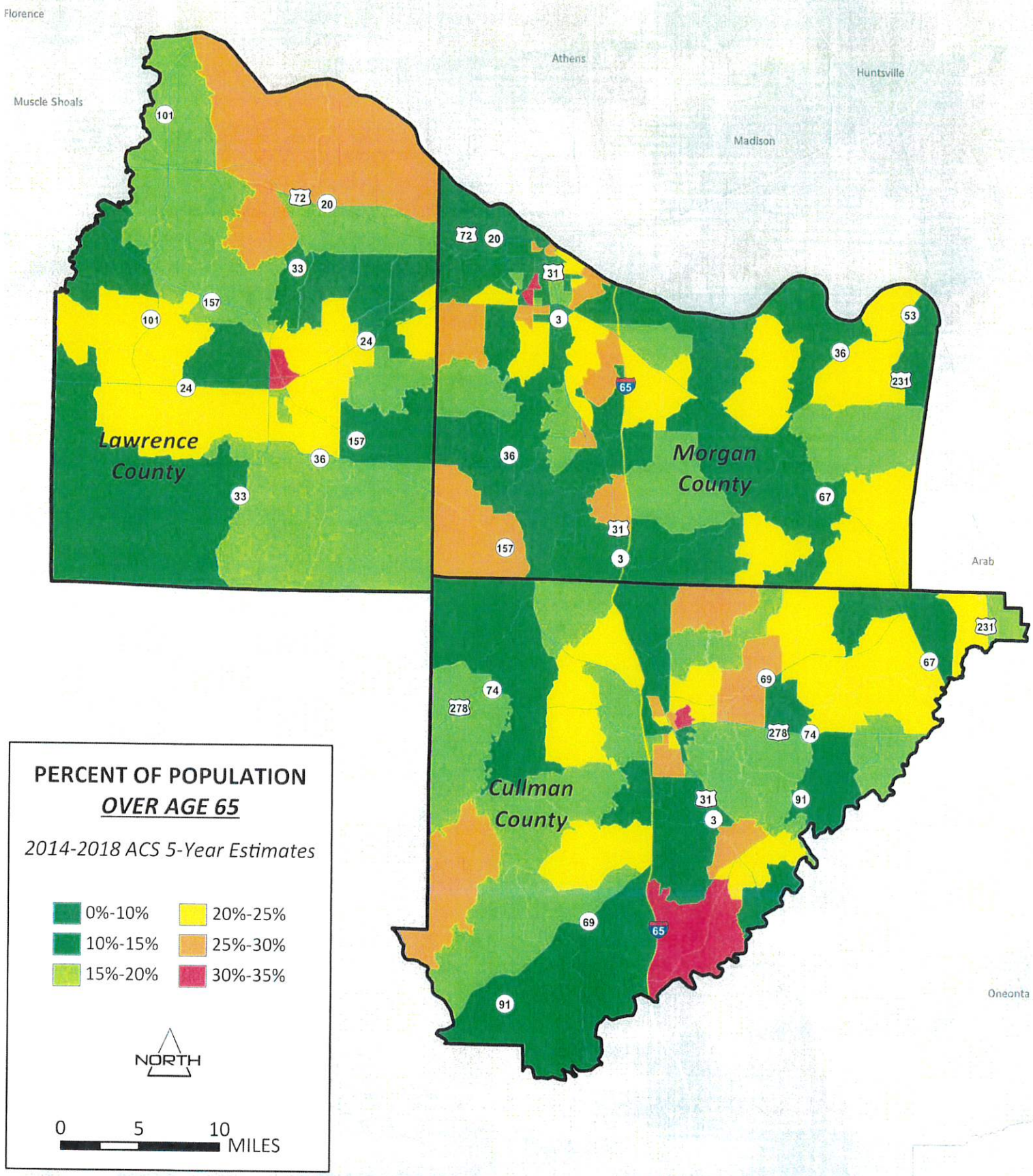

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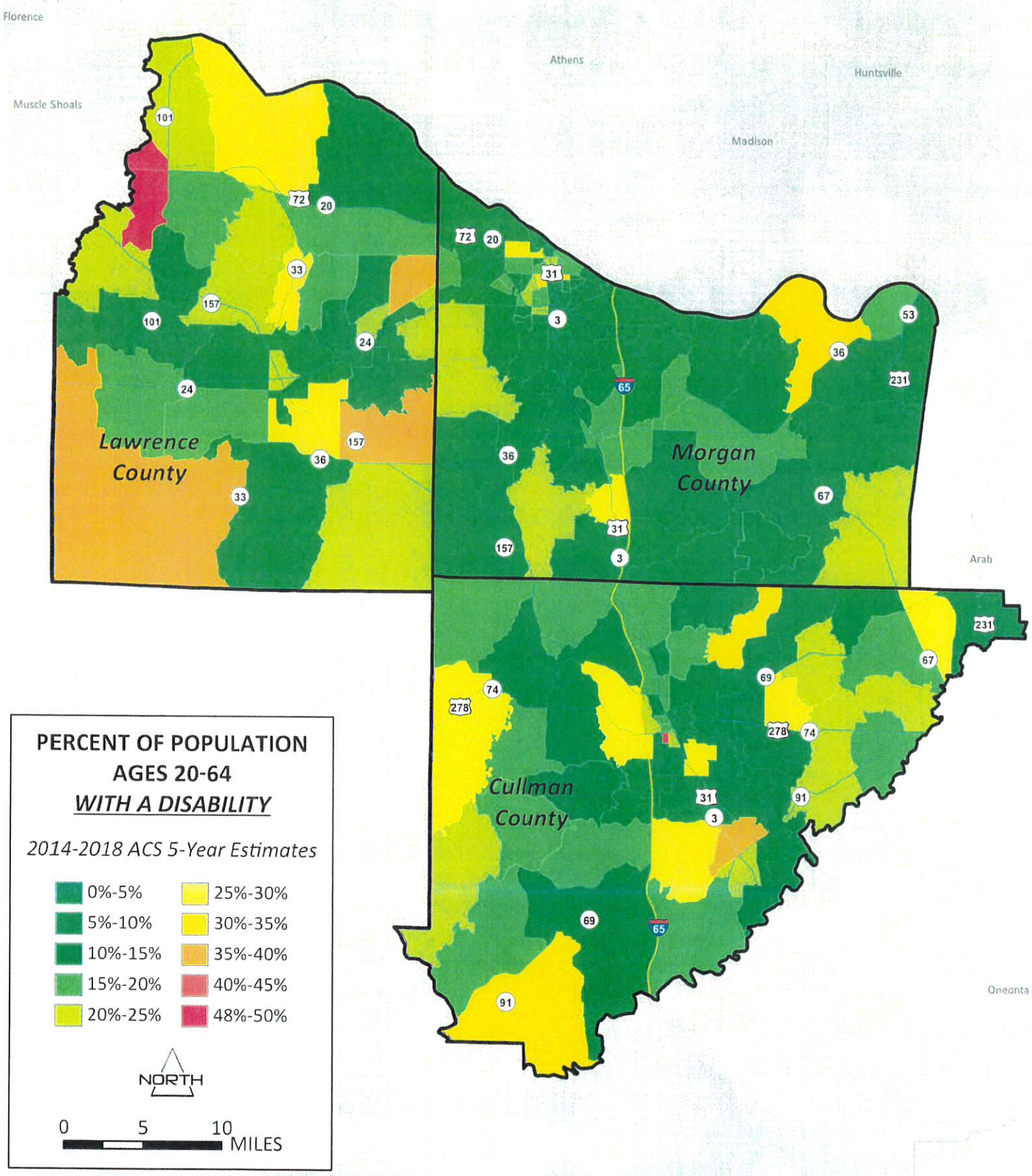

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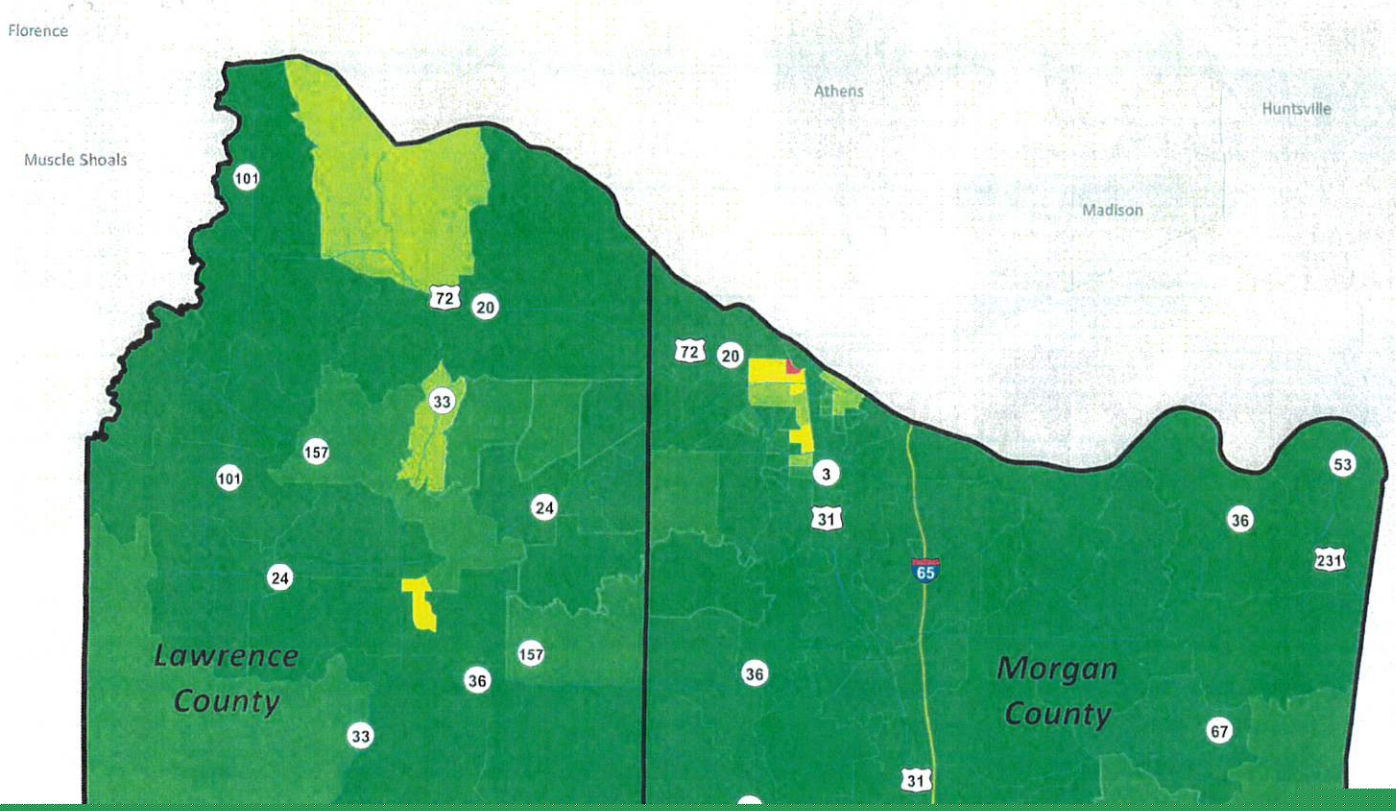
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Muscle Shoals
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Morgan
County
53
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231
67

ETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
ERRY KILGO
05 FIRST AVE NE, SUITE G
:ULLMAN, AL 35055
256) 841-0488

lartselle Enquirer July 22, 29, \ugust 5, and 12, 2020.

PUBLIC AUCTION

HIM Self Storage
2600 Beltline Road SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Auction online at storagetreasures.com
August 7, 2020 @ 2PM

Units:

#89 Alex Borden

#124 Jasmine Valencia

#330 Brian Fortson

#406 Dylan Hitt

#32 Britt Tolbert

#420 Britt Tolbert

Hartselle Enquirer July 22, and 29, 2020.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice of Lien Sale to be held July 30th, 2020 @ 10:00AM Storage Plus East 2806 Sandlin Rd. Decatur, Al. 35603 Will dispose of by sale or other disposition.

*Charissa Campbell 310 Cedar Lake Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603 Unit H195 Stroller, changing table, crib w/t mattress, booster chair, crib sheet, other misc . household items.

*Cynthia Greene 3010 Cornville Rd SW Decatur, AL 35603 Unit C51 Clothing, high chair, vacuum, microwave, 2 end tables, shelf, wall decor, 17+ misc. boxes/bags, other misc. items.

*Alexandra Ertman 810 7th Ave Decatur, AL 35601 Unit H184 High chair, 2 dressers, shelf, entertainment center, baby bouncer/walker/bath/crib/play pen, 2 couches, mattress & box spring, decor, storage bin, clothing, 10+ boxes/bags, other misc. items.

*Tashanda Minor 3005 Cotton PL SW Decatur, AL 35603 Unit I241 Lamp, BBQ, mattress/box spring/frame, chair, foot stool, microwave, 2 couches, end table, dresser, washer/dryer, 2 T.V's, clothing, household furnishings, 35+ boxes/bags, other misc. items.

*Kimberlee Davenport 1202 High Stratford PL SE Decatur, AL 35601 Unit J270 Christmas tree, 2 end tables, 4 shelves, 4 chairs, 3+ tables, 2 bed frames,

PUBLIC AUCTION

Public Lien Sale to be held on July 30, 2020 @ 11:00AM @Storage Plus West 3211 Modaus Rd. Decatur, AL 35603.

Hunter Garrett 85 Lokey Lane Pvt. Dr Decatur, Al 35603 Unit K 452 mattresses & box springs, headboard & footboard, 2 dining room chairs, other misc. household goods

Hartselle Enquirer July 15, and 22, 2020.

Public Meeting

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) will hold a public meeting Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 2:00 PM CDT regarding the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan for Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties. The meeting will be held at the Sparkman Civic Center located at 406 Nance Ford Road SW, Hartselle, AL 35640.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the update of the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The mission of this plan is to develop strategies to effectively provide transportation options to persons with limited transportation resources. This meeting is open to the public and anyone interested in public transit is encouraged to attend. Anyone requiring special assistance to attend the meeting should contact the NARCOG Rural Planning Organization staff no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the event at (256) 355-4515.

Hartselle Enquirer July 22, 2020.

CLASSIFIEDS
GETS RESULTS!

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF MORGAN

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MILDRED LOUISE EMENS, DECEASED

To: Cameron Emens, 2222 Acadia Drive SW Apt. 186, Decatur, AL 35603

Cameron Emens, whereabouts unknown

TO ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN, IF ANY THERE BE, WHETHER THEY BE MINORS OR PERSONS OF UNSOUND MIND.

You are hereby notified that John Emens, as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF MILDRED LOUISE EMENS, DECEASED, did on the 27th day of May, 2020, file in this Court her petition for Annual

contest the same, if you think proper so to do.
Dated this the 9th day of July, 2020.

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Hartselle Enquirer July 22, 29, August 5, and 12, 2020.

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
MORGAN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOTION OF USA HEALTH-CARE-MORGAN, LLC, TO SELL REAL PROPERTY IN THE ESTATE OF LEROY GOODWIN, SR., DECEASED.
TO: Leroy Goodwin, Jr., an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown; Tangy Hill, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown; Pamela Nichols, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown; Carlos Robinson, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown; Michael Collier, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown and Johnny D. Goodwin, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown.

AND TO ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN, IF ANY THERE BE, WHETHER THEY BE MINORS OR PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND.

YOU WILL TAKE NOTICE that on the 19th day of June, 2020, USA Healthcare-Morgan, LLC presented to the Court a Motion to Sell Real Property in the estate of Leroy Goodwin, Sr., deceased, and that the 9th day of September, 2020, at 1:30 o'clock p.m., was appointed as a day and time for hearing said petition, at which time you can appear and contest, if you see proper.

Given under my hand this the 8th day of July, 2020.

Judge of Probate

Hartselle Enquirer July 15, 22, and 29, 2020.

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
MORGAN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOTION OF USA HEALTH-CARE-FALKVILLE, LLC, TO SELL REAL PROPERTY IN THE ESTATE OF THELMA HAZEL BARKER., DECEASED.
TO: Shirley Draper, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown; Hazel Christopher, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown; J.D. Loise Sledge, an heir and next of kin, whose address is unknown and Kathy Barker-Garth and next of kin, whose address is unknown.
AND TO ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND NEXT

presented to the Court a Motion to Sell Real Property in the estate of Leroy Goodwin, Sr., deceased, and that the 9th day of September, 2020, at 1:00 o'clock p.m., was appointed as a day and time for hearing said petition, at which time you can appear and contest, if you see proper.

Given under my hand this the 8th day of July, 2020.

Judge of Probate

Hartselle Enquirer July 15, 22, and 29, 2020.

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STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
MORGAN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THOMAS ARTHUR WITTE,
TO PROBATE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF CAROL PRUITT WITTE, DECEASED.

TO: MICHAEL BUCARAM, 4556 LANCELOT DRIVE, PLANO, TEXAS 75024-4717 AND CHRISTOPHER BUCARAM, 5207 PARK LANE BLVD., SACHSE, TEXAS 75048-4133.

AND TO ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN, IF ANY THERE BE, WHETHER THEY BE MINORS OR PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND.

YOU WILL TAKE NOTICE that on the 5th day of December, 2019, presented to the Court an instrument in writing purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Carol Pruitt Witte, deceased, and also filed therewith a petition, in writing, praying for order of the Court of admitting said instrument to probate as the Last Will and Testament of Carol Pruitt Witte, deceased, and that the 31st August, 2020, at 1:00 o'clock p.m., was appointed as a day and time for hearing said petition, at which time you can appear and contest, if you see proper.
Given under my hand this the 7th day of July, 2020.

Judge of Probate

Hartselle Enquirer July 15, 22

SIGN-IN SHEET

Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (HSCTP)

Public Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 @ 2:00 PM
Sparkman Civic Center
Hartselle, AL

NAME	AGENCY	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Daniel Yurcaba	NARCOG	216 Jackson St SE	daniel.yurcaba@adss.alabama.gov
Joey Hester	NARCOG	216 Jackson St. SE	joey.hester@adss.alabama.gov
STEVEN SELMAN	NARCOG	" " " "	STEVEN.SELMAN@adss.alabama.gov
Cissy Pearson	NARCOG	"	on file
Tennille Harkins	NARCOG	"	tennille.harkins@adss.alabama.gov
Falguni Patel	NARCOG	"	falguni.Patel@adss.alabama.gov