



Regional Transportation Coordination Committee

August 14, 2023

Coordinated Plan

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Capital Region

- Federal Definition:

“a locally developed, coordinated transportation plan that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, provides strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation”

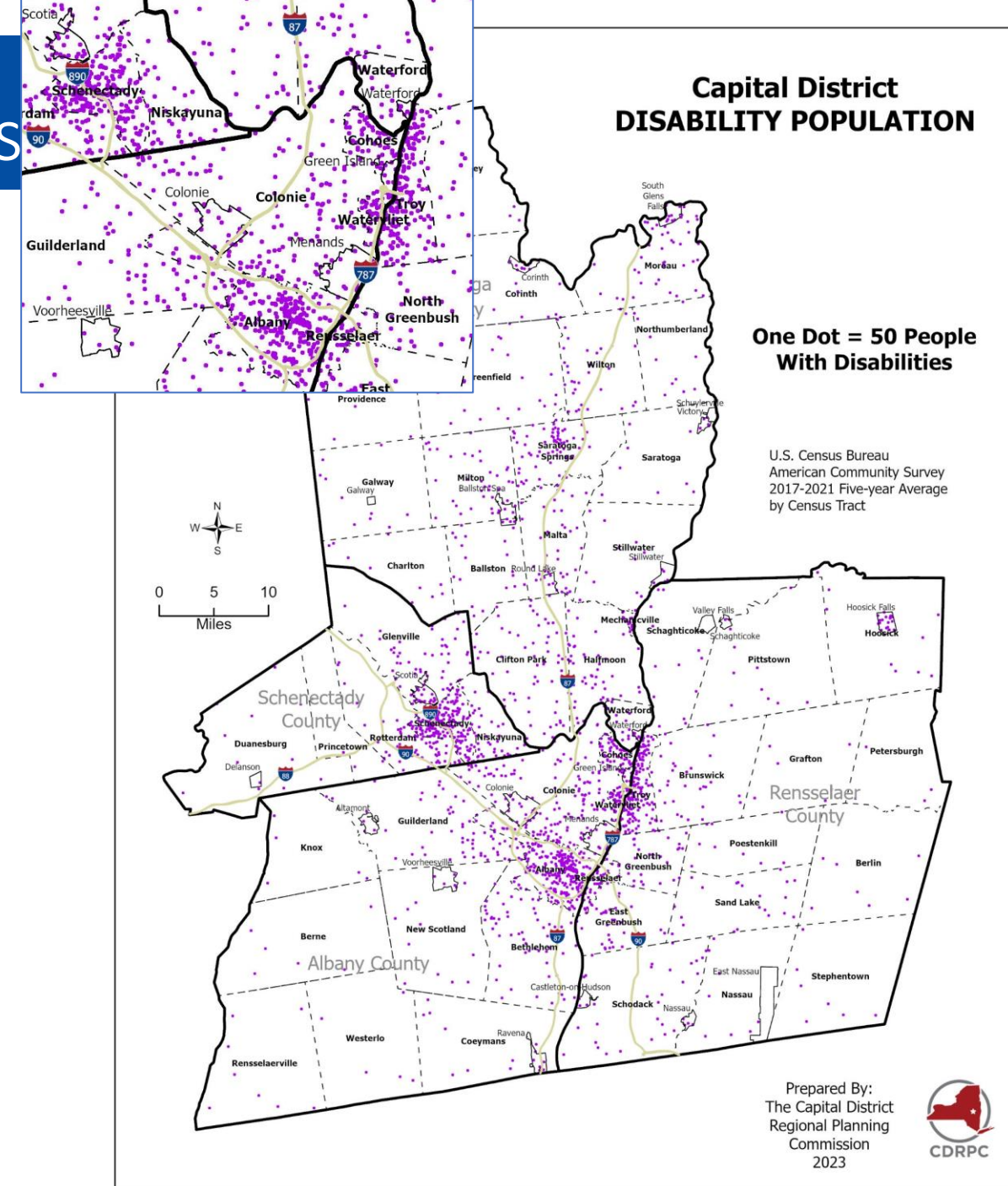
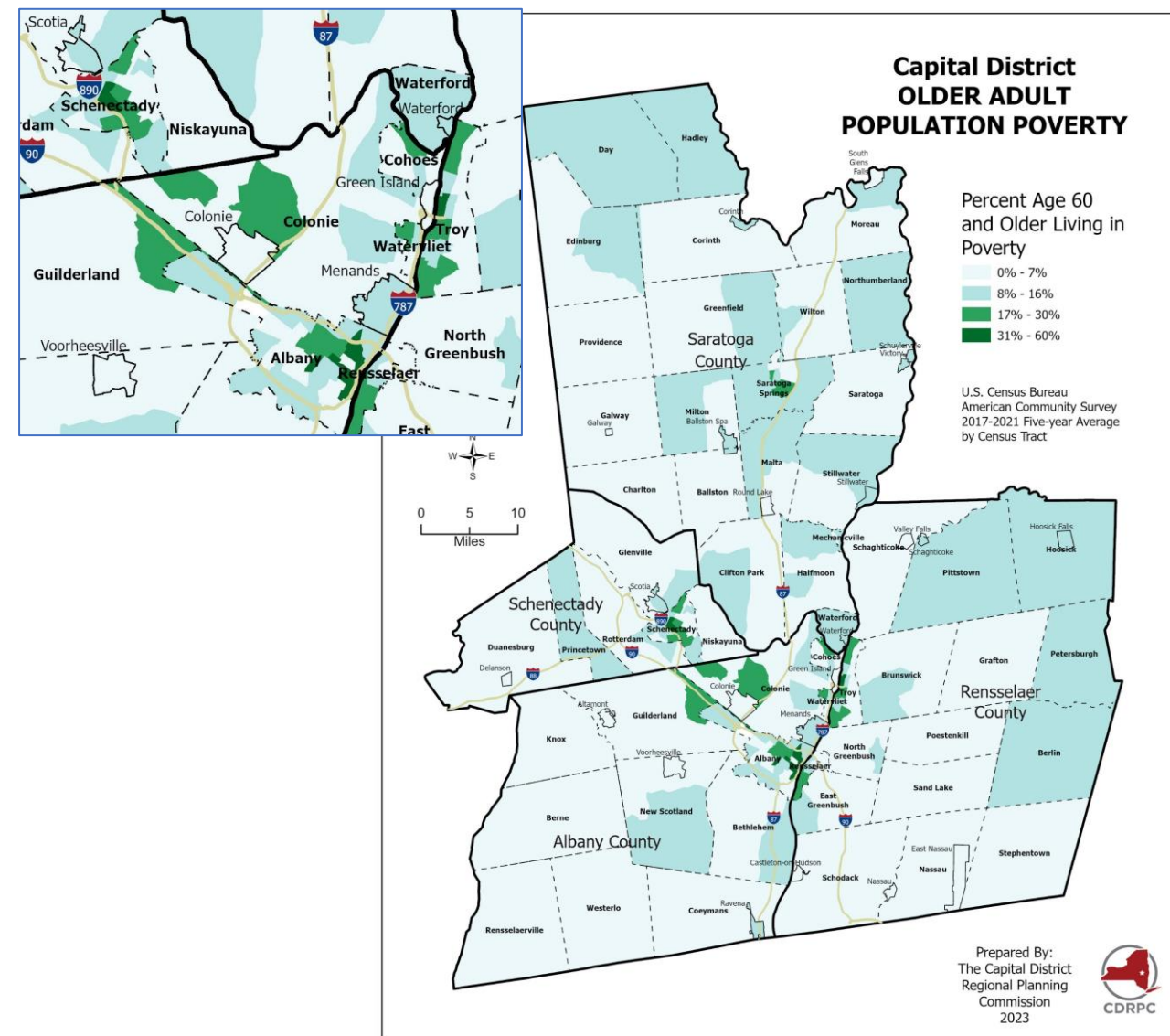
Why a Coordinated Plan?

- Projects funded under Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program must be
 - "included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan,"
 - "developed and approved through a process that included participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and other members of the public"

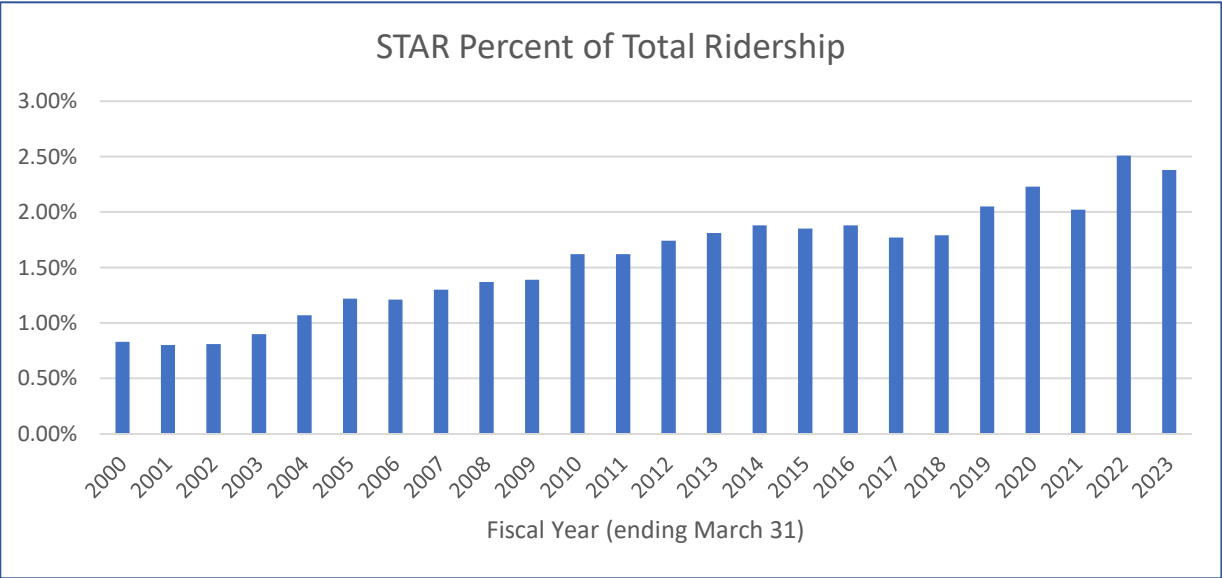
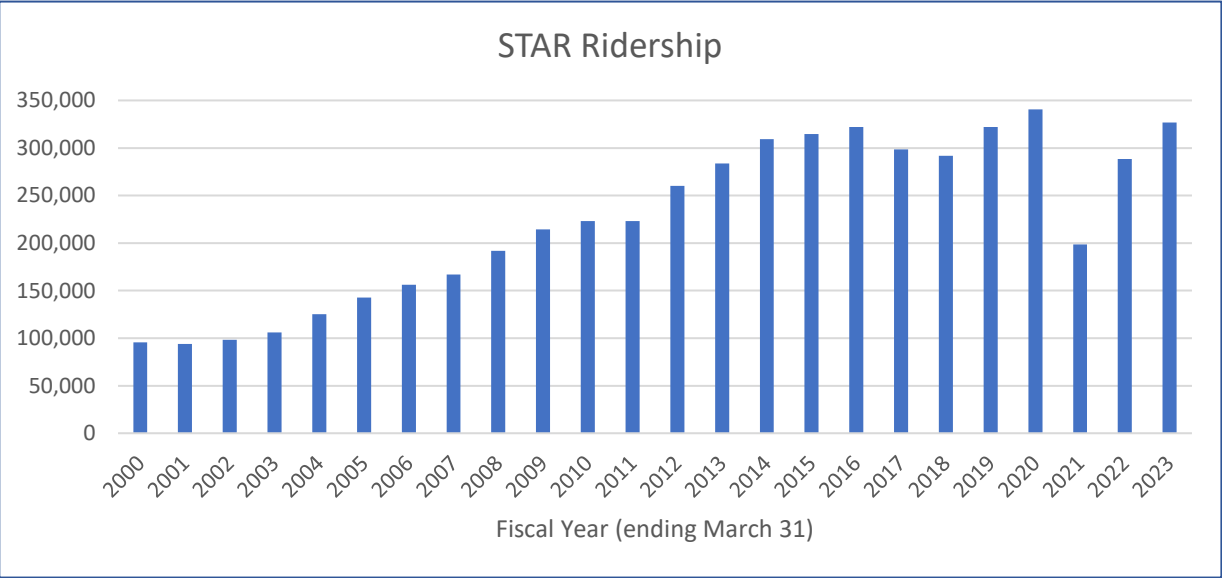
Contents

- Completed in 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019
- Stakeholder and Public Participation
- Demographics & Spatial Patterns
- Existing Public Transit, Specialized Transportation Services
- Past Coordinated Planning Efforts, Funded Projects
- Needs, Gaps & Barriers
- Issues & Opportunities
- Strategies, Actions to Address Gaps, Improve Service Delivery

Demographics and Spatial Patterns



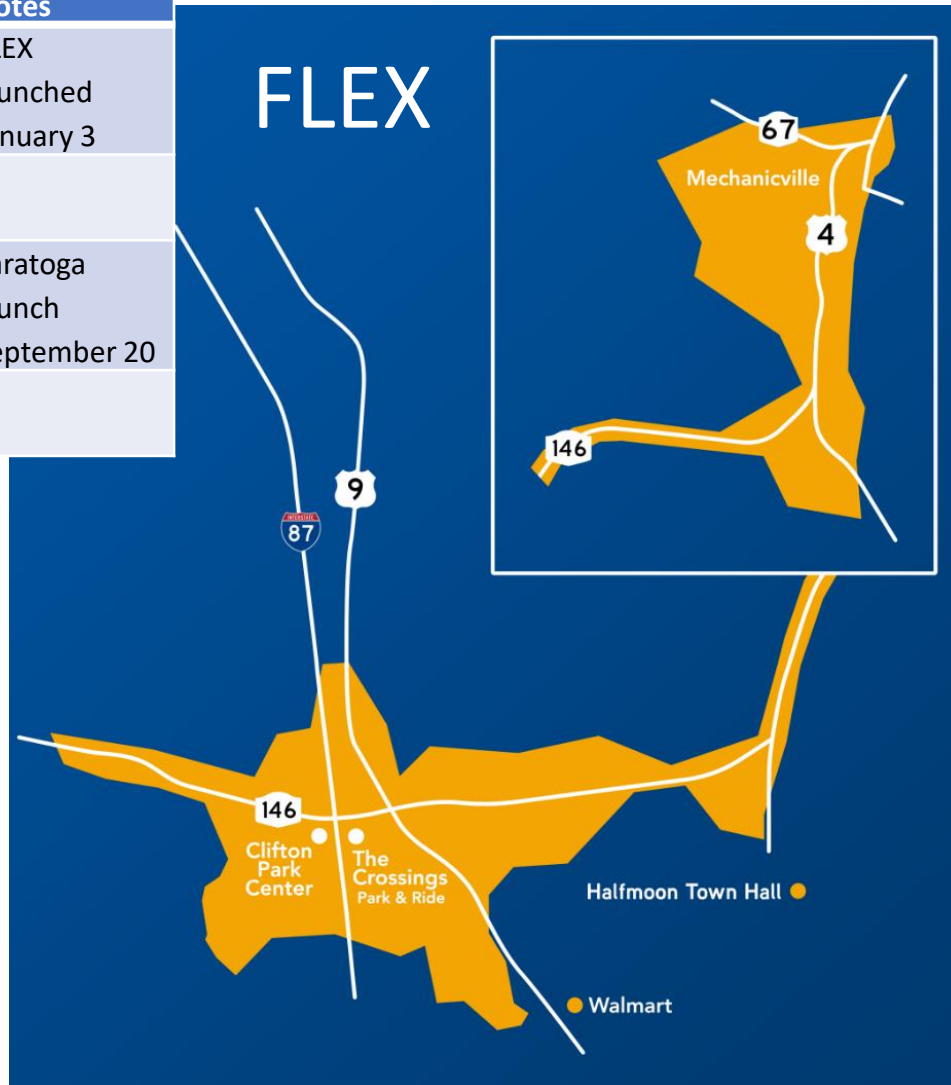
STAR Ridership



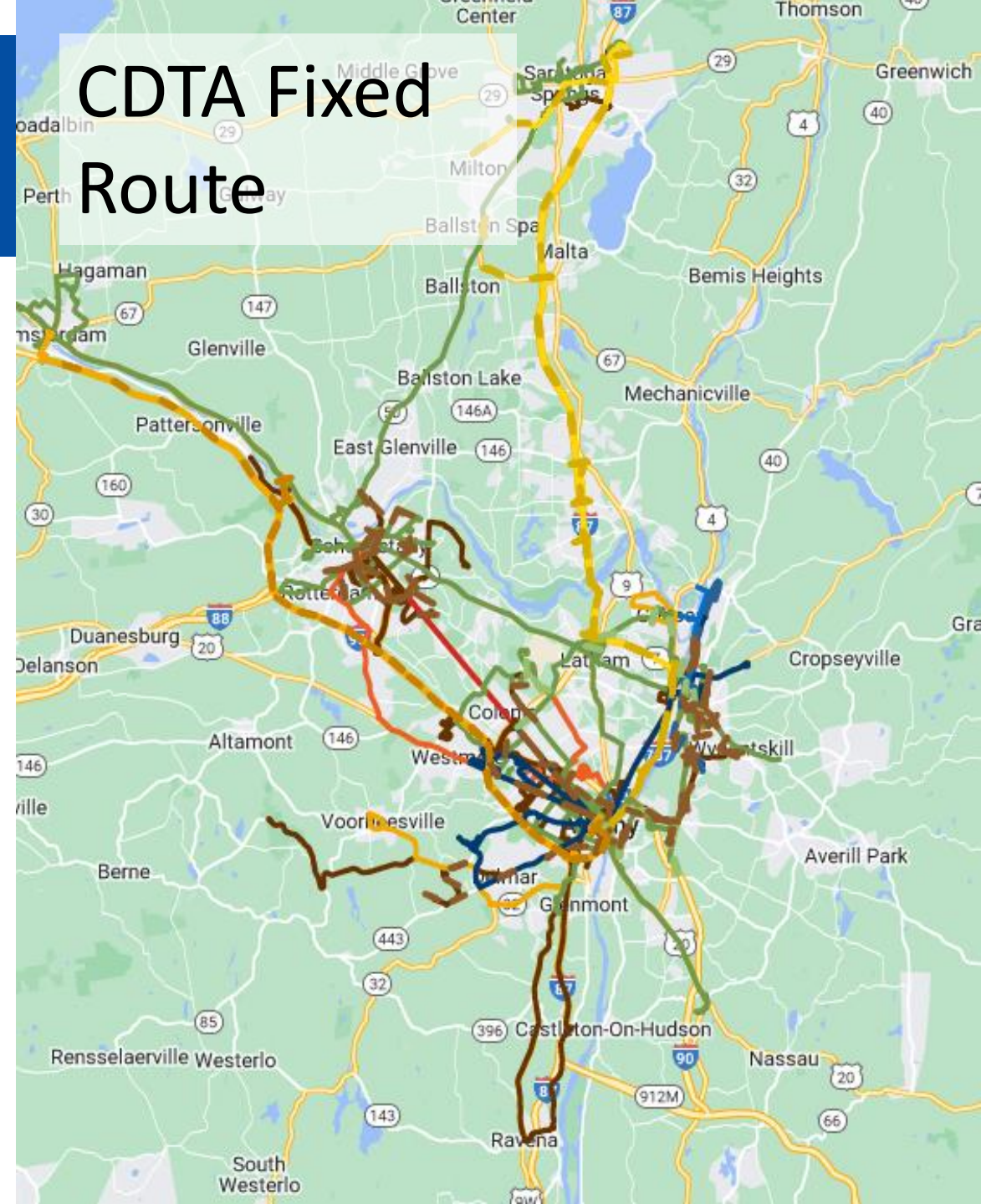
History of STAR Ridership			
Fiscal Year	Total Ridership	STAR	STAR % of Total
2000	11,469,966	95,772	0.83%
2001	11,715,460	94,054	0.80%
2002	12,098,285	98,202	0.81%
2003	11,784,764	106,149	0.90%
2004	11,746,831	125,164	1.07%
2005	11,693,743	142,633	1.22%
2006	12,883,502	156,284	1.21%
2007	12,895,236	167,063	1.30%
2008	14,031,000	192,000	1.37%
2009	15,406,598	214,474	1.39%
2010	13,803,000	223,000	1.62%
2011	13,803,000	223,000	1.62%
2012	14,910,000	260,000	1.74%
2013	15,675,079	283,624	1.81%
2014	16,488,660	309,220	1.88%
2015	17,023,834	314,795	1.85%
2016	17,122,668	321,889	1.88%
2017	16,867,359	298,435	1.77%
2018	16,343,448	291,810	1.79%
2019	15,687,239	321,904	2.05%
2020	15,266,694	340,486	2.23%
2021	9,841,472	198,455	2.02%
2022	11,509,894	288,407	2.51%
2023	13,713,618	326,777	2.38%

Existing Public Transit, Specialized Transportation Services

Year	Rides	Notes
Apr 1, 2019 – Mar 31, 2020	4,144	FLEX launched January 3
Apr 1, 2020 – Mar 31, 2021	23,351	
Apr 1, 2021 – Mar 31, 2022	42,895	Saratoga launch September 20
Apr 1, 2022 – Mar 31, 2023	94,985	



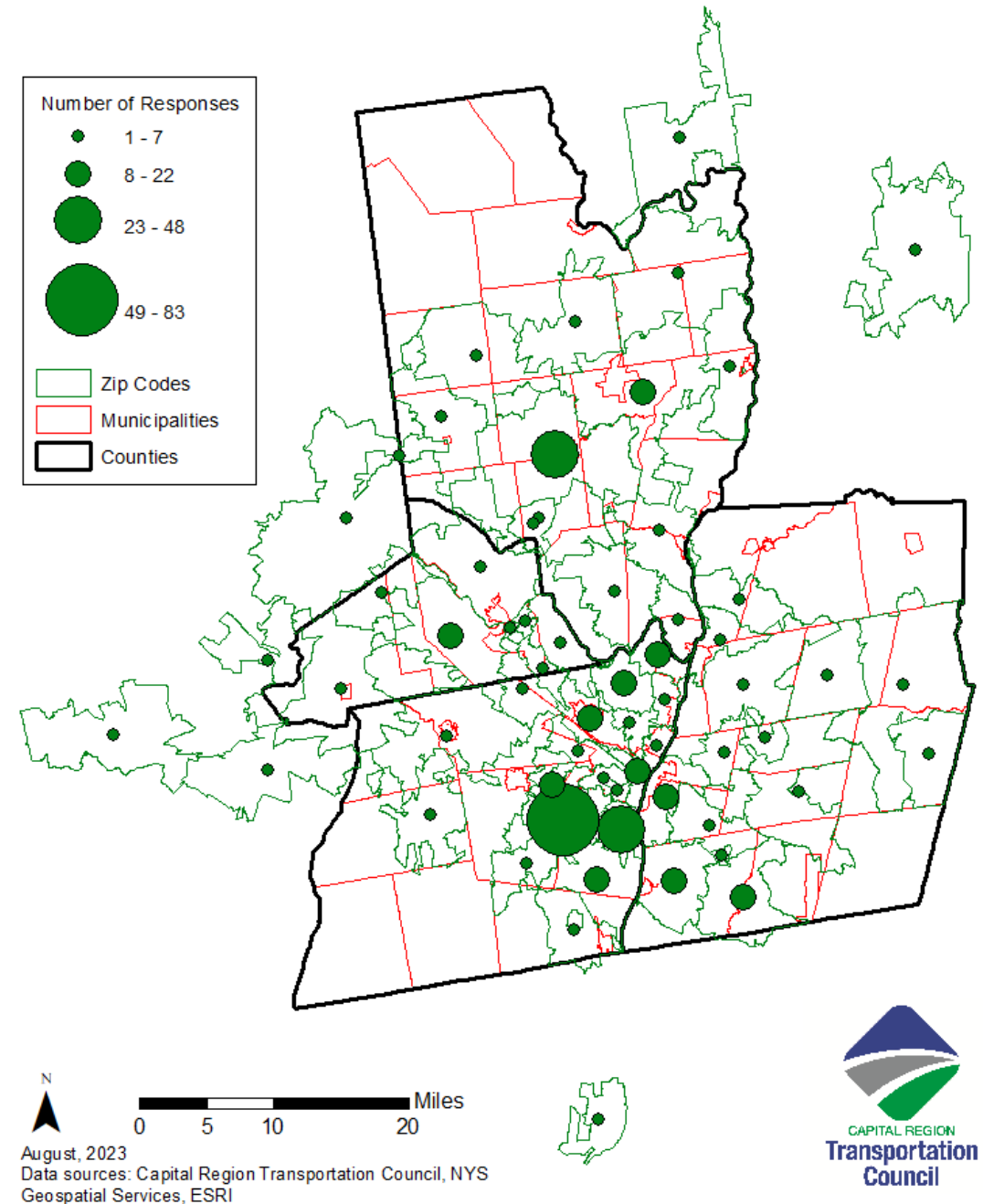
CDTA Fixed Route



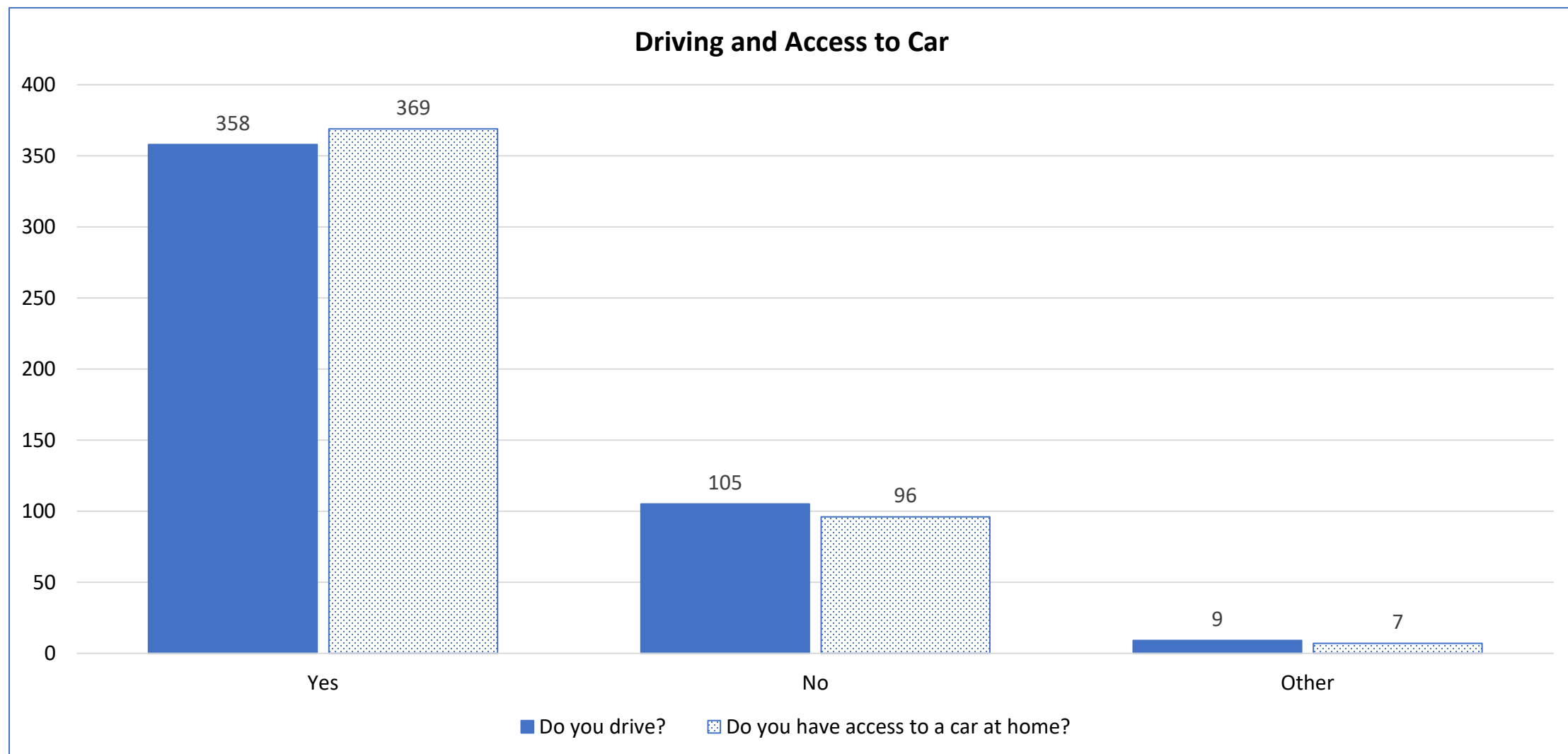
Stakeholder and Public Participation

- 12 congregate meal sites (3/county)
- Sample of STAR riders
- Online availability
- Bethlehem and Colonie collection
- 472 Surveys received

Survey Responses by Zip Code

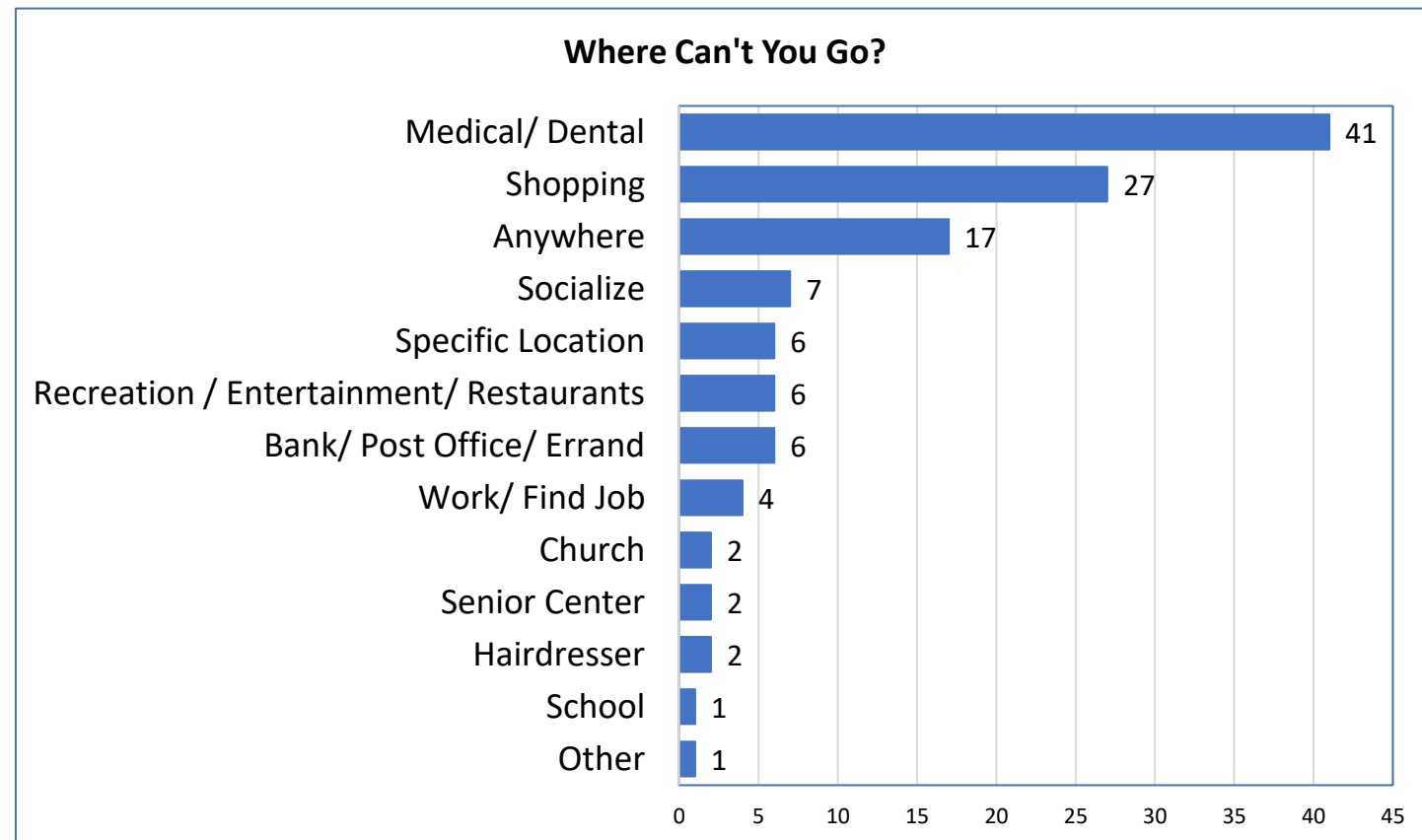


Stakeholder and Public Participation

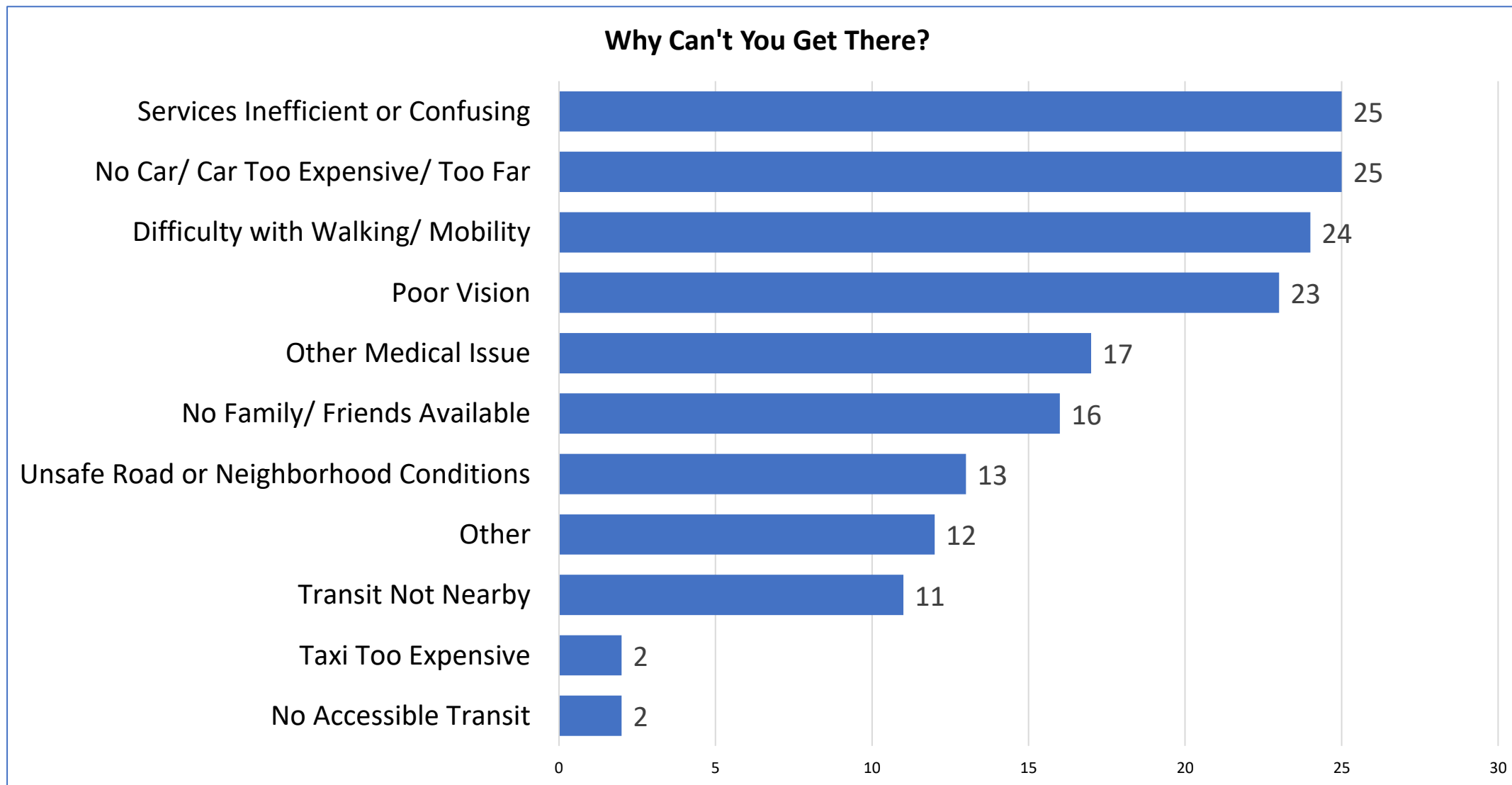


Stakeholder and Public Participation

- Do you have difficulty leaving your home due to lack of transportation?
 - No – 360
 - Yes – 106
 - No Answer – 6
 - Total - 472

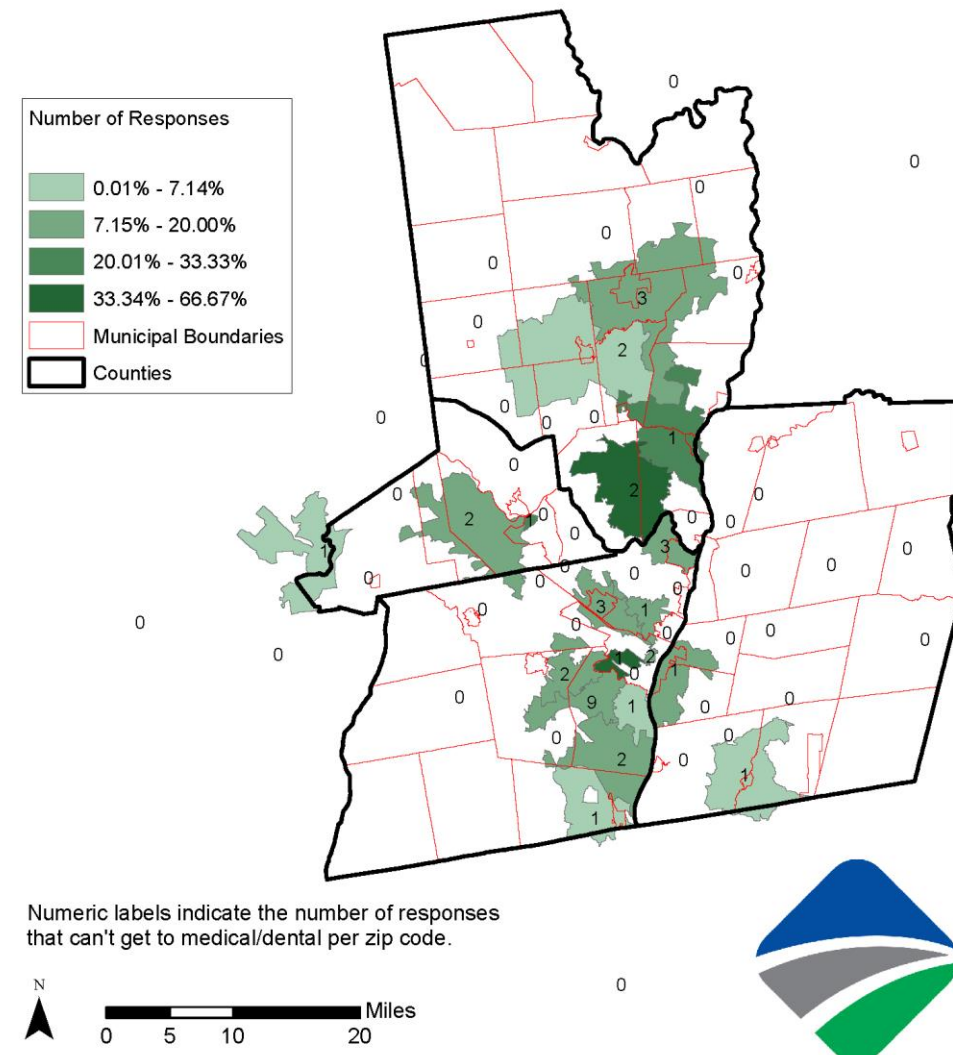


Stakeholder and Public Participation

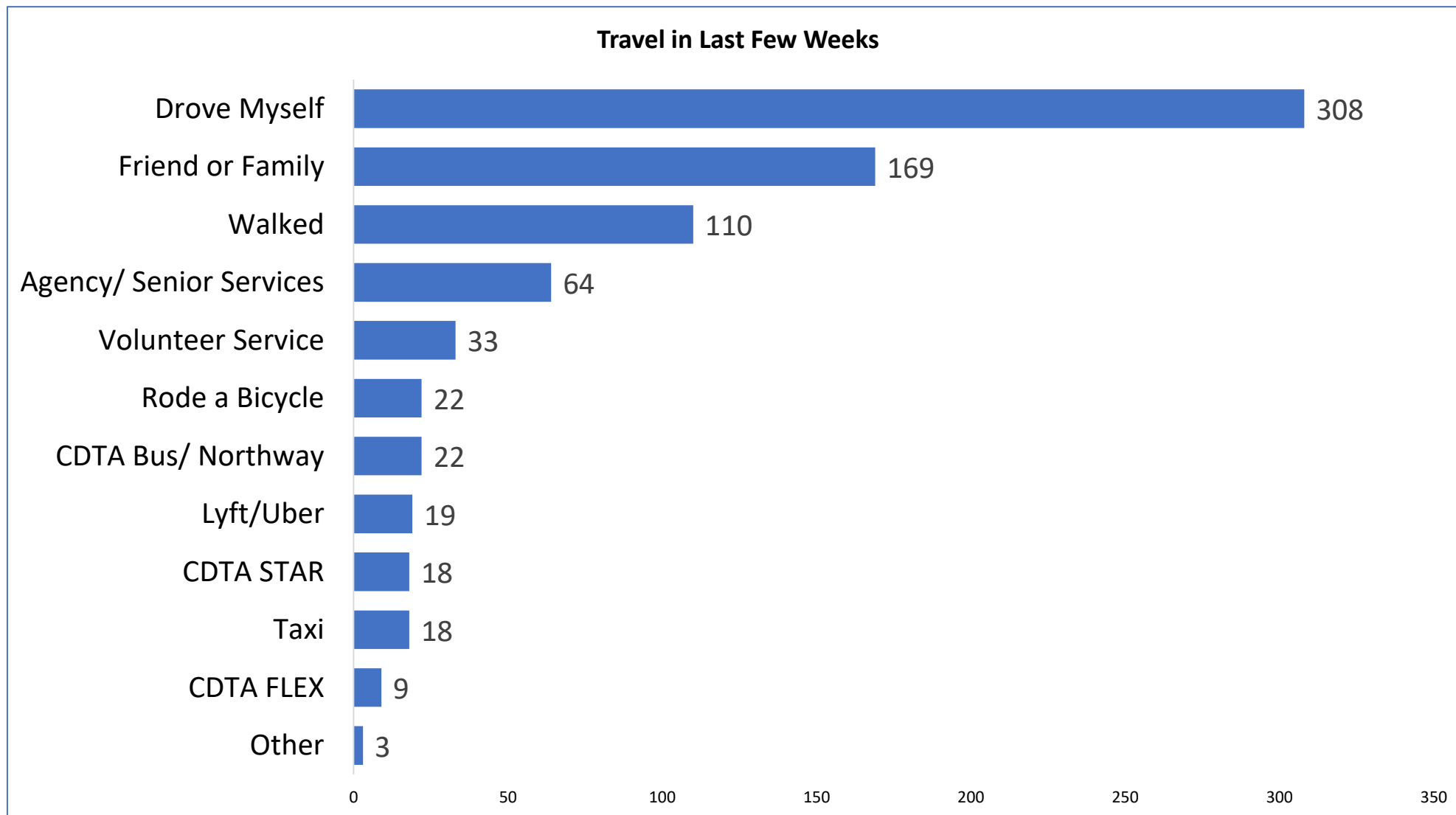


Can't get to Medical

Responses That Can't Get to
Medical/Dental, by Zip Code

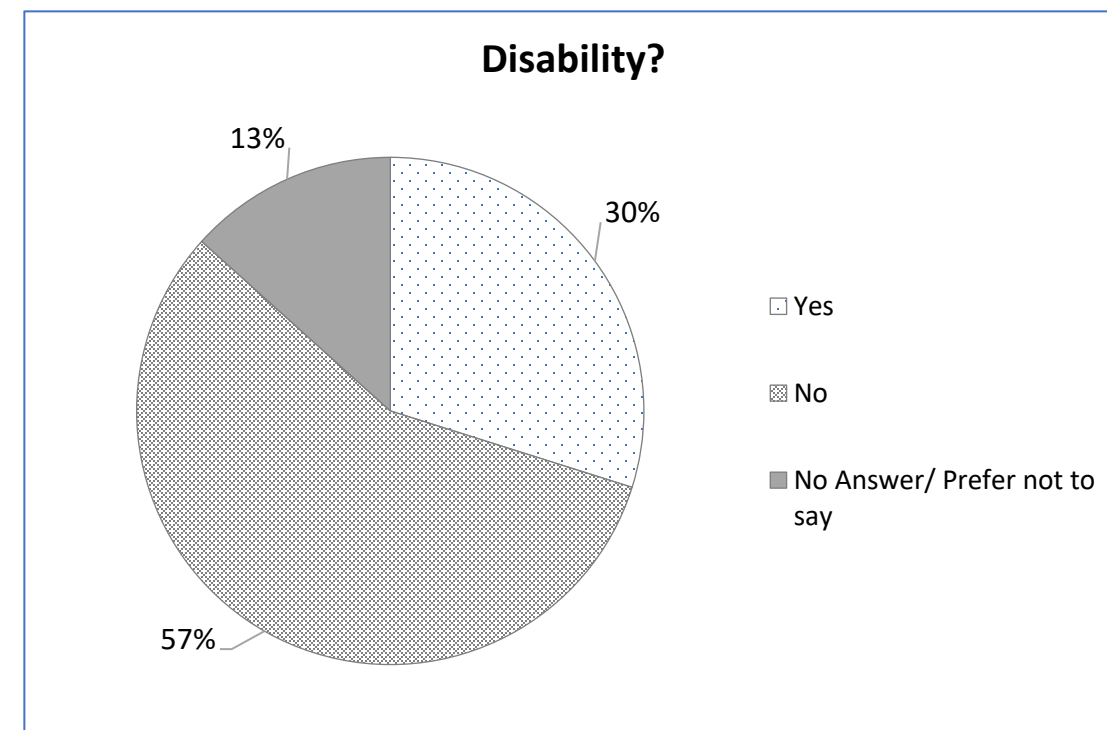
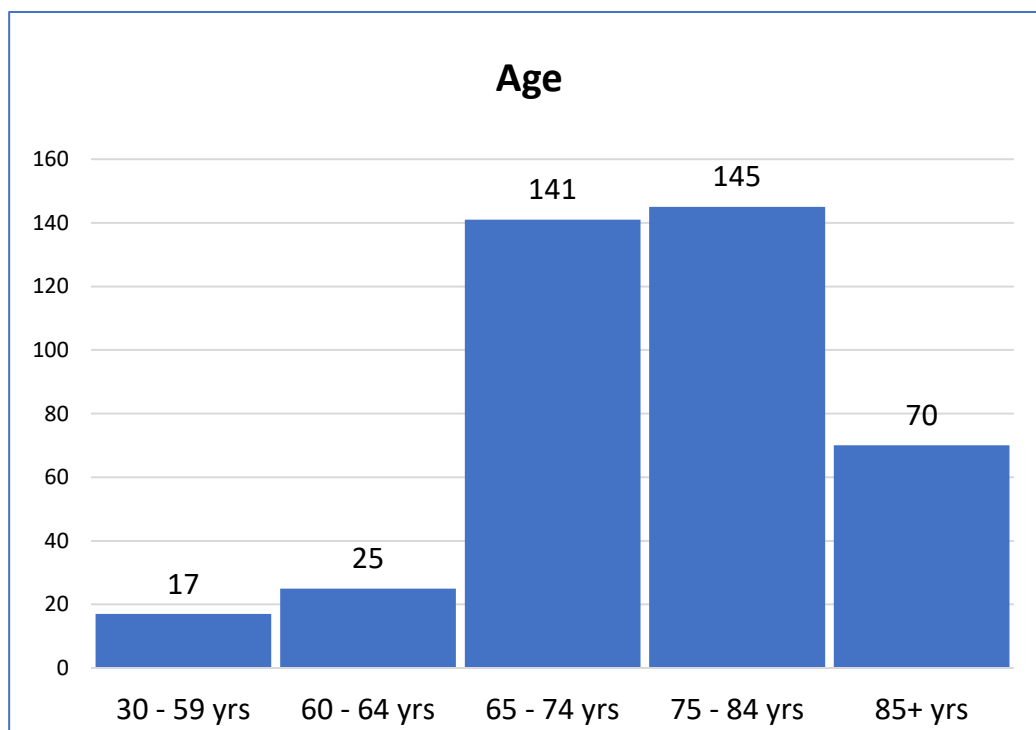


Stakeholder and Public Participation

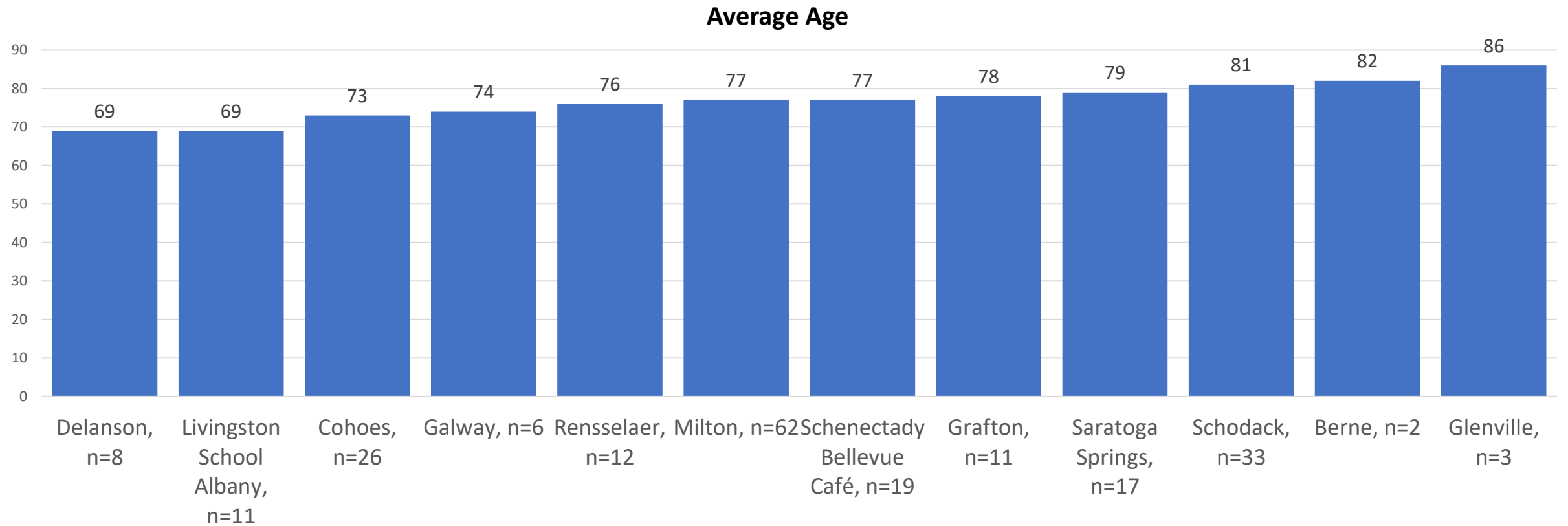


Stakeholder and Public Participation

Demographics

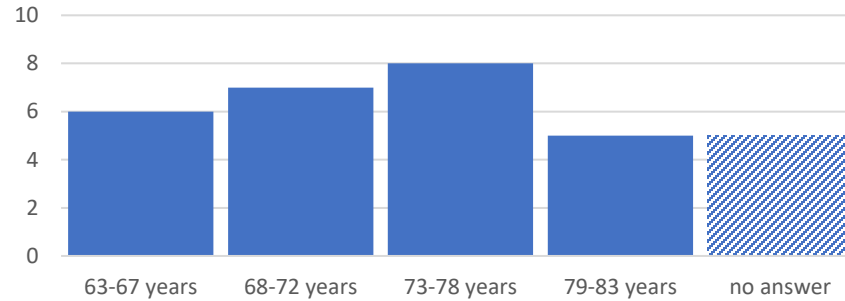


More on Age?

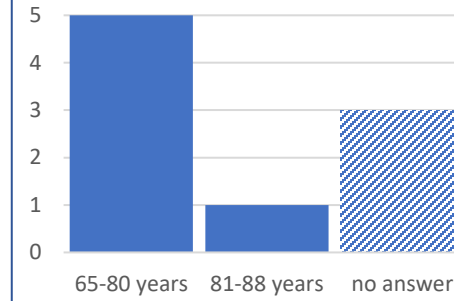


More on Age?

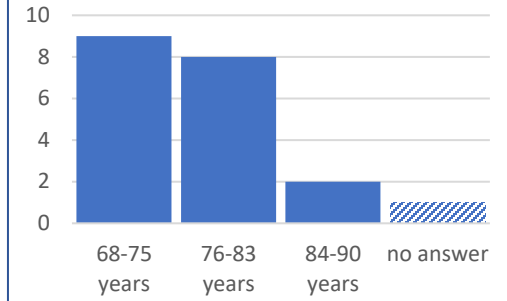
Cohoes
Average Age= 73 years, n= 26



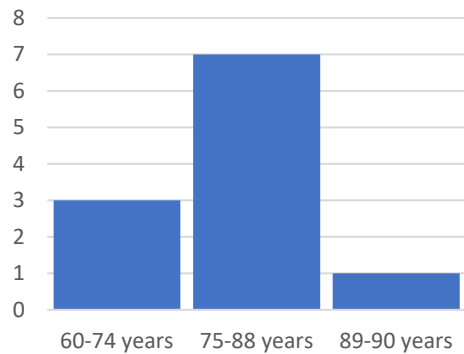
Galway
Average Age= 74, n= 6



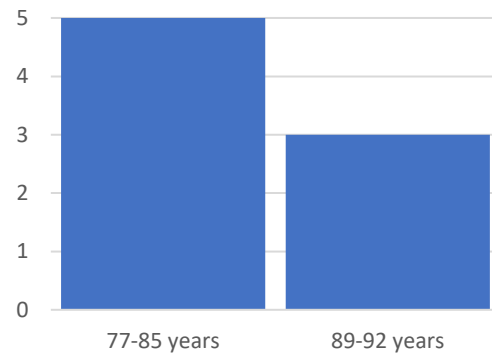
Schenectady Bellevue Cafe
Average Age= 77, n=19



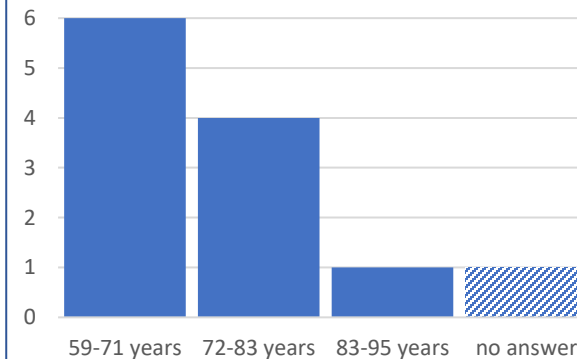
Grafton
Average Age= 78, n= 11



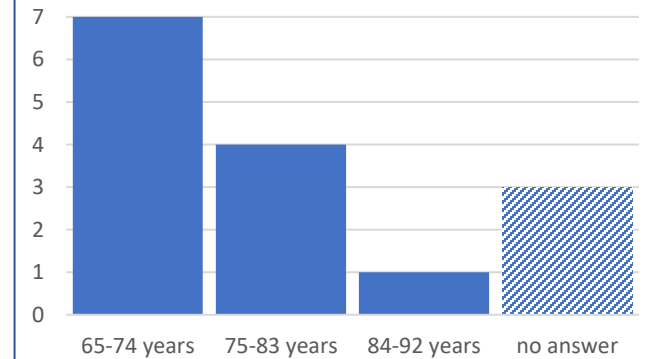
Delanson
Average Age= 69, n= 8



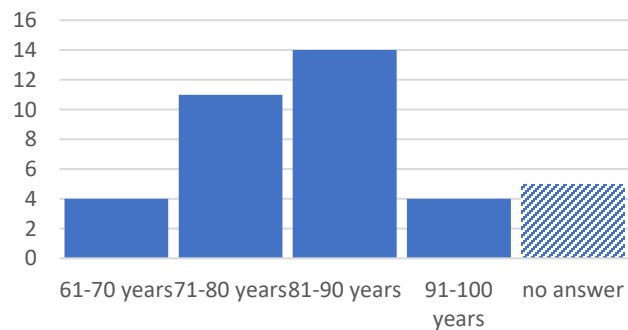
Livingston School Albany
Average Age= 69, n= 11



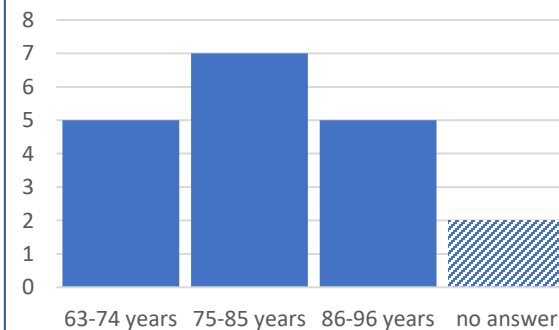
Rensselaer
Average Age= 76, n=12



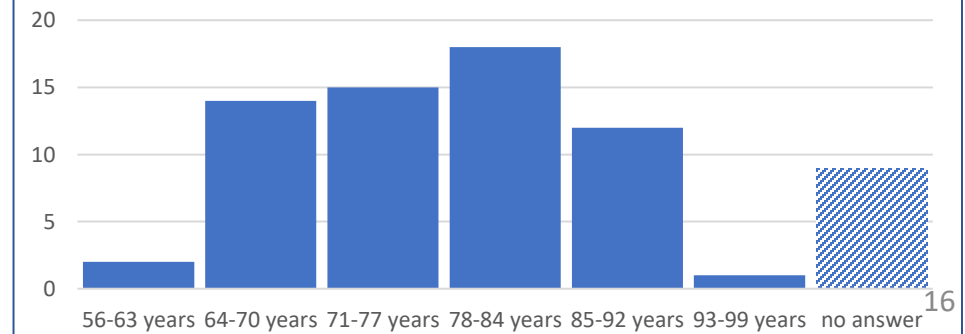
Schodack
Average Age= 81, n=33



Saratoga Springs
Average Age= 79, n=17

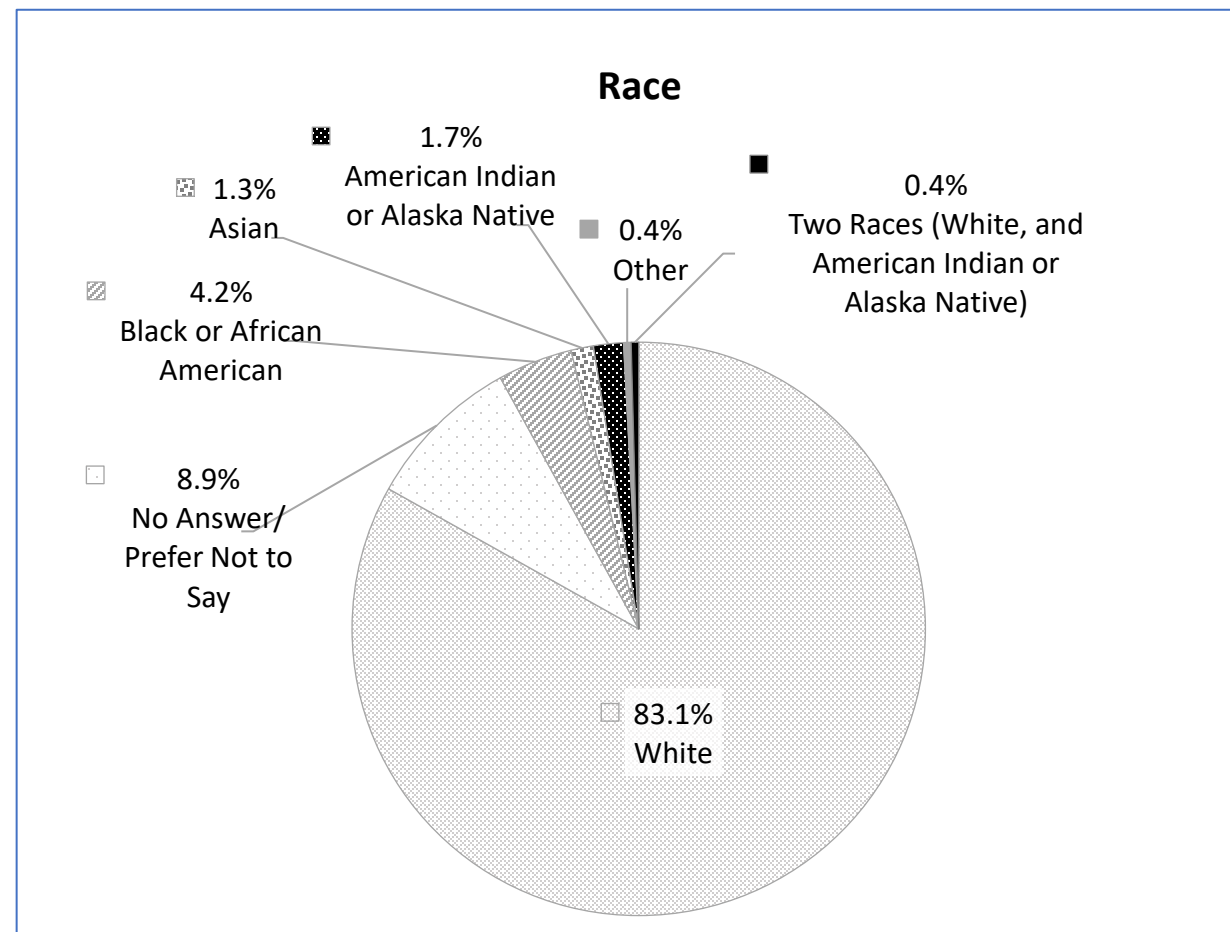
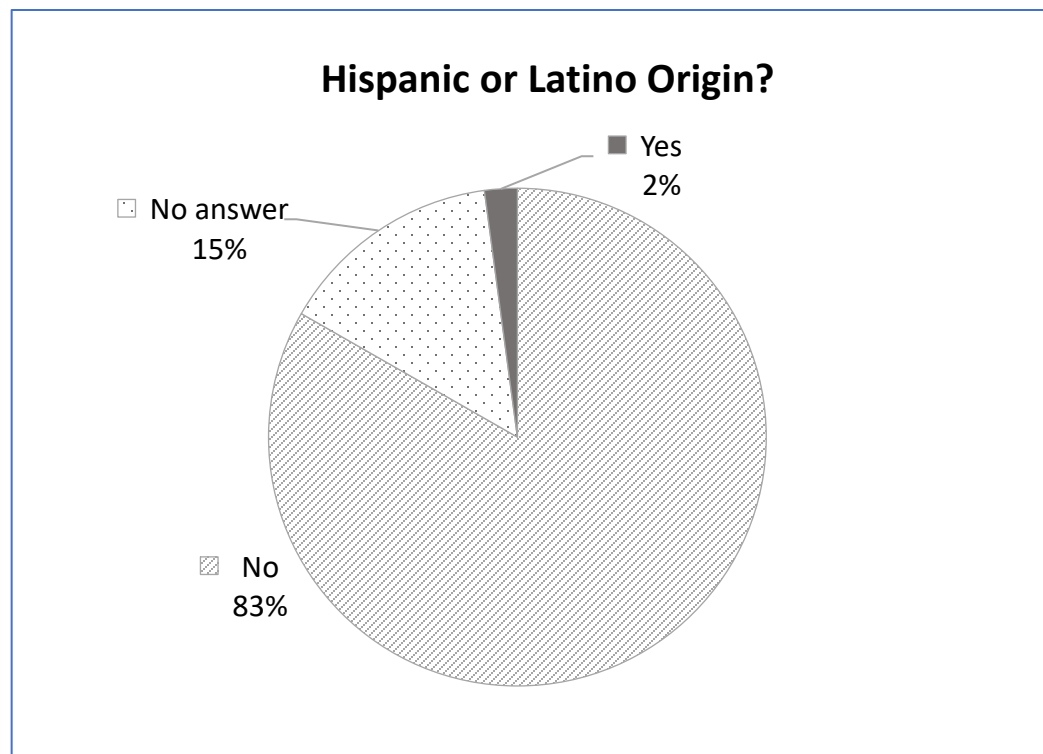


Milton
Average Age= 77, n=62



Stakeholder and Public Participation

Demographics



Provider Survey

- Six responses
- Assume this is because people are overwhelmed?
- Since 2019, a few closures of transportation programs
- COVID impact - some riders and drivers at increased risk
- Driver shortages were an issue prior to 2020, and continue to be a limiting factor in the ability to provide transportation.
- Next time – far shorter survey? More effort to gather? Provider vs Public effort?

Recent Initiatives that Impact Human Service Transp

- NYS Study to Design a Mobility Management Project
 - Establish statewide human service transportation coordination infrastructure.
 - Establish Regional Coordinating Councils
 - Pilot three mobility management strategies in three regions in New York State (eventual statewide implementation).
- National Aging and Disability Transportation Center Grant – Colonie Seniors
- Saratoga County Transportation Task Force
- Other?

Strategies and Actions

Strategy or Action from 2019 Coordinated Plan	Progress in Last Four Years
Prioritize projects for Section 5310 funding that address previously identified gaps and barriers, thereafter projects open to the public.	All Projects funded vehicles and/or equipment for non-shared use.
Verify method to prioritize strategies in Section 5310 selection process.	It is important for the region to maintain eligibility for vehicles and equipment, however prioritizing eligible strategies over others is not possible with the current statewide review process.
Reach out to NYS Office for the Aging, Commission for the Blind, OPWDD and/or Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to participate in the RTCC	OPWDD has been participating. NYSDOH participated in the 5310 review committee. OfA staff are on the contact list. DDPC staff are on the contact list and presented at Tools of the Trade. Contacts are needed at the Veterans Administration, OASAS, and the Commission for the Blind.
Continue to hold workshops similar to the recent “Tools of the Trade” workshops.	The RTCC held a workshop online in April 2021 and another in-person in June 2022.
Seek transportation providers, or other groups that support seniors or people with disabilities to present at RTCC meetings	Short presentations were provided by some RTCC members.

Strategies and Actions

Strategy or Action from 2019 Coordinated Plan	Progress in Last Four Years
Encourage human services transportation providers to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships.	????
Facilitate completion of ADA Transition Plans and associated physical improvements.	To date, Niskayuna, Bethlehem, Glenville, and Albany have completed Transition Plans. Ballston Spa, Guilderland, and Troy plans are underway.
Continue to incentivize and prioritize accessible features in federally funded transportation projects through the Transportation Council's Transportation Improvement Program merit evaluation process.	This was continued.
Ensure listings of paratransit services are included in the 511NY paratransit services listings and that human service agency transportation listings in 211 and NY Connects are accurate.	This has not occurred. NY Connects has proven to be a more updated and relevant resource for transportation information in the Capital Region.
Identify mechanisms, such as education and outreach and potential incentives to increase location-efficient siting of facilities and housing serving transportation disadvantaged populations	????

Strategies and Actions

Strategy or Action from 2019 Coordinated Plan	Progress in Last Four Years
Explore opportunities for coordination for federal programs that fund transportation components but are not funded through FTA or FHWA.	????
In the next provider survey, ask for the number of agency and personal vehicle miles travelled, and why people were denied rides and how many were denied. In future public surveys, ask if disabilities are temporary.	Further discussion determined that the additional public survey question was unnecessary. The provider survey included the questions about denials – if included in the future, it should be reworded. Inquiry was not made about agency and personal vehicle miles.
Present the Coordinated Plan to the Policy Board.	Staff presented at the June 2019 Policy Board meeting.
Clarify disposal and transfer rules for vehicles acquired with FTA Section 5310 funds and encourage transfer to other agencies in need.	There have been some transfers since the last Coordinated Plan, and one member indicated the process was easier than anticipated.
Research best practices for public charging for electric mobility devices, and encourage implementation.	????

Strategies and Actions

Strategy or Action from 2019 Coordinated Plan	Progress in Last Four Years
Widely distribute the Senior Transportation Guide produced with the Albany Guardian Society.	A total of 1,500 printed guides have been distributed.
Undertake additional research or regional conversations to document the extent and severity of isolation, and consider methods to reduce negative impacts.	????

Issues and Opportunities – Add or Delete?

- Increasing the Accessibility of Pedestrian Networks
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plans
- Barriers to Use of Fixed Route Transit
- Regional Development Patterns
- Disposal/Transfer of 5310-funded Vehicles
- Emergency Preparedness for Transportation Disadvantaged Populations
- Loneliness and Isolation
- Examples of Mobility Management Efforts in New York State
- Senior Transportation Guide

Needs – Add or Delete?

Equipment

- Replacement and Additional Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles
- Dispatch software/hardware
- Accessible Taxis and Transportation Network Company vehicles

Rider Services

- Travel/Mobility Training
- Information Sharing/Education

Organizational – Human Service Agencies

- Drivers (recruitment and retention)
- Vehicle Maintenance, including wheelchair lifts and ramps
- Insurance – self-or non-self-insured
- Driver/Mechanic Training
- Manage Demand on STAR

Gaps and Barriers – Add or Delete?

Gaps

- Some Trip Purposes
- Weekend Services
- Rural Services

Barriers to Coordination

- Funding Silos
- Insurance
- Accounting systems
- Medicaid service redesign
- Public Information on Available Services
- Unfamiliar/Uncomfortable Using Fixed Routes and Shared Services
- Fear of Developmentally Disabled/Mentally Ill

New Strategies and Actions

Strategy or Action
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