



# Understanding Community Transportation Needs

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# Importance of Transportation

Transportation provides a vital lifeline for people with disabilities to access employment, education destinations, healthcare, and other quality of life services.





# Independence



Transportation services allow individuals with disabilities to live independently within their communities.



# The American with Disabilities Act

\* The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended, requires accessibility in public transportation by intercity, commuter rail and for public transportation....

# What Does MS Department of Transportation (MDOT) Do?

MDOT administers federal and state grant programs and provide technical assistance to state agencies, local governments, public and private non-profit sponsors of transportation programs or projects to develop, and maintain coordinated, affordable and accessible mobility service options.

# MDOT cont...

We also plan, develop, support and oversee the delivery of a comprehensive transit network with emphasis on accessing services that improve quality of life opportunities.

# How Do We Make This Happen?

## Currently Funded Programs

- ❖ 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals With Disabilities
- ❖ 5311 Rural Areas Programs
- ❖ 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute\*

\*Repealed programs in MAP-21 Legislation –  
5316 folded into 5311



# Program Descriptions

## **5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

The goal of the Section 5310 program is to enhance mobility for seniors & persons with disabilities by providing funds for programs to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services & Americans with Disabilities Act complimentary para-transit services



# Program Descriptions cont...

## **5311 Rural Areas Programs (Includes 5316)**

The goal of the Section 5311 program is to provide capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation including Job Access and Reverse Commute in rural areas with population less than 50,000, where many residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations.

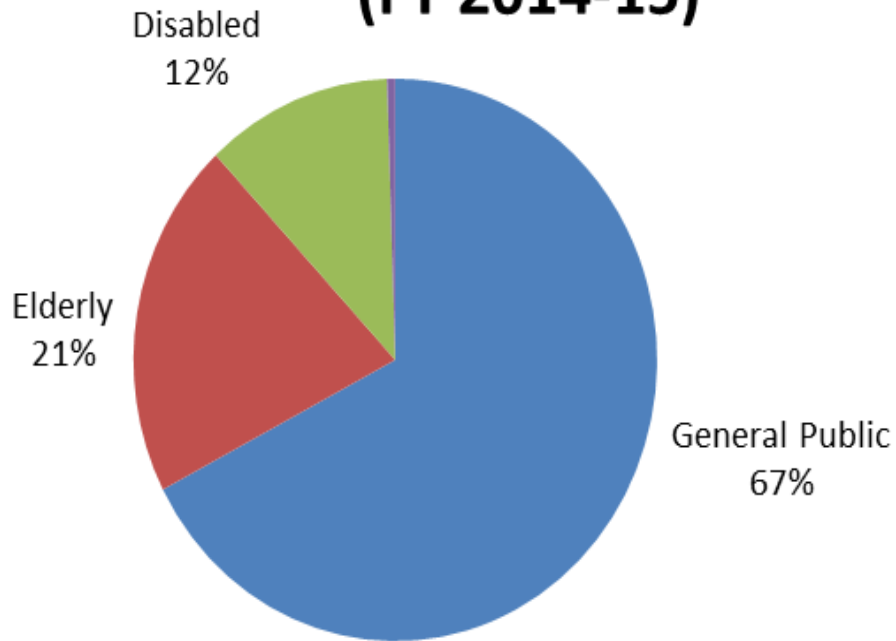
# Need for Transportation Options

Statewide, community transportation services are important in many ways. They not only provide better mobility for individuals and targeted groups (e.g. low income, seniors, persons with disabilities or veterans) they also generate jobs, enhance economic growth and support the implementation of public policies relating to areas such as health care, criminal justice recidivism as well as job development and training.



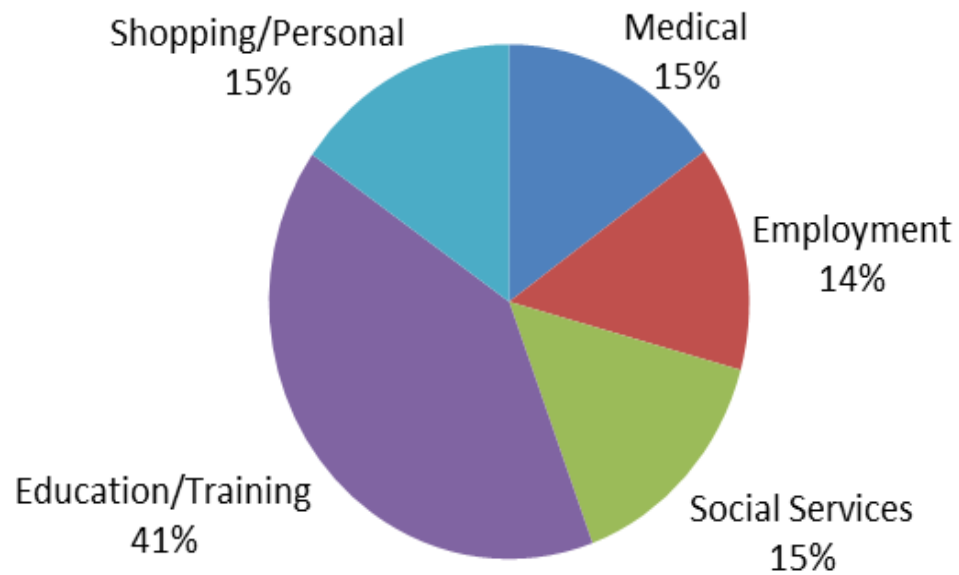
# Types of Trips

## Aggregate Passengers By Type (FY 2014-15)



# Where Are We Going?

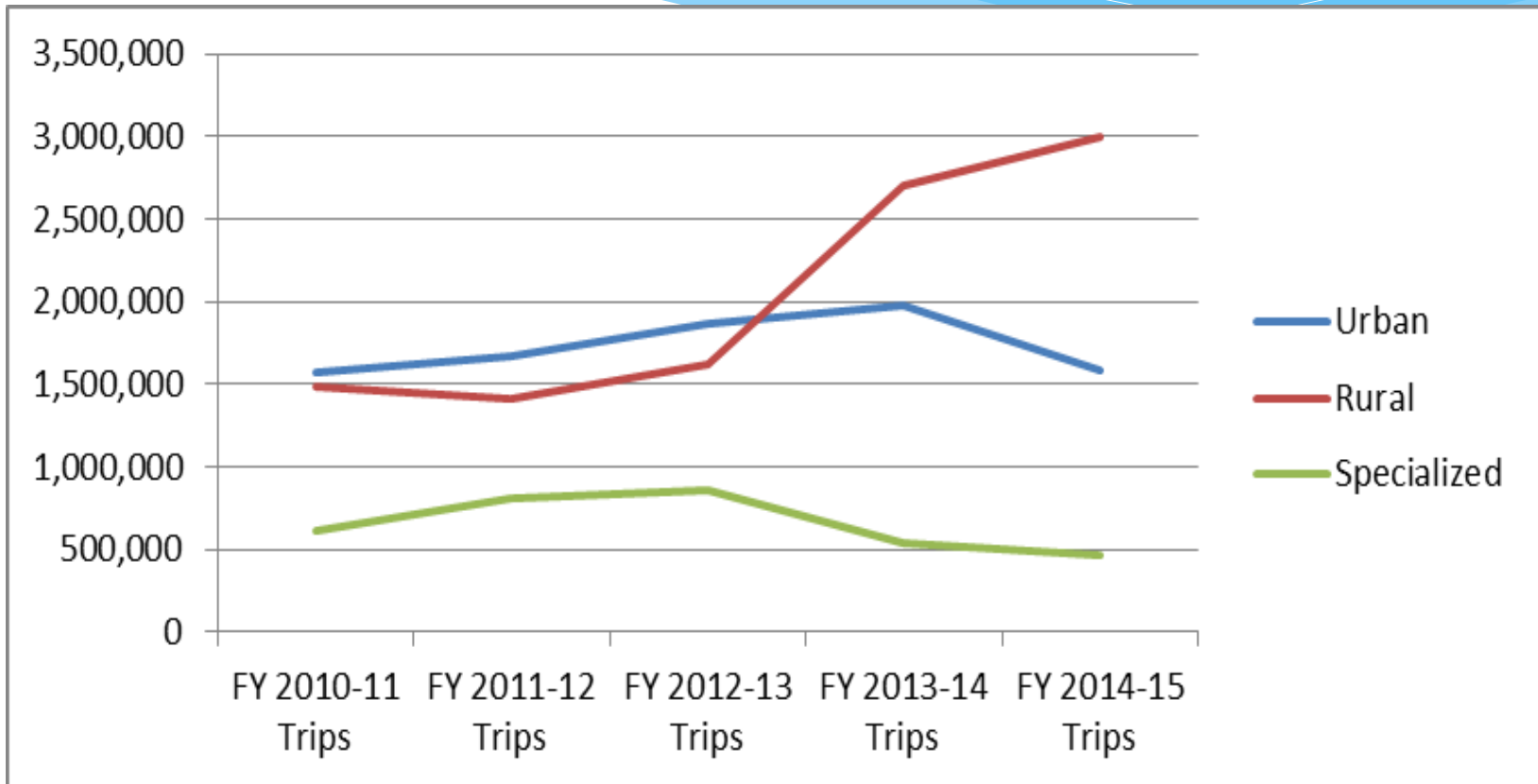
## Trip Destinations--Statewide FY 2014-15



# Utilization

Annual ridership has risen to over 5 million passenger trips statewide. Despite dips in urban and specialized ridership over the past five years, demand remains strong for services within and between the small cities and towns that make up rural Mississippi. There is growth in the demand for greater access between rural communities and larger cities, especially commercial areas where jobs, healthcare and education/training opportunities are clustered.

# 5 Year Trip Trends



# Impact of Community Transportation in Mississippi for the 2015 Program Year

- \* Total Number of Transit Providers: **60**
- \* Total Number of Counties Served: **76**
- \* Number of Annual Passenger Trips: **5,030,682**
- \* Number of Revenue Vehicles Operated: **586**
- \* Number of Revenue Miles: **16,776,922**
- *(Data is collected by the MDOT Public Transit Division regarding the status and utilization of local public and specialized transportation programs that are supported by FTA grant funds)*



# Examples of Community Impacts for Individuals

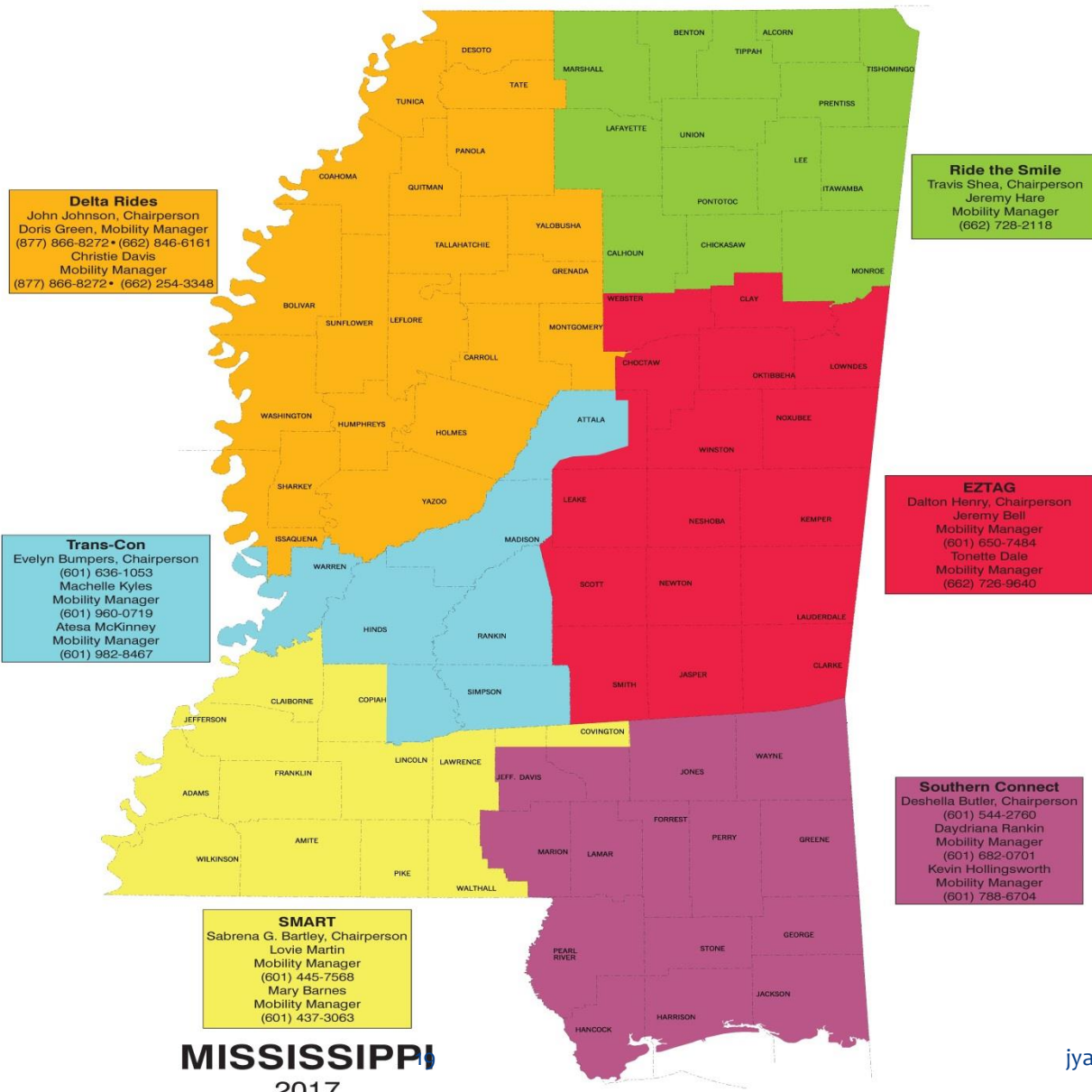
- \* Easier access to increased education and training
- \* Better access to jobs
- \* Growth in income
- \* Increased access to health care
- \* Broader choices in housing location options
- \* Saving on cost associated with car ownership
- \* Less reliance on the frequently shockingly high cost of paying someone for a ride
- \* Increased access to sources of basic necessities (food, pharmacy, social services)

# Examples of Community/Institutional Impact of Transportation

- \* Increased disposable income of workers
- \* Growth in business productivity due to increased employee reliability factors such as reduced tardiness and absenteeism
- \* Expanded labor market
- \* Stimulation of local economies due to spending by transit providers
- \* Improvements in health outcomes

# Regional Coordination Transportation Groups

There are 76 counties that are either fully or partially served by the 60 providers that make up the local and regional networks.



# Regional Coordination

- \* MDOT remains committed to advocating and delivering services that support a safe and affordable comprehensive network of transit resources that enhances access to opportunities that improve the quality of life for all citizens.
- \* The ultimate goal is to partner with state and local stakeholders to have every county in Mississippi served by a regional system to ensure the availability of transportation to destinations such as education/training, work, medical facilities and support services.

# Regional Coordination cont...

Our most promising and pressing challenges are effectively responding to the changing mobility environment and service needs. Consequently, our primary focus will be increasing emphasis on health care and employment access; as well as more job development and training resources; and greater access for persons with disabilities.

# Regional Transportation Coordination Groups



# Questions????



# Contact Information

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