

SANDUSKY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING IN ACTION

Bus Shelters Improve Experience for Public Transit Users

Additions to Public Transit Infrastructure Promotes Active Lifestyle

Challenge

A lack of physical activity places most Americans at an elevated risk for developing a variety of diseases such as cardiovascular conditions and diabetes. Findings from the 2019-2020 Sandusky County Community Health Assessment indicate more than three-fourths of Sandusky County residents were either overweight or obese based on Body Mass Index (BMI). Significant evidence shows that regular physical activity helps maintain a healthy weight and lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels. The built environment in a community plays a key role in influencing the ability of residents to live more active lives. Simple improvements to public transportation systems such as the addition of bus shelters can encourage people to walk or bike to and from bus stops and improve health.

Approach

In July 2019, the Sandusky County Public Transportation, known as TRIPS, began offering a low-cost fixed route shuttle service in the city of Fremont to address unmet transportation needs of residents. With no bus shelters along any of the existing shuttle stops, a workgroup was formed to help improve the experience of public transit users and create public awareness. The workgroup evaluated 17 bus stop locations, reviewed ridership data, obtained input from shuttle service users and initiated conversations with community stakeholders. Two locations were chosen and commitment was gained from the local Walmart store and Fremont City Schools to place a bus shelter on their properties.

Results

In June 2022, findings from a survey completed by the TRIPS shuttle service users indicated more than three-fourths would be more willing to use the shuttle service if there were bus shelters to wait at. They also responded the most important features in or around a bus stop was protection from the weather such as rain and snow, a bench or sitting area, and a sign identifying the bus stop location. Ridership data from 2021 showed the local Walmart store to be the top bus stop location with 2,357 passengers boarding. A bus shelter to accommodate 3-4 people is to be placed at this location. Expressed interest of a bus shelter from Fremont City Schools prompted an additional shelter to be added near the middle & high school to accommodate 5-6 people. Both are to be installed in April 2023.



At A Glance

The Sandusky County Public Health CHC program partnered with Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP), the city of Fremont, and other key community stakeholders to assist with the planning, design, and purchase of two bus shelters to be installed along the fixed routes of the TRIPS shuttle service. These will be the first bus shelters to be installed out of seventeen bus stop locations in the city of Fremont. These simple additions will help to improve the commuters' transit experience by offering protection from inclement weather and a safe place to sit and wait for a low-cost ride.

Contacts

lbogard@scpublichealth.com or visit
<http://www.scpublichealth.com>