

Methodology

As stated in the introduction, the purpose of this report is to assess the extent to which public transportation reaches businesses, jobseekers, child care centers, and the locations of training services and activities provided by county DSS's, employment and training agencies, and job development bureaus. The locations of jobseekers receiving temporary assistance, businesses that may offer entry-level job openings, child care centers, and sites of employment services and training are examined in relation to existing public transit services for all of the nine counties in the region. Case studies of similar projects in other regions have shown the use of spatial analysis to be a useful tool in examining how well public transportation systems serve jobseekers, employers, and child care. Explanations of the data used to represent each factor are discussed below in the same order as they appear in the analysis for each county in the region.

Public Transportation

Information on public transportation services was obtained through direct contact with the six providers operating in the region. For each county with public transportation, a description of the type of services (e.g. fixed route/fixed schedule) in place, communities served, hours of operation, and fares are described. The routes are presented in relation to the factors discussed below to identify any "mismatches" that may be occurring. The Regional Transit Service's (RTS) and Ontario's County Area Transportation System's (CATS) routes were provided digitally from the GTC and the Ontario County Department of Planning and Research, respectively. The routes of the other providers were digitally recreated by the G/FLRPC based on schedule brochures and other resources.

Disadvantaged Population

The disadvantaged population of any given area goes beyond just those persons formally receiving public assistance. However, in terms of measurement the number of TANF and Safety Net cases were used to determine the distribution of disadvantaged persons in one geographic area to others in the same county. Measured by the total number of TANF and Safety Net recipients in each zip code, the geographic area chosen does not align with the political boundaries of the region, counties, or municipality. However, the data geographically displays the number of persons receiving public assistance under these two programs and highlights concentrations of these persons in relation to public transportation.

Addresses of TANF recipients were originally sought but discussions and suggestions by county DSS's and employment and training departments led to the use of recipients by zip code. The reasoning behind avoiding the use of addresses is that disadvantaged persons tend to be more mobile than average. This may be because they are less likely to have the financial resources to purchase or maintain their own home. However, in terms of distance, the available rental housing and its cost may limit their mobility. According to 1990 Census data and the Livingston County DSS's Public Assistance case load records as of December 1997, the Livingston County municipalities with the highest number of public assistance cases also had the lowest median monthly rent. The TANF

and Safety Net numbers were obtained from the NYS Department of Family Assistance's (DFA) Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Where provided, information from county DSS's regarding disadvantaged persons by municipality or other geographic area is also incorporated into the report.

Training Services and Activities

A description of training services and activities provided by county employment and training departments, job development bureaus, and DSS employment units is given to display the frequency, times of day, and locations at which these activities take place. Equally important is the documentation of the transportation services provided by these county agencies. In many cases, transportation arrangements and accommodations are made by the county agency administering the training. The majority of information presented is based on conversations with individuals within county departments overseeing employment and training services. Additional information was taken from county DSS' welfare-to-work *Employment Plans*.

Employment Opportunities

Two sources of information were used to identify potential clusters of employment in each county that may yield entry-level job opportunities for jobseekers without access to a private automobile. The first involved discussions primarily with county economic development departments, IDAs, and training and employment agencies. Discussions centered on areas likely to yield future entry-level job opportunities through new development or expansion of existing businesses. The areas identified serve as expected sites of entry-level job opportunities for jobseekers with a minimal set of skills.

Real property information was used to identify the locations of businesses that may currently provide entry-level job opportunities. TANF recipients can only receive twenty-four consecutive months of public assistance and benefits. Providing that the recipient is already a high school graduate (which many are not), only two years are available at any given time to complete post-secondary work. With family and other domestic responsibilities it is not likely that many recipients will attain even a two-year college degree. Therefore, the services offered by county employment and training departments and job development bureaus focus on basic skills training and hands-on instruction in a specific occupation in less than two-years.

Businesses engaged in industries requiring a minimal set of skills and expected to offer entry-level opportunities were determined using NYS Department of Labor (DoL) documents and publications. *Tomorrow's Workers, Tomorrow's Jobs*, a 1995-1996 NYS DoL publication produced for each region of the state, presents 76 occupations expected to produce "above-average employment opportunities" in the Finger Lakes Region. "Suggested education/training" and "Industries where jobs are found" are given for each of the occupations. The majority of occupations from the list with training requirements of less than a two-year associate's degree were found in the clerical and sales, service, and miscellaneous classifications. The current *Occupational Outlook* (another regional NYS DoL publication), which is updated periodically, also provides projected openings for occupations. Using 1996 as a base year, the predicted number of annual job openings

to 2006 for occupations is listed. The occupations listed in *Tomorrow's Workers, Tomorrow's Jobs* requiring less than an associate's degree were checked against the *Occupational Outlook* to insure that they were still projected to have future openings. In each case, the occupation was still predicted to have an above-average number of openings due to new job creation or frequent turnover.

Based on the description of industries where these positions were found, two categories of industries with a total of seven classifications were developed. Job sites were developed for each classification using NYS Office of Real Property Services' (ORPS) parcel data. Parcel data from ORPS includes a "commercial used as code" that classifies the main industry the business located at the site was engaged in when the last tax assessment was done. The commercial used as codes for each classification and the corresponding properties used as such were identified geographically. The two categories of industries, the classifications included in them, and corresponding job sites are provided in Table 2.

Originally, the locations of firms engaged in certain industrial activities were also to be included. However, after further review it was decided to remove the industrial firms for two major reasons. Initially, the occupations involved in these industries required a set of skills that the average jobseeker receiving temporary assistance would not possess after even a six-month training course. In many cases, programs to train TANF and Safety Net recipients for these occupations are developed with a specific employer or group of employers who require workers with these skills. Following the training, the individual employer or consortium of employers then hires the trainee. The training may even be firm specific and therefore would not transfer to the trainee a set of skills that would allow them to work for a variety of businesses.

The second reason was that the ORPS "commercial used as code" classified many industrial firms' offices as offices and not as warehouses, distributions centers, or machine shops. TANF and Safety Net recipients would be more likely to find employment as clerical or janitorial workers in these locations than they would as machinists and tool and dye workers on the shop floor. Also, the ORPS classification does not differentiate between different types of manufacturing activities. "Light manufacturing" activities could include a number of different activities, and while six months of training in one type of occupation may be enough to obtain employment it may not be enough in another activity.

Child Care Centers

Child care centers were included because beyond obtaining gainful employment, domestic responsibilities are also a major concern for persons receiving public assistance. This is especially true for single parents, (the majority of whom are female) who have to make multiple trips to training or work, shopping and then child care every day, many times without the use of a private automobile. The child care centers used in this analysis are all state licensed facilities as of November 1998. State licensed facilities were chosen because TANF legislation stipulates that reimbursement for child care requires that the facilities used in the provision of the services be state licensed.

Table 2

Category	Classification	Job Sites
<i>Commercial</i>	Dining	Restaurant Diner Fast Food Drive-in Night Club Neighborhood Tavern
	Lodging	Hotel Motel
	Office	Office buildings of various types
	Retail	Shopping Centers various types Super Market Lawn and Garden Small Retail Small Food Markets Row Retail Gas Stations and Mini-Marts
<i>Community Services</i>	Health	Hospital Nursing Home Health Facility (non-hospital)
	Education	School College/University Institution
	Law	Correctional Facilities

Reasons behind the legislation's licensing requirements include the assurance of quality child care and protection against welfare fraud. The locations of the child care centers were provided by the New York State DFA's Office of Children and Family Services. In addition to the child care centers in each county there are numerous licensed child care providers. These providers may be individuals or groups of individuals who do not meet

the state's definition of a center but still provide child care services that meet state requirements.

Overview

General recommendations and observations concerning public transportation to meet the needs of jobseekers without access to a private automobile in the region conclude the report. The analysis and information provided herein is meant to serve as a basis for further investigation (where deemed necessary by the administering agency or related department), and not as an all-encompassing study of specific employers, training facilities, or child care centers.