

Monroe County

Public Transportation

Monroe County is served by the largest of R-GRTA's subsidiaries, the Regional Transit Service (RTS). RTS ridership has exceeded 13 million annually for the past two years. The largest numbers of riders use RTS services in downtown Rochester and more than 70% of all RTS riders use the services to get to and from work. The RTS fleet consists of approximately 250 buses. . The majority of the RTS fleet consists of 40-foot buses with the newest additions being 29-foot buses. All of the 29-foot buses recently purchased by R-GRTA for RTS are wheelchair lift equipped. Overall, approximately two-thirds of RTS's fleet is lift equipped. RTS serves all of the municipalities of Monroe County. Hours of operation vary by location with city routes available from 5:00 AM to 1:30 AM, suburban routes running from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and Park & Ride service from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

A series of Park and Ride lots are located throughout the county with many placed in existing commercial centers and others in lots devoted exclusively for park and ride services. Park and Ride lots allow those with automobiles the luxury of avoiding driving downtown during heavy rush hour traffic as well as paying for parking in City of Rochester garages. Concerning jobseekers, Park and Ride services may offer a less costly alternative to having to find a ride via taxi or other means to the final destination.

Lift Line, a demand-responsive service, exists for persons with a medically certified physical, mental, or emotional disability, and its provision is guided by mandates from the Americans with Disabilities Acts. Lift Line operates within a specified service area on five, six, and seven-day-a-week schedules. Lift Line is included because some TANF and Safety Net recipients possess physical disabilities that make them eligible for utilizing this service as a means to and from training requirements and work. The area served by Lift Line varies somewhat based on day of the week. This variation reflects the changing service area of RTS which differs on weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

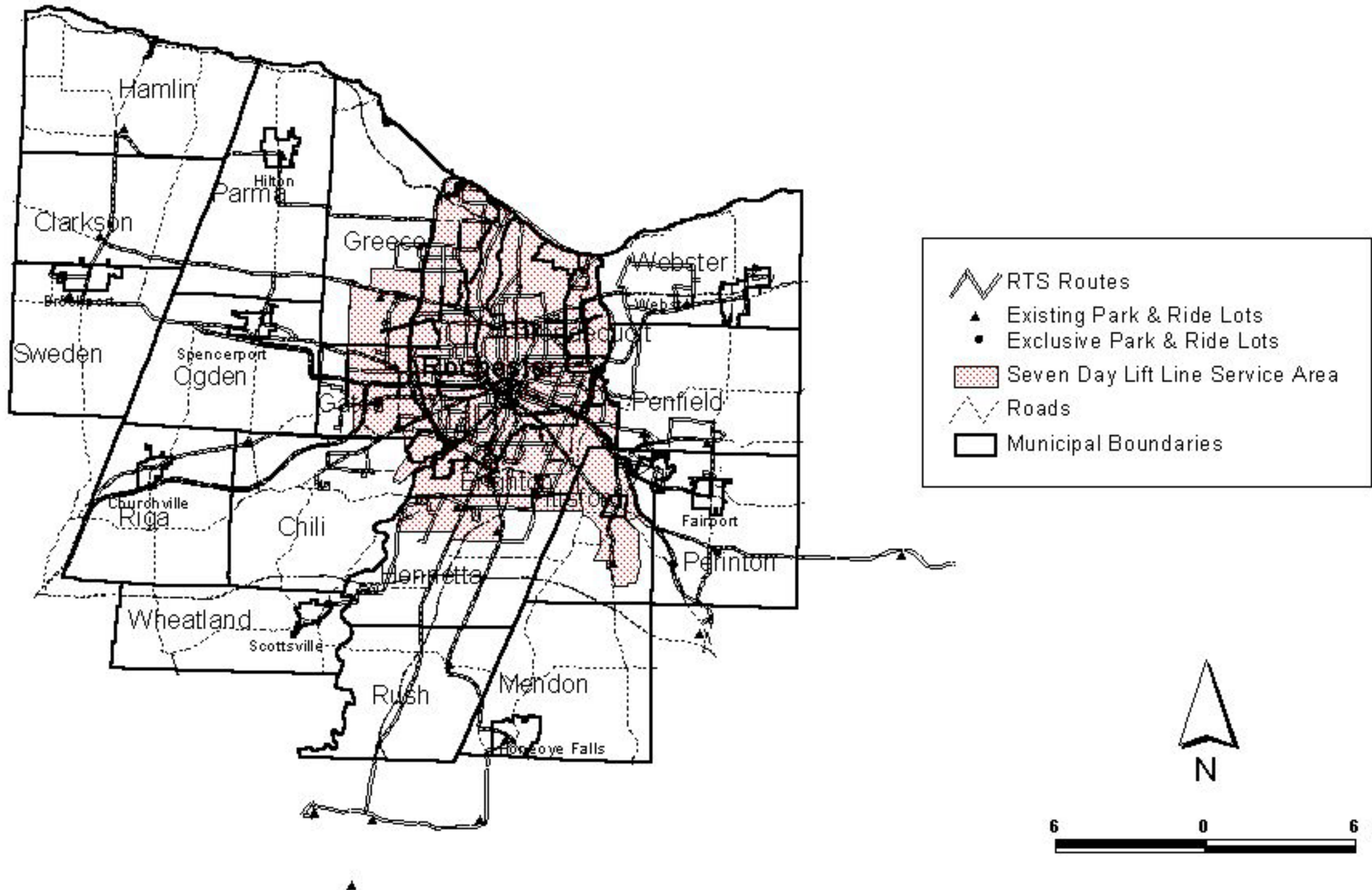
Daily RTS Routes, Park and Ride lots, and the Lift Line service area available all seven days of the week are shown on Map 16.

Disadvantaged Population

The majority of jobseekers receiving temporary assistance in Monroe County reside in the City of Rochester. The largest number of TANF and Safety Net recipients within the City of Rochester can be found in the zipcodes covering the northeast and southwest portions of the city. The Town of Irondequoit appears to have a higher concentration of jobseekers receiving temporary assistance than the other surrounding suburbs. Map 17 displays the number of TANF and Safety Net recipients located in zipcodes with portions inside the City of Rochester.

On the western side of the county, the largest number of jobseekers receiving temporary assistance can be found in the zipcodes covering the Village of Brockport and the Towns of Clarkson and Sweden. To the east, the zip codes covering the Town and Village of

RTS Routes, Park and Ride Lots, and Lift Line Service Area



Webster, the Village of Fairport, and the towns of Perinton and Webster contain the largest number of TANF and Safety Net recipients. TANF and Safety Net recipients in zipcodes without portions in the City of Rochester are shown in Map 18.

Training Activities and Services

The Monroe County DSS' Central Administration handles the employment services portion of the county's welfare-to-work employment plan for TANF and Safety Net recipients. Several group employment preparations and training programs are coordinated by the DSS. A number of organizations are involved in the provision of these programs and services. Below is a list of these programs and their providers.

- Job Search Training - Career Systems Development, American Red Cross
- Employment Readiness Training - American Red Cross, Action for a Better Community, Urban League of Rochester
- Supervised Job Search - Career Systems Development, American Red Cross
- Job Placement - Action for a Better Community, Urban League of Rochester, Rochester Rehabilitation, Inc.
- Work Experience - Rochester Americorp, Urban League of Rochester
- Assessment - Career Systems Development, Rochester Rehabilitation, Inc.
- Mentoring - Wilson Commencement Park
- Adult education - Rochester City School District, Monroe BOCES I and II
- Vocational Skill Training - Rochester City School District, Monroe BOCES I and II, Rochester Educational Opportunity Center
- Subsidized On-the-Job Training - Action for a Better Community, Wilson Commencement Park/Jewish Family Services
- JTPA Funded Services
 1. *Classroom Training* - Action for a Better Community, Rochester General Hospital
 2. *Job Readiness Training* - Wilson Commencement Park, Career Systems, Lifespan
 3. *Basic Readjustment Services* - MCC Dislocated Worker Center

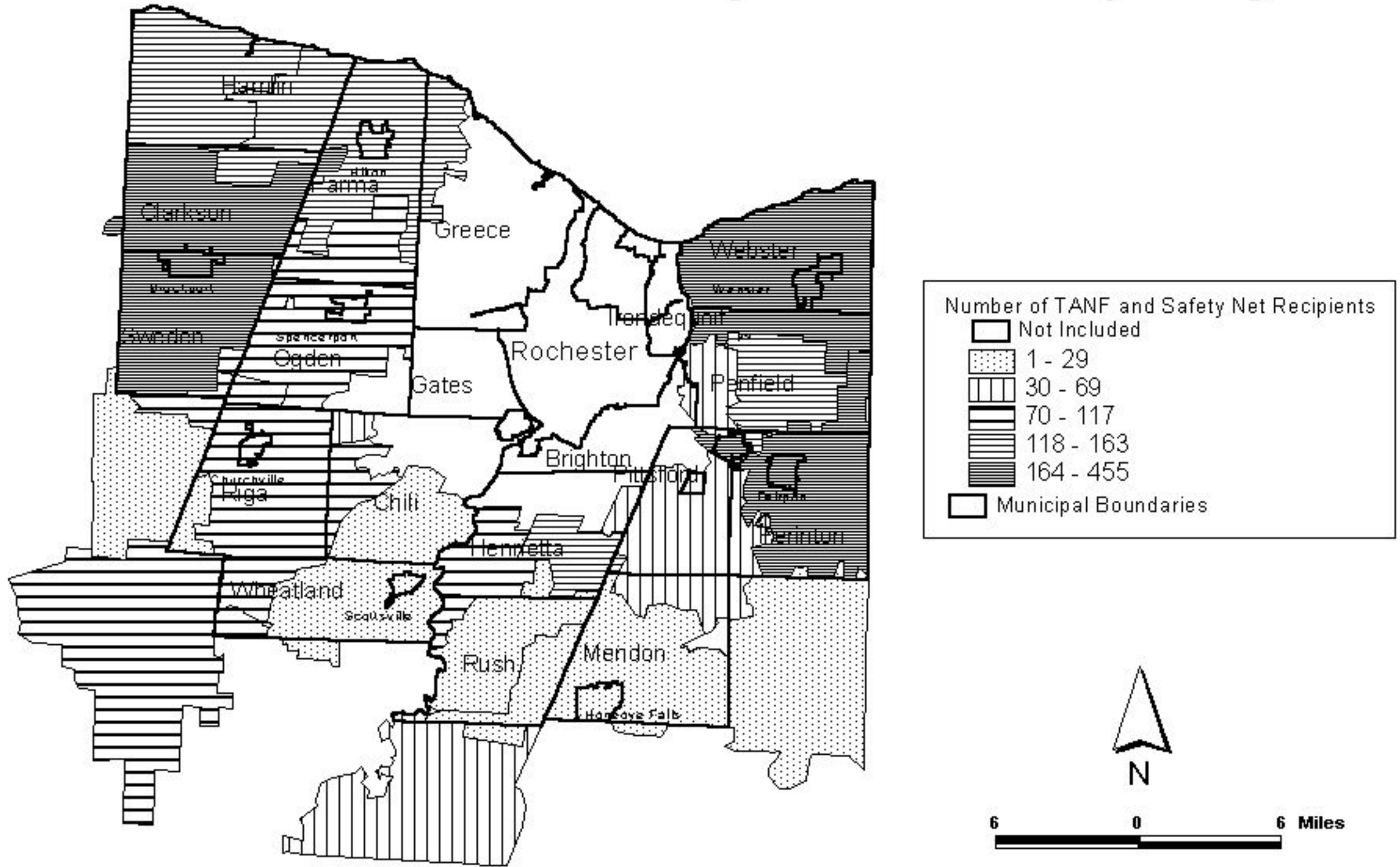
Individual referrals are also made to some of the organizations listed above as well as the Continental Dental Assistant School's dental assistant program, Bryant and Stratton's office support and computer applications program, MCC's AAS and certificate degree programs, Actium's, Ikon's and Ziff-Davis' advanced computer training programs, and the numerous specialized vocational programs offered by Monroe I and II BOCES.

Map 19 provides a view of training sites used by the Monroe County DSS in relation to RTS routes.

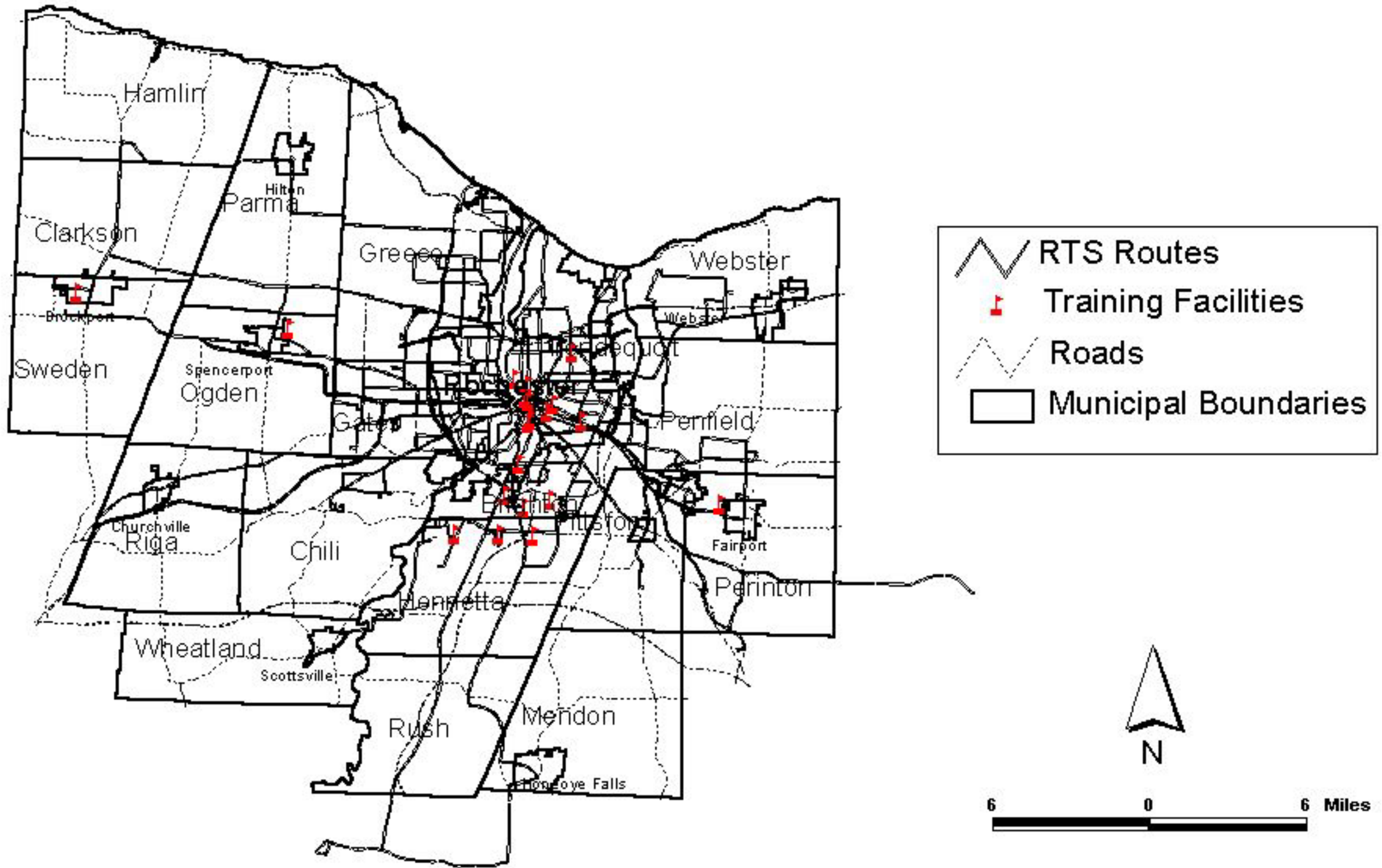
According to the DSS "less than one percent of Monroe County Temporary assistance recipients have documented transportation hardships that have prevented active participation." The presence of an extensive public transportation system and the additional programs and services described below most likely accounts for this statistic. The Monroe County employment plan includes the issuance of RTS bus passes for jobseekers on temporary assistance. Computers provided by R-GRTA at seventeen

Monroe County

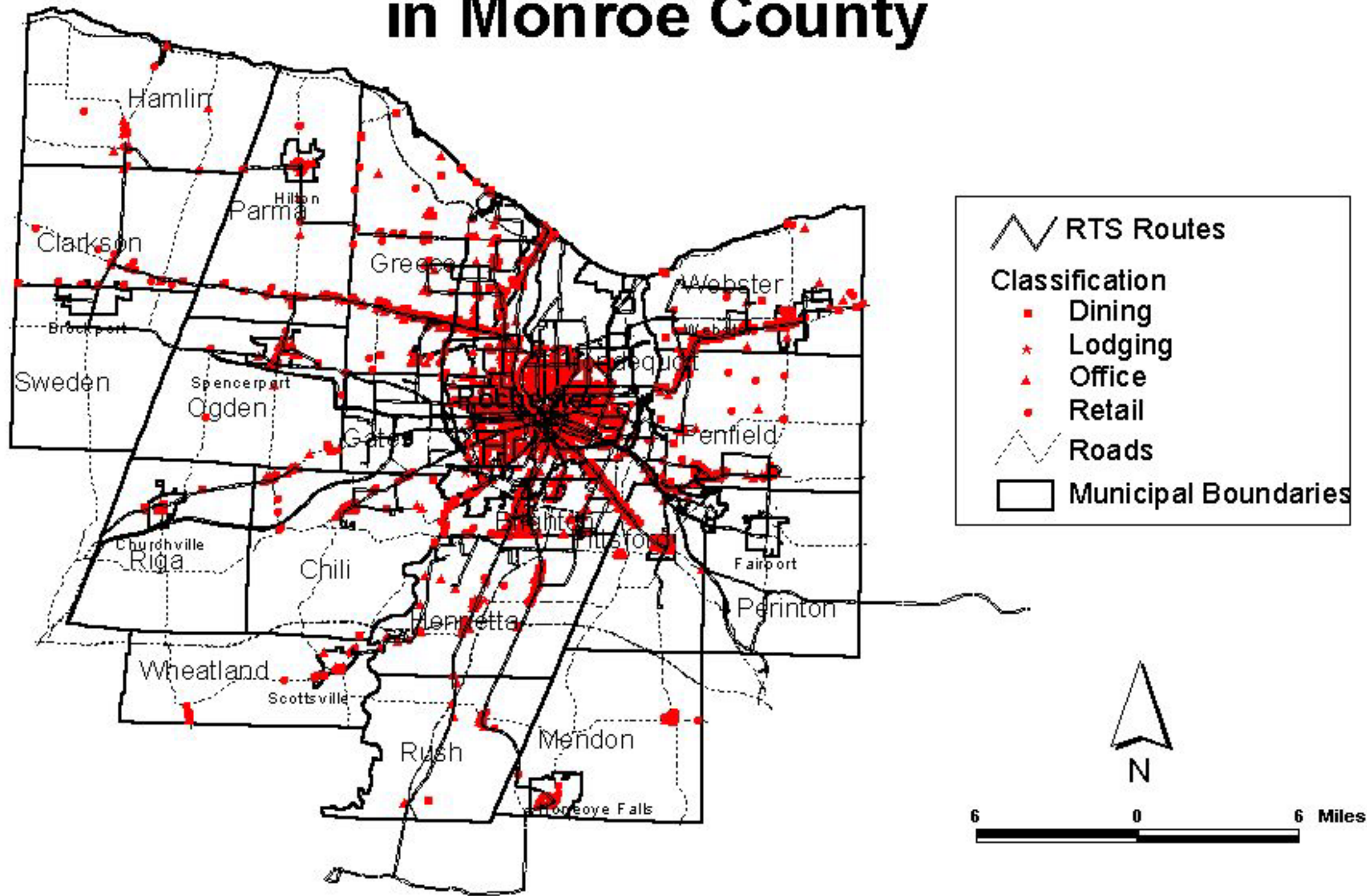
TANF and Safety Net Recipients by Zipcodes (Without Portions Inside the City of Rochester) - May 1998



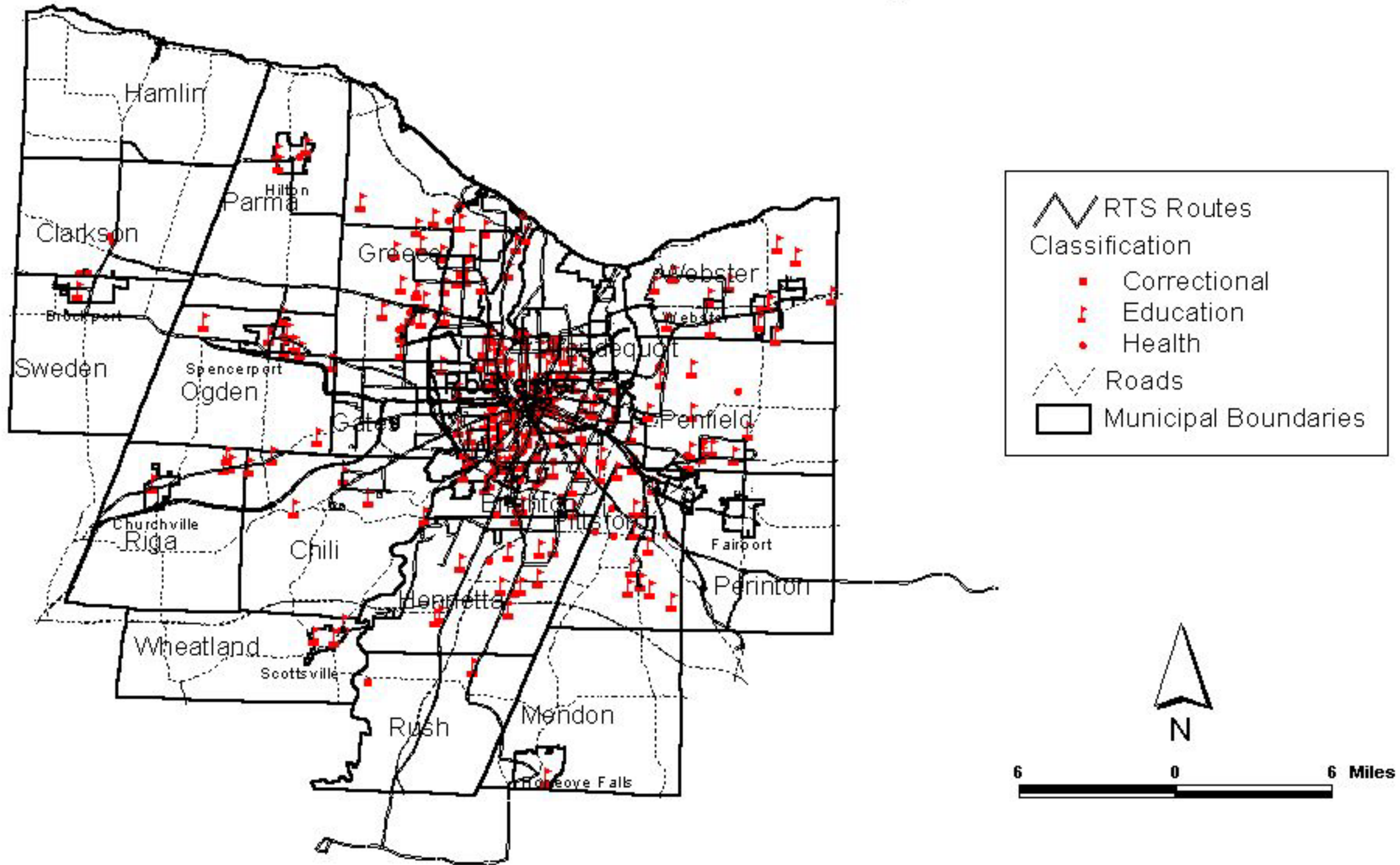
RTS Routes and Sites Used by the Monroe County Department of Social Services to Train and Assess Disadvantaged Jobseekers



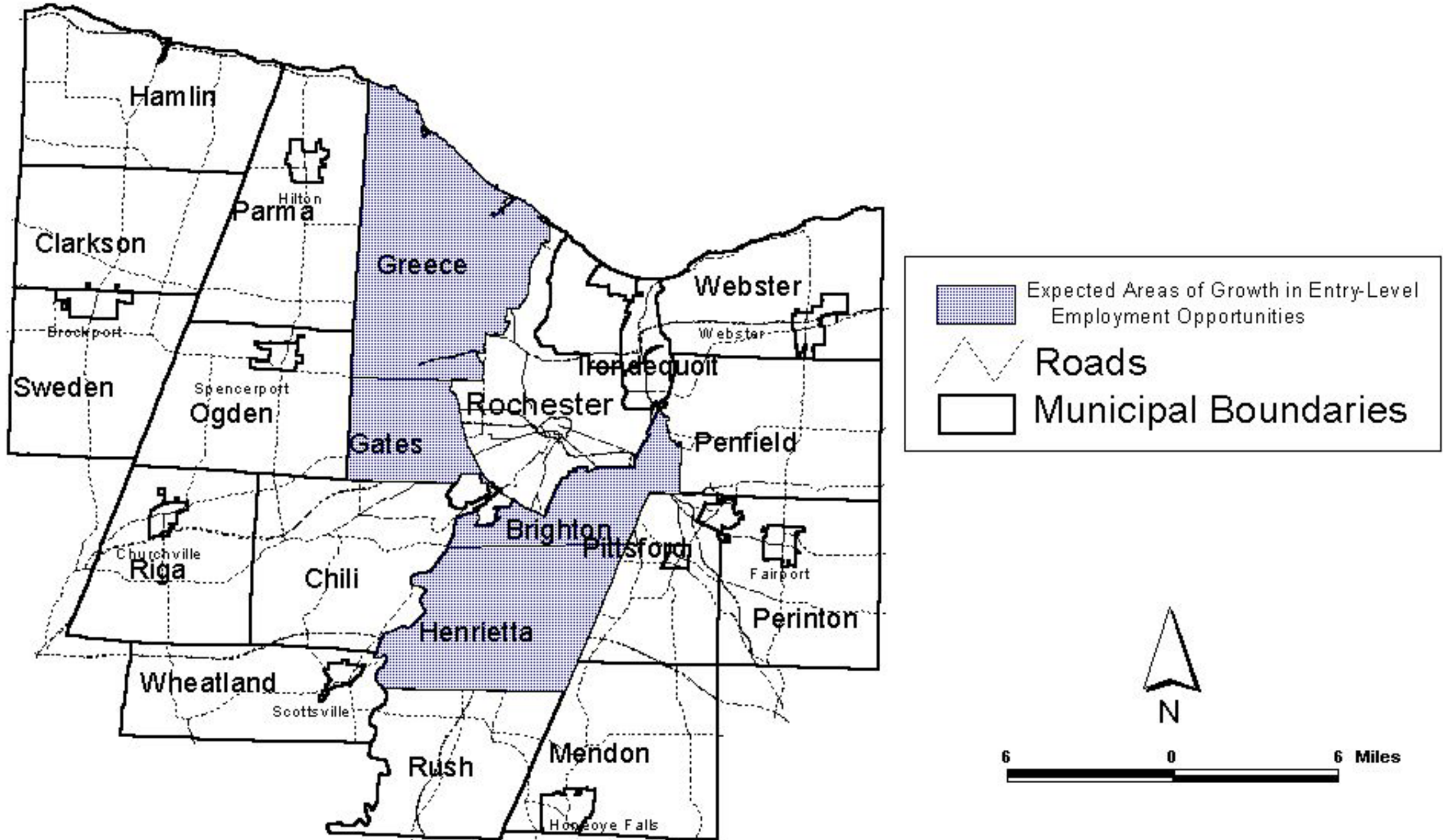
RTS Routes and Commercial Firms with Potential Entry-Level Employment Opportunities in Monroe County



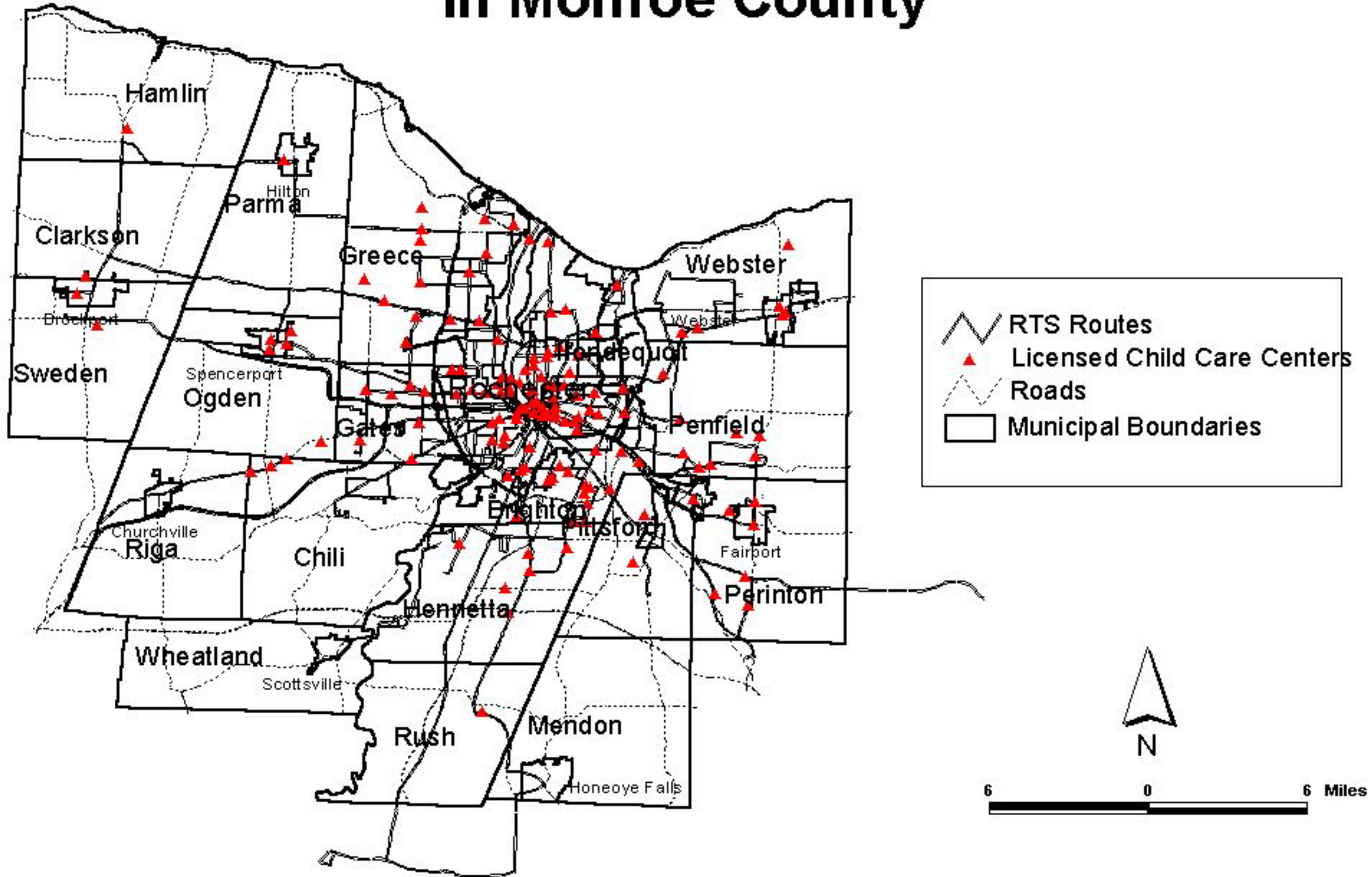
RTS Routes and Community Service Firms with Potential Entry-Level Employment Opportunities in Monroe County



Expected Areas of Growth in Entry-Level Employment Opportunities in Monroe County



RTS Routes and Licensed Child Care Centers in Monroe County



separate locations allow for bus passes to be printed and issued to welfare recipients by DSS employment workers. The DSS does not establish work sites in remote areas not served by RTS. An allowance is also given to some welfare recipients for automobile repair and insurance.

Employment Opportunities

As shown on Maps 20 and 21, the majority of potential entry-level employment opportunities exist in the City of Rochester and the surrounding suburbs. As could be expected, the number of firms located in Monroe County municipalities is adversely proportional to the distance these municipalities are from the City of Rochester. Still, RTS daily routes serve the vast majority of these firms and would appear to offer a viable transportation option for those without access to a private automobile. For jobseekers in suburban locations, the unavailability of direct suburb-to-suburb service may restrict the ability to accept positions in other suburbs because of commute times that are too long to allow for the fulfillment of domestic responsibilities in addition to a job.

According to the Monroe County Department of Planning and Development (DPD), major retail and commercial projects have been permitted and completed in the Brighton, Gates, Greece, and Henrietta over the past few years. A number of firms that already provide entry-level openings in the commercial and retail sectors are located in Brighton, Henrietta, and Greece, and there appears to be increased expansion and development in these municipalities. Gates has recently experienced an increase in industrial projects and the DPD has cited access to interstates and an airport as a potential driving force behind the development. Accompanying retail and commercial development could signal increases in job openings that may be filled by jobseekers with a minimal set of skills. Map 22 shows municipalities that currently have expanding business activity that may yield potential entry-level openings.

Child Care Centers

The predominant number of licensed child care centers in Monroe County are located in the City of Rochester and the surrounding suburbs. As with employers, the greater the distance from the City of Rochester, the fewer facilities located there. Most of the child care centers in Monroe County appear to be served adequately by public transportation. Map 23 displays licensed child care facilities and daily RTS routes.