

Galena Village Transportation Plan 2011

Alaska Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

Revised

2/5/2011

INTRODUCTION

The intent of this plan is to document evaluation of existing transportation providers and the unmet transportation needs/duplications in human service agency and public transportation service. This document is intended to update the 2007 Coordinated Humans Services Transportation Plan and assist transportation stakeholders and providers to fulfill the requirements for the United We Ride initiative and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

This Plan documents the comprehensive efforts of community outreach that have been conducted to date in an effort to encourage participation from all of the local stakeholders in the study area that represent the targeted populations. Outreach efforts are based on best practices from coordination efforts across the country as well as strategies suggested by the national United We Ride initiative in human service transportation. The goal is to improve human service and public transportation for older adults, individuals with disabilities of all ages, and people with lower incomes through coordinated transportation.

The following three federal funding grants are allocated as part of SAFETEA-LU. They are: Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities (Section 5310); Job Access and Reverse Commute (Section 5316); and The New Freedom Initiative (Section 5317). These three grants require participation in the Community Coordinated Transportation Plan in order to be considered for funding.

Each of these federal funding grants requires a match from local, state, or any non-U.S. DOT source. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority is an example of a state funding source that could be used as matching funds for any of the SAFETEA-LU programs. Other potential local sources include but are not limited to human service agencies, United Way, colleges or universities, government, or private businesses.

1.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Location

Galena is located on the north bank of the Yukon River, 45 miles east of Nulato and 270 air miles west of Fairbanks. It lies northeast of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. Galena is located in the Nulato Recording District. The area encompasses 17.9 sq. miles of land and 6.1 sq. miles of water. The area experiences a cold, continental climate with extreme temperature differences. The average daily high temperature during July is in the low 70s; the average daily low temperature during January ranges from 10 to below 0 °F. Sustained temperatures of -40 °F are common during winter. Extreme temperatures have been measured from -65 to 92 °F. Annual precipitation averages 12.7 inches, with 60 inches of snowfall. The river is ice-free from mid-October.

Transportation

Galena serves as a regional transport center for surrounding villages. The state-owned Edward G. Pitka, Sr. Airport provides the only year-round access. There is a paved, lighted 7,249' long by 150' wide runway and a 2,786' long by 80' wide gravel strip adjacent to the main runway. The rivers allow access by cargo barges from mid-May through mid-October. Pickups, cars, snowmachines, skiffs, and ATVs are used for local travel. During winter, the frozen rivers are used for travel to Ruby, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, and Tanana. A winter trail is available to Huslia.

MAP OF COMMUNITY

Please see attached maps

2.0 COORDINATED SERVICE ELEMENT: INVENTORY OF RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Coordination Working Group

Members of Coordination Group:

Louden Tribal Council

- March Runner, Tribal Administrator (907) 656-1711

Yukon Koyukuk Elders Assisted Living Facility

- Agnes Sweetsir, Director (907) 656-1245

Description of Current Service:

Currently the services for our elders and handicapped community members is provided either through on-call and scheduled rides from the Loudon Tribal Council utilizing the Tribal Van or from community members volunteering services. During times of events

we rely greatly on the volunteers in our community to assist with these transportation needs. The major concern is the difficulty and safety issues regarding some of our community members who require additional assistance in transportation. What is lacking in our community is a vehicle dedicated for the transportation of elders and handicapped individuals in our community.

Population of Service Area:

Galena has a population of 550 people that live in the village. In this population there are 78 individuals classified under the tribal constitution as elders. Of this number 58 are 60 years of age and older and it is this population that is targeted for this services. In addition, with the opening of the Yukon-Koyukuk Elder Assisted Living Facility in Galena an additional 9 elders will be participating in this service.

Estimated Annual Trip Destination Distribution, Current Service:

Galena has up to 15 miles of accessible roads. Transportation will be within city/village limits. Trips will be round trip transportation to the following destinations: Elder Center/ Elder Homes to clinic, airport, store, community events, etc.

Operating Data:

A schedule will be developed to determine hours of operation.

Table 1. Vehicle Inventory:

Year, Make, Model	Vehicle Type	Status	Condition	Seating/ Wheelchair	Owner of Vehicle
2002 Toyota Sienna	6 passenger family van		Fair	No	Louden Tribal Council

3.0 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 2: Community Demographics - CommunityName, 2000

	Galena
2000 Population	675
<i>2007 State Demographer population estimate¹</i>	612
Population 65 and over	28
Percent Population 65 and older	17.92%
Per Capita Income	\$22,143.
Median Family Income	\$70,250.
Median Household Income	61,125.
Persons in Poverty	
Percent Below Poverty	10.16%

Source: 2000 US Census Bureau Data, except where noted.

¹ Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Community Database Website: http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm, as accessed 2000

² 2007 State Demographer population estimate

Detailed Demographics by Group Type

FTA defines a “coordinated public transit-human service transportation plan” as a plan that “identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, that provides strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation.” The following tables depict detailed demographics of these group types for each community.

Table 3: Disabilities by Age and Type, for Galena, 2000

	Galena
Total disabilities tallied:	
<i>Total disabilities tallied for people 5 to 15 years:</i>	
Sensory disability	N/A
Physical disability	N/A
Mental disability	N/A
Self-care disability	N/A
<i>Total disabilities tallied for people 16 to 64 years:</i>	
Sensory disability	2
Physical disability	1
Mental disability	0
Self-care disability	0
Go-outside-home disability	0
Employment disability	0
<i>Total disabilities tallied for people 65 years and over:</i>	
Sensory disability	0
Physical disability	3
Mental disability	0
Self-care disability	0
Go-outside-home disability	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000.

Table 4: Household Income in 1999, for Galena

	Galena
Total:	223
Less than \$10,000	17
\$10,000 to \$14,999	8
\$15,000 to \$19,999	5
\$20,000 to \$24,999	8
\$25,000 to \$29,999	5
\$30,000 to \$34,999	5
\$35,000 to \$39,999	17
\$40,000 to \$44,999	14
\$45,000 to \$49,999	13
\$50,000 to \$59,999	15
\$60,000 to \$74,999	41
\$75,000 to \$99,999	45
\$100,000 to \$124,999	18
\$125,000 to \$149,999	7
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2
\$200,000 or more	3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000.

Table 5: Household by Type for Galena, 2000

	Galena
Total Households	216
Households with individuals 65 years and over	8
Percent Households with individuals 65 years and older	3.7
Average household size	2.83
Average family size	3.44

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000.

Table 6: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines, 2008

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,400	\$13,000	\$11,960
2	14,000	17,500	16,100
3	17,600	22,000	20,240
4	21,200	26,500	24,380
5	24,800	31,000	28,520
6	28,400	35,500	32,660
7	32,000	40,000	36,800
8	35,600	44,500	40,940
For each additional person, add	3,600	4,500	4,140

Source: *Federal Register*, Vol. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3971–3972

4.0 GAPS IN SERVICE

- **Are escort services available for those that require it?**

Being a small community in rural Alaska the escort system needed for elders is basically determined by the Health Clinic in Galena. We are informed when elders need assistance from the medical staff in the clinics as well as family members and friend of the individual. When travel is needed for medical purposes outside of the community the Clinic handles those arrangements. It has and continues to traditional managed by the community within the community. The Loudon Tribal van is available on-call Monday-Friday 8am-5pm and on-call for events during the weekends.

- **For people who need transportation assistance, where are they trying to go? Do the existing services go to all those places? Are there other places people would like to go?**

The elders are wanting to go to the store, post office, clinic appointments, community events but do not have the transportation. The elders would like to participate in School events, community events, church services, and be able to get out and enjoy the scenery. The existing service can provide for the needs for those people who are ambulatory. For those not ambulatory service is provided, but may require two vehicles to transport one individual.

- **Are there certain times of the day or week when people cannot get transportation assistance if they need it? Is there enough service at night and on the weekends? What other times is transportation assistance needed?**

The van will be available between 8am- 5pm, Monday to Friday and on-call on nights and weekends for pre-arranged events.

- **Are there times when people can't use the service because it is already being used by other people? How often does this happen?**

There are times during community events when it is hard to schedule pickups in a timely manner due to the type of vehicle available at the moment. The Loudon Tribal Van is not dedicated for the transportation of elders; it is also used for Tribal business runs. When out on runs for Tribal business elders or individuals needing rides have to wait until the van returns. This can occur up to three or more times during the week, however not so often on the weekends unless an event is happening.

- **Are there any groups who need transportation assistance but are not eligible for existing programs? For example, if transportation assistance is provided by the local senior citizen center, do you have people who are too young to use their services?**

There are no programs existing in Galena which do not provide services to groups. This is a small rural community that provides services to all in need of help.

- **Can people afford the service?**

The current system does not charge individuals for use of the services. Most of the individuals needing riders are at or below the poverty level.

- **How are the village elders transportation needs met?**

Family, friends and other community members, this van will fill the gap of the elders for who are not getting picked up by family and friends

- **Can people make multiple stops? Or can they limit to one destination?**

Galena being a small community does not have many areas to travel to as you would find in large urban areas. Things are center in main locations and do not require multiple stops. However, when elders and /or handicapped individuals require/ask for rides and they want to make multiple stops schedules are adjusted to meet their needs.

- **Can people get help with shopping bags, luggage, or similar packages when using the services?**

Yes people will be able to get assistance with shopping bags, luggage and similar packages when using the services.

- **Can people who only need help a few times a year use the transportation system? For example, can people who can drive themselves most of the time but have trouble driving in bad weather or when they are sick get a ride?**

Yes as long as arrangements are made ahead of time.

5.0 STRATEGIES: ADDRESS THE IDENTIFIED NEEDS AND GAPS IN SERVICE

Currently the only project needing to be addressed is the transportation of our elders and individuals who are handicapped living in the community. There are no public transportation systems in this community of less than 700 people with approximately 15 miles of unpaved roads which include the City limits and approximately six miles outside of the City limits. Our five year plan is to work with the Alaska Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Department and the Tribal and City Governments to work on the existing road system and redirect a road to our landfill that is eroding into the Yukon River. The gaps in the service applied for in this grant pertain to the adequate and safe transportation of the elders and handicapped individuals in this community. We

currently do not have a vehicle, other than the ambulance to transport individuals needing handicapped adaptable transportation. The strategy is to purchase a new converted van to transport handicapped and elderly individuals in the community. This is to meet the immediate need of this form of transportation. It is anticipated that this six passenger vehicle will provide adequate transportation services. The plan will be evaluated on a two year basis to assess the increase or decrease in the need for this type of transportation in the Village. Adjustments to the plan will be made according to the results of these assessments.

6.0 PRIORITY OF PROJECTS

There is only one Community Project and that is to obtain a van. Handicapped converted to transport elders in our community.

Making Project List

What are the most important gaps in services?

What are the main projects needed to fill gaps in services in your community?

- **Do you need more vehicles? (Refer to part 2.0 Coordinated Service Element of this plan for the resources list.)**

We need an additional vehicle to meet the needs. As shown in Part 2.0 Coordinated Services Element of this plan the current vehicle is eight years old and is a standard family van. This unit is not equipped with the needed handicapped adaptation's that can accommodate wheelchairs or has the roof high needed to assist Elders and handicapped individuals in entering and exiting the vehicle.

- **Do you need to operate for more hours?**

Initially there is no plan to increase the hours of operation. The stores, offices and most events occur between Monday and Friday. Special events on weekends and holidays will be accommodated on an on-call basis. The hours of operation will be Monday – Friday 8AM – 6PM, Saturday on-call, and Sunday will be 9AM – 12PM to provide transportation to church and other events on the weekend. The vehicle will also be on call at all times for transportation such as may be needed to and from the Airport, clinic, etc.

- **Do you need to increase the number of volunteer drivers?**

In adding the one unit to the community there will not be a need for additional volunteer drivers, however, no capable volunteer will be turned away.

- **Do you need additional money?**

We would be looking for additional money to construct a garage for the unit to be housed in. Currently the storage place will be at the Elder Assisted Living Facility in a designated parking area in an uncovered area. Future construction of the garage

will extend the life of the unit and decrease the time needed to warm the vehicle up during winter months to transports clients.

- **Do organizations need to work together more?**

There already exists the coordinated working relationship of the five village comprising the YK Elder Assisted Living Facility Consortia, the Louden Tribal Council and a network of volunteers to make this project work.

- **Do services need to be better coordinated?**

Yes- With this van will be able to provide more efficient and safe transportation for our elderly and handicapped community members.

- **Something else?**

Not at this time.

Overview of Project:

What is the objective of the project?

The objective of this project is to provide safe, reliable, comfortable transportation to elders and handicapped individuals living in Galena Village. As noted in the beginning of this project notice Galena is a rural community located on the Yukon River off the road system. The nearest road system connecting to any urban area is 380 from this community. The majority of the transportation in and out of the community is via air travel with the exception of the use of snow-machines and dogsleds in the winter, and ATV and boats during the summer months. There is school bus services provided by the School District, but the vehicles are not adequate for the transportation of elders or handicapped individuals.

The main goal and objective is to obtain funding to purchase a van converted to be used to transport elders and handicapped individuals in the community. The van will be adapted to carry a minimum of two wheelchair passengers.

Applicant:

Galena Village (Louden Tribal Council)

Clients served by Project:

Elders, handicapped individuals and their escorts.

Communities Served:

Galena is an isolated community off the road system in rural Alaska

Priorities for Implementation

Please explain how you will complete the project listed above

- **How will you start the project? What is the first thing you need to do?**

The first thing we need to do to start the project is obtain funding to order the van to be converted to carry handicapped individuals and accommodate two wheelchair tie down areas.

- **What other tasks will need to be done in order to finish the project?**

Once the van is ordered a system and schedule will be established. A community meeting will be held with elders, family member, friends and service providers in the community. A list of types of trips will be listed; a collection of dates for events, plans will be established on scheduling and procedures for calling in for rides. Policies will be developed to address how the vehicle will be used and provided to the community.

What resources does the community have to complete this project?

- **What money is available for the project?**

Through the Louden Tribal Council's used of IHS funds and funding from the Yukon-Koyukuk Elder Assisted Living Facility the matching funds for the project are available. In addition, through coordination of staff the in-kind for the maintenance and upkeep of the vehicle will be covered.

- **What organizations are helping with the project?**

Louden Tribal Council, Yukon-Koyukuk Elders Assisted Living Facility Consortium, and community volunteers and family members.

- **Are additional vehicles needed? If so, how will a vehicle be obtained?**

This project is beginning written to obtain funding to purchase the converted van to transport elders and handicapped individuals. There is no such vehicle in our community to provide these services, with the exception of the village ambulance which is for emergency transportation only.

- **How will the vehicle(s) be maintained?**

Yukon-Koyukuk Assisted Living Facility and Louden Tribal Council maintenance employees will service the vehicle.

7.0 SIGNATURE PAGE OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Louden Tribal Council:

Fist Chief, Christopher Sommer

Date

Yukon-Koyukuk Elder Assisted Living Facility Consortia

President, Shirley Cleaver

Date

8.0 REFERENCES

1. www.census.gov – Information from the 2000 Census Records
2. www.commerce.state.ak.us - Alaska Department of Commerce Plans
3. Yukon-Koyukuk Elder Assisted Living Facility Consortium
4. Community Meeting February 5th, 2011