



Founding members:  
Gary Public Transportation  
Corporation, East Chicago Public  
Transit, North Township Trustee  
Dial-A-Ride, Everybody Counts  
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**RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2019**

**LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COALITION  
INVITES PUBLIC TO PROVIDE INPUT**

The South Shore Transit Alliance (SSTA) is inviting the public to participate in a series of informal “Transit Talks,” designed to foster honest dialog about the public transit needs of Lake County residents. These events will be scheduled over the next six months at cities and towns throughout the county, often co-sponsored by local officials. Light refreshments will be provided.

The SSTA was established five years ago to identify and promote ways to improve fixed route, para-transit and demand-response services throughout Lake County.

Founding members include the Gary Public Transportation Corporation (GPTC), the North Township Trustee’s Dial-A-Ride program, East Chicago Transit (ECT) and Everybody Counts, a disability rights agency which works with people with disabilities and senior citizens.

*Working together to expand & improve public transit options for everyone in Northwest Indiana*

## **PUBLIC INVITED TO TRANSIT TALKS**

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“I am proud to be part of the South Shore Transit Alliance,” said North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan, Jr. “Working together, we have accomplished a great deal. As we look to the future, we want to be sure that we are fully aware of what the people in our communities want and need.”

“Our format will be informal, to foster honest dialog and gather meaningful input,” said Teresa Torres, Executive Director of Everybody Counts. “The goal is to find out what people are really thinking, what they really need, to help service providers set priorities.”

The October schedule will include two sessions in Gary, co-sponsored by Gary Mayoral Candidate Jerome Prince; another will be held in Hammond, co-sponsored by North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan. Others will be scheduled in East Chicago and Whiting.

“Improving and expanding our residents’ access to county-wide resources is certainly a priority,” said Prince. “I am looking forward to working with the SSTA, and to hearing what participants have to say.”

Dates and locations are:

Tuesday, October 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Genesis Towers, 578 Broadway, Gary.

Thursday, October 30, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gary Library and Cultural Center, 229 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

(An evening session will be scheduled at a later date.)

Details about other dates and locations over the coming months will be posted at [everybodycounts.org](http://everybodycounts.org) as plans are finalized. For more information, or to request sign language interpreters or alternative formats, call 219/769-5055.