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Carey Services Leads the Way in Expanding Transportation Access in Grant County with New Study Findings

Marion, Indiana – [Carey Services](#) is excited to release a comprehensive transportation study conducted by [Transform Consulting Group \(TCG\)](#). This report examines the transportation landscape in Grant County and its impact on the workforce.

Quality transportation is vital to economic growth, social mobility, and overall community well-being. Efficient and reliable transportation systems connect individuals to job opportunities and enhance access to essential services, such as health care and education.

The study, driven by community feedback, data analysis, and rider experience, confirms what many families and employers already know: transportation access remains a major barrier to independence, employment, and quality of life.

Key Findings from the Study:

- **Disability Employment Gap:** Just 23% of working-age individuals with disabilities in Grant County are employed—compared to 66% of those without disabilities—largely due to transportation limitations.
- **Car-Dependent Region:** Grant County lacks robust public transit options. One in ten residents do not own a vehicle, and the City of Marion's only bus line has limited hours.
- **Limited Accessible Options:** There is only public transit service available in the city of Marion. Half of the surveyed caregivers reported challenges securing reliable, accessible transportation for their loved ones. Carey Services' staff are often the only lifeline for many riders.
- **Economic Ripple Effect:** Local employers cite transportation as a top barrier to hiring and retaining workers. Vehicle ownership costs—averaging \$12,000 annually—are out of reach for many low-income households.
- **Need for Additional Staff:** Carey Services is a critical provider of transportation for individuals with disabilities. More trained drivers are essential to meet the increasing demand.

Investing in public transportation creates jobs and helps businesses thrive, promoting economic stability for the whole community. **In economic terms, investing in public transportation can generate a \$5 return for every \$1 invested.**

This study underscores Carey Services' commitment to community mobility and inclusion, reinforcing its role as a trusted provider of safe, accessible, and equitable transportation. The

findings identify strategic areas for growth—such as expanded evening services and enhanced community partnerships—ensuring that individuals across Grant County continue to thrive.

“This report reinforces what we’ve believed for years—that reliable, accessible transit empowers individuals and communities. These findings will help us build an even more responsive system, guiding people to opportunity and independence,” said James Allbaugh, President and CEO of Carey Services.

“Collaborating with Carey Services allowed us to help community leaders understand the significance of transportation in their community and its intersection with other sectors like economic and workforce development,” said Amanda Lopez, President of Transform Consulting Group. “We’re proud to support their mission by illuminating both successes and opportunities for impact.”

Next Steps: Building a More Inclusive Transportation System

Expanding and improving transportation options in Grant County is a critical component of the county’s new strategic plan, and Carey Services, as well as other community leaders, can play a vital role in these efforts. Transform Consulting Group offered the following recommendations for the community:

1. **Expand and Improve Transportation Options:** Align improvements with Grant County’s Strategic Plan by introducing flexible transit options, including rural shuttle programs, on-demand rides, and employer-supported shared transportation.
2. **Increase Funding and Partnerships:** Collaborate with local government, businesses, and community organizations to secure financial support for expanded transportation service offerings.
3. **Strengthen Workforce Capacity:** Address staffing shortages by hiring additional trained drivers and investing in a sustainable talent pipeline.

The full report can be found here:

https://www.careyservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/FINAL_CareyServicesTransportationStudy6.17.25.pdf

About Carey Services

Founded in 1954, Carey Services is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities turn abilities into opportunities. Through person-centered planning and broad community support, Carey Services empowers people to pursue their personal goals and live more independent, fulfilling lives.



About Transform Consulting Group

Transform Consulting Group is a Wabash-based national firm that partners with nonprofits, government, and education organizations to solve complex issues through data-informed strategies. TCG helps clients create lasting impact by aligning mission, data, and action. Learn more here: <https://www.transformconsultinggroup.com/>.