





Transit Access Barrier Study (Persistent Poverty)

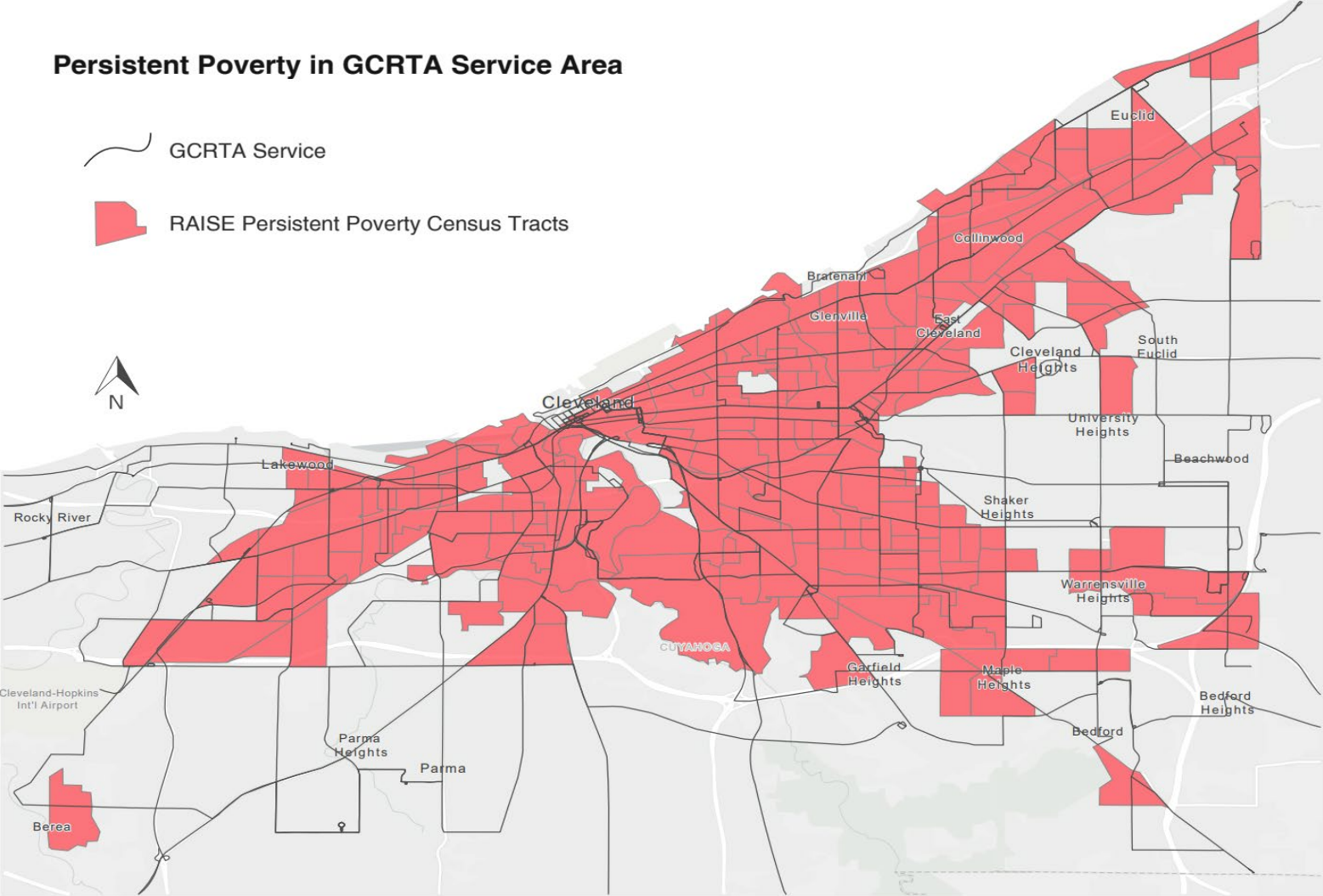
Operational, Planning & Infrastructure
Committee

January 9, 2024



Persistent Poverty in GCRTA Service Area

-  GCRTA Service
-  RAISE Persistent Poverty Census Tracts



Social Mobility Journey

- Paradox Prize Program
- Fare Equity Study
- Next Gen
- Baby on Board
- Micro Transit
- Transit Access Barrier Study



Study Goal

To identify the barriers to the use of public transport services in areas of persistent poverty and to ***set forth recommendations on the reduction or elimination of those barriers*** that are within the context of GCRTA services and facilities.

Definition: Persistent Poverty

An “**Area of Persistent Poverty**” is defined by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The **County** in which the project is located consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty in all three of the following datasets: (a) the 1990 decennial census; (b) the 2000 decennial census; and (c) the most recent (2021) Small Area Income Poverty Estimates.

USDOT, Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities

Study Elements

I. Existing Conditions

A. Demographic analysis

B. Literature review

C. Use of existing research and agency data

II. Direct Research

A. Survey methodology

B. Survey development and implementation

C. Reporting of results

Study Elements, continued

III. Identification Transit Barriers

- A. Physical survey of the conditions of transit stops
- B. Analysis of existing transit service to areas
- C. Identification of physical and service improvements
- D. Recommendations on Improvements
- E. Cost and schedule of improvements

IV. Final Report

Scope of Work: Existing Conditions

- The analysis should include finding trends within the various segments and any movement/progression of the population.
- In-depth written analysis of the population targeted at how, where and what they are and need to go (transportation related) to move out of poverty.
- Identification of sources included in the literature review.
- Summary of findings report.

Scope of Work: Direct Research

- Identification and formulation of focus groups, design materials, schedule the groups, and facilitate the groups.
- Obtain the percentage of population residing in public housing units who use transit, how often, if they have regular access to a vehicle and what is the purpose of their transit trip.
- Summarize the findings of the survey and response.

Scope of Work:

Identification of Transit Barriers

- Identification of transit barriers will be determined using several methods:
 - Results of data from GCRTA programs
 - Paradox Prize, Baby on Board, Transact Customer Surveys, OD surveys
 - Results from literature search of this project.
 - Results from focus groups of this project.
 - Field survey of transit stops in areas identified by the consultant as relevant to this research.
 - Summary of data collection process, instruments, minutes of meetings, and data.

Scope of Work:

Identification of Transit Barriers

- Transit barriers will be identified by type and by location.
 - Bus stop/rail station or other RTA passenger waiting facility amenities (shelter, light, location, information)
 - Bus/rail schedule (frequency, span of service)
 - Bus route (where it goes, trip length)
 - Other

Scope of Work:

Identification of Transit Barriers

- Summary of the research findings.
- Identification of the barriers to transit.
- Recommendations to GCRTA for removal of transit barriers.
 - These should be separated in short, medium, and long term (= 5 years).
- Cost estimation of each transit recommendation.
- Mapping and graphics of transit barriers.

Proposed Schedule

Item	Time in days from NTP
Engagement Plan	30 days from NTP
List of Sources for Literature & Research	60 days
Survey Methodology and sampling program for direct data collection/focus groups	120 days
Existing Conditions Summation report of Literature review	180 days
Written road summary of focus group/survey results	300 days
Report identifying Transit Barriers	365 days
Recommendations, Implementation Strategy and Estimated Cost of Transit Barrier Removal	450 days
Final Written Report/PowerPoint	500 days
Executive Summary	500 days

Participation Schedule *(estimated)*

February 2024	Kickoff Meeting (EMT Oversight)
July 2024	Phase I Findings Report (Board & EMT)
January 2025	Phase II Findings Report (GCRTA Board & EMT)
March 2025	Phase III & Draft Final (EMT)
June 2025	Final Report (GCRTA Board)

Procurement Overview

- Request for Proposal (RFP) issued on August 11, 2023
- Accessed on the GCRTA website by 19 interested parties
- 3 firms proposed

Procurement Overview

Evaluation Panel

- External Affairs
- Grants Management
- Marketing
- Planning and Development
- Procurement

Procurement Overview

Evaluation Criteria

- Firm experience
- Knowledge and experience of individuals assigned to project
- Capacity of the firm and team
- Technical experience
- Methodology and project approach
- Cost

Procurement Overview

Recommended Firm

- HDR Engineering, Inc. headquartered in Omaha, NE with a local office in Cleveland, Ohio

0% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal assigned by the Office of Business Development

Procurement Overview

HDR Engineering, Inc.

- Successfully completed the Authority's Strategic Plan in 2019-2020.
- Extensive understanding of the Authority and its service area.
- Local multidisciplinary and comprehensive team of professionals experienced in transit, persistent and concentrated urban poverty, community engagement, and developing solutions.
- Deep academic resources through Case Western Reserve University's The Center on Poverty and Community Development to provide knowledge, strategy, and expertise.

Procurement Overview

HDR Engineering, Inc., continued

- Understands the importance of robust, inclusive, and innovative community engagement and local outreach.
- Experienced in working alongside community, local, regional, and national agencies to initiate, expand, and improve services.
- Fundamental belief that transit is more than just a basic service, but rather a building block to enhance the lives of every citizen.

Procurement Overview

HDR Engineering, Inc., continued

- Collaborating with two consultants
 - ms consultants - engagement and local outreach portion
 - Robert L. Fischer, PhD, Associate Professor at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, and the Co-Director of The Center of Poverty and Community Development - academic portion

Procurement Overview

Other Clients

- GCRTA
- San Francisco Bay Area Transit
- Pittsburgh Regional Transit
- Central Ohio Transit Authority
- Oregon Department of Public Transportation
- Ohio Department of Transportation

Procurement Overview

Recommendation:

Staff requests that the Operational, Planning & Infrastructure Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees an award to HDR Engineering, Inc. to provide a Transit Access Barrier Study in a total contract amount not to exceed \$649,640.95. This amount is 19% below the estimate of \$805,000.00.

Questions?