

Lincoln County

Locally Developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan

2024 - 2028



Facilitated By:

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

**Lincoln County
Locally Developed
Coordinated
Public Transit-Human Services
Transportation Plan
2024-2028**

prepared for:

Lincoln County

and

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

by:

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

October 23, 2023

This plan was prepared for Lincoln County at the request and under the direction of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC). For more information, contact:

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
210 MCCLELLAN STREET, SUITE 210
WAUSAU, WI 54403



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INTRODUCTION-WHY COORDINATION?

Transportation is among the most requested support services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. It allows individuals to remain in a community setting and avoid costly institutional care. Access to transportation is vital to meeting basic needs such as errands, nutrition, medical appointments and for other social, family and religious purposes.

Yet, resources and capacity to provide this critical service are limited. In the current fiscal environment of ever-increasing budget constraints compounded by levy limits, local governments struggle to provide adequate funding to meet the needs. Coordinated planning provides an opportunity to bring interested parties together to discuss ways to enhance the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities such as creating or improving efficiencies through coordination of services. However, one meeting every 5 years is not enough. Local leadership is needed to maintain positive momentum.

Experience shows that one of the most effective tools in promoting and developing coordinated transportation services is an active coordination committee that meets regularly, has an active, comprehensive membership, and is charged with a clear mission. Because coordination requires working with a variety of funding sources and transportation programs to improve service delivery, it is logical that meeting regularly and working together will lead to coordination success. While different models exist, the key characteristics of a successful coordination committee include regular ongoing meetings, commitments from participants, at least one champion for coordination and a clear process for developing an action plan to address unmet needs and service duplications. In Wisconsin, while some existing coordination committees have been less inclusive than others, nearly all have been able to improve some aspects of their local transportation services.

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

Federal transit law requires that any projects selected for funding under the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (formerly titled Elderly and Disabled Capital Assistance Program) must be derived from a "locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan". This requirement was implemented as part of the SAFETEA-LU legislation in 2005 and the requirement continues under the current transportation legislation, the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL passed in 2021. The purpose of the coordinated planning process is to have stakeholder involvement in the assessment of elderly and disabled transportation, and to provide strategies and goals to improve those transportation alternatives. These coordinated plans were last completed in 2019 and are due to be updated for 2024.

It is important to note that under previous Federal legislation, the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC/WETAP) and New Freedom programs were repealed, and eligible projects may be funded under either the expanded 5310 program (for New Freedom type projects) or the 5311 program (for JARC/WETAP type projects). Only those projects eligible to be funded under the 5310 program need to be included as part of the coordinated planning process. This would include the “traditional” 5310 vehicle purchase requests, and also the New Freedom-type projects for mobility management or other capital projects, or for operating assistance projects such as volunteer driver programs or voucher programs.

Development of the plan includes gathering demographic information, documenting the existing transportation services for the plan area, holding a public meeting to discuss elderly and disabled transportation services, and development of strategies for improving those services over the next five years. Plans may be developed on an individual county basis, a multi-county basis, or a region-wide basis. The planning process must be complete, and the final reports submitted for grant years 2024 - 2028.

Federal Requirements

FTA guidelines require a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan that consists of, at a minimum:

- an assessment that identifies public, private, and non-profit entities that currently provide transportation services to persons with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, and the availability of those services;
- an assessment of transportation needs for persons with disabilities, older adults, and persons with low incomes, and gaps in service; this assessment may be based on the experiences and perceptions of the planning partners or on more sophisticated data collection efforts;
- strategies activities and/or projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to improve efficiencies in service delivery; and
- priorities for implementation based on resources, time, and feasibility for implementing specific strategies/activities identified.

Recipients of 5310 funding must certify that projects selected for funding were derived from a coordinated plan, and the plan was developed through a process that included representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers, and members of the public, including persons with disabilities, elderly, low-income individuals, and advocates of these groups.

Application to Wisconsin

Wisconsin's Specialized Transportation Assistance for Counties or "85.21" program application requires that 85.21 projects be identified in one of the strategies of the coordinated plan. WisDOT has determined that since these are county projects and the basis for the county elderly and disabled services, these projects should be referenced in the county's coordinated plan.

The purpose of this plan document is to achieve the above objectives by satisfying minimum reporting requirements as identified by WisDOT. Additional tools and information for Locally Developed, Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plans is available on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website at: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/transit/compliance/coord.aspx>.

OUTLINE OF COORDINATED PLANNING PROCESS

Based on guidance from WisDOT and its experience with development of previous coordination plans, the NCWRPC developed a planning process for the 2024 coordinated transportation plans as outlined below:

I. Plan for Planning

- A. WisDOT - MPO/RPC Meeting
- B. WisDOT Coordinated Planning Resources (webpage)
- C. NCWRPC Planning Process Established

II. County Contact

- A. WisDOT Outreach to Counties
- B. NCWRPC Contact with 2019 "Plan Keeper"
 - 1. Confirm "Plan Keeper" Status
 - 2. Date, Time and Location Established

III. Meeting Participant Invitation List Development

- A. County Review and Update of 2019 Stakeholder List
- B. County to Identify/Invite Users and Provide Transportation

IV. Notification of Planning Meeting

- A. Invitations Distributed to Stakeholder List
- B. Flyer Provided to County for Posting and Distribution
- C. Encouragement of Website and Social Media Posts
- D. Notice Placed in Local Newspaper

V. Public / Stakeholder Options for Participation / Comment

- A. Email / U.S. Mail
- B. Meeting Attendance

VI. Planning Meeting

- A. Welcome and Introductions
- B. Review Background and Purpose of Meeting
 - 1. Coordinated Planning Requirements
 - 2. Review Transit Assistance Programs
- C. Identify Needs and Gaps
 - 1. Review Inventory of Services
 - 2. Review Demographic Data
 - 3. Review 2019 Coordinated Plan
 - 4. Brainstorm Needs and Gaps
- D. Identify Strategies and Actions to Address Needs and Gaps
 - 1. Review 2019 Coordinated Plan
 - 2. Brainstorm Strategies and Actions
- E. Prioritize Strategies and Actions
- F. Wrap-up
 - 1. Plan Approval
 - 2. Meeting Evaluations

VII. Report Drafting

- A. NCWRPC Draft Report
- B. County Review
- C. Submission of Final to WisDOT via BlackCat Grants Management System

OVERVIEW OF PLANNING MEETING TO DEVELOP COORDINATED PLAN

Meeting Format

On October 23, 2023, Lincoln County transportation stakeholders met at the County Administrative Services Center in Merrill to build their locally developed coordinated plan. Meeting documentation is included in APPENDIX A. Approximately 8 transportation stakeholders attended this meeting. Many more were invited including representatives of public, private and non-profit transportation and human services providers and users including seniors and individuals with disabilities. Participants were asked to sign-in and given handouts including an agenda, meeting evaluation form, funding program background material, county transportation services inventory, county demographic information, and the gaps & needs and coordinated strategies sections of the county's 2019 plan.

The NCWRPC facilitated this session, presenting background material and guiding the group through the agenda. Highlights of the background provided by the NCWRPC include an overview of the locally developed plan requirements and grant funding programs. The Internet link to WisDOT's coordinated plans webpage was provided to give participants additional information and resources on coordinated transportation planning.

The format of the meeting centered around informal discussion and general consensus. The group brainstormed transportation service gaps & needs and strategies & actions to address the identified needs or gaps. The final list of strategies was prioritized by the group through weighted voting for their three most important items listed. Refer to the sections titled *Service Gaps and Needs & Strategies to Address Transportation Gaps and Needs in Lincoln County*, below, for the outcomes of this session.

Meeting Invitation and Participant Lists

The stakeholder invitation list for the October 23, 2023, meeting included 40 individuals, see APPENDIX B. Approximately 8 people attended the planning meeting as follows:

Lincoln County 2024 Coordinated Transportation Plan Participant List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Role</u>
Jessi Rumsey	Lincoln County Social Services	Service Provider
James Monti		Public User
Sara Doerr	Kindhearted Homecare	Home Care Provider
Collen Chartier	Lincoln County Social Services	Human Services Provider
Renee Krueger	Lincoln County	Administration
Tanya Mazur	ODC, Inc	Service Provider
Traci Zernicke	ADRC-CW	Human Services Provider

Keeper of the Plan

The Lincoln County Social Services Department will continue to be the designated keeper of the plan. Jessi Rumsey, Director of Social Services will be the primary staff contact.

Summary of Participant Review

The plan meeting participants were given the opportunity to complete an evaluation form rating the process, meeting, and implementation strategies. Most responses indicate a positive agreement regarding the process and the County's status. Refer to APPENDIX C for copies of the completed participant evaluation forms.

ANALYSIS OF SERVICE GAPS AND NEEDS

Assessment of Existing Service

An inventory of what transportation services are currently available in Lincoln County was compiled in the APPENDIX D. There are several transportation services available, however, geographic and eligibility restrictions limit this service. A general assessment of the inventory data indicates the following:

- Providers struggling with recruitment and retainment of both volunteer and paid drivers,
- Provider costs continue to increase while funding has been stagnant/declining,

- Evening and weekend services are limited,
- Employment needs are underserved, and
- More rural, inter-city and across-county services are needed.

Demographic Information

The NCWRPC provided demographic information in the form of countywide maps showing density of overall population and for target populations including seniors and individuals with disabilities, refer to APPENDIX E. This information is useful in assisting with defining gaps and needs.

Identification of Gaps and Needs

Based on their experience and perceptions, meeting participants identified the following gaps and needs in the current transportation system within Lincoln County:

- Local dialysis facility closed. High cost (\$100's 3x/wk) for private transportation to Wausau facility.
- Transportation needs were identified as a major issue in the Lincoln County Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan.
- Budget limitations result in increased cost share by rider.
- Limited evening and weekend service.
- Limited social interaction trips are available (social isolation).
- Need for group transportation (for events, activities, etc.).
- Lack of knowledge/information regarding transportation options.
- Costs going up while budgets are not – shrinking service that can be provided.
- Lack of service options.
- MA transportation issues: wait time/don't show, leave stranded, etc.

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED GAPS AND NEEDS

The following strategies establish the framework for a five-year work program from 2024 through 2028. The listed strategies and actions were generated to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to improve efficiencies in service delivery.

The strategies are ranked by scores assigned by stakeholder meeting participant voting based on resources from multiple program sources, time, and feasibility for implementing the strategies or actions identified.

Some of the strategies listed here ultimately may not be implemented within the five-year time timeframe due to changing conditions (political, fiscal, etc.). Uncompleted strategies and actions should be rolled over to the next five-year plan as appropriate.

Lincoln County 5-year Transportation Coordinated Strategies, 2024 - 2028

Priority
Rank Score

1. 11 Work with Divita Dialysis regarding transportation for dialysis patients to Wausau.

Responsible Agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, ADRC-CW, Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers

2. 9 Maintain and expand existing services through support of program operations (inc. director/transportation coordinator position(s), driver salaries, volunteer reimbursements, equipment, supplies and training), maintenance, repair and scheduled replacement of vehicle fleet as appropriate.

Actions:

- Continue to make use of 85.21 Grants to maintain and expand the level of transportation service within the County.
- Continue to apply for 5310 Capital Grants to maintain and expand the human services transportation vehicle fleet within Lincoln County: Social Services, Merrill-Go-Round Transit, ODC, Inc., Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers.
- Apply for 5310 grant mobility management grant to develop and coordinate transportation within Lincoln County: Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers.

Responsible agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, Merrill-Go-Round, ODC, Inc., Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers.

3. 5 Develop and increase use of ADRC-CW Provider Directory.

Responsible agencies: ADRC-CW, Lincoln County Social Services, ODC, Inc., Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers, other transit/human services transportation stakeholders

4. 4 Coordinate with local Veterans Affairs Office on transportation services.

Responsible agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, Lincoln County Veterans Service Office, other transit/human services transportation stakeholders

5. 3 Consider the creation of a transportation working group to explore ways to increase/improve coordination of transportation services within Lincoln County.

Responsible agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, Merrill-Go-Round Transit, ODC, Inc., Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers, CILWW, other transit/human services transportation stakeholders

6. 2 Coordinate with Regional Volunteer Driver Program to reinforce local program and fill in gaps in service.

Actions:

- Work with Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin (aka CIL) to determine how to best integrate expansion of CIL's Regional Volunteer Driver Program into Lincoln County Transportation Program

Responsible agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, CILWW, Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers

7. 1 Advocate for legislative changes regarding volunteer driver insurance coverage (contact with legislators, possible county resolution, etc.).

Responsible agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, ADRC-CW, Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers, CILWW, other transit/human services transportation stakeholders

8. 1 Develop Tomahawk-Merrill-Wausau service.

Responsible agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, City of Merrill, City of Tomahawk, Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers, other transit/human services transportation stakeholders

9. 0 Improve promotion of service - work to provide more information and education about available transportation options

Actions:

- Provide system information through a variety of online and print means (brochures, newsletters, provider directories, etc)

- Promote transportation services through social media and community partnerships.

Responsible agencies: Lincoln County Social Services, ODC, Inc., CILWW, Tomahawk Interfaith Volunteers, other transit/human services transportation stakeholders

UPDATING / AMENDING THE COORDINATED PLAN

The coordinated plan establishes the framework for a five-year work program. However, should a strategy or project be identified that was not foreseen at the time of plan development, the plan can be amended through some form of stakeholder consensus process. The plan should be regularly reviewed and updated if major changes in any provisions of the plan are identified. At a minimum, the plan is required to be updated every five years.

APPROVAL OF 2024 - 2028 LINCOLN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATED PLAN

After the identified strategies and actions were reviewed by the planning group and consensus was reached that their work was complete, the NCWRPC meeting facilitator entertained a motion on the question of approving the established five-year strategy and action plan:

On a motion by Jessi Rumsey, seconded by Tanya Mazur, the 2024 - 2028 Lincoln County Locally Developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan was approved with all in favor.

NCWRPC – Lincoln County

Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Development Meeting – October 23, 2023

	Name	Representing	Role (Service Provider, User, etc.)
1	Jessi Rumsy	Social Services	Service Provider
2	James Monti	Public	user
3	Sara Doerr	Kindhearted Homecare	
4	Sarah Brandner	Social Services	
5	Colleen Chartier	Social Services	
6	Renee Krueger	Administration	
7	TANYA MADON	ODC, INC	FLEET MANAGER
8	Traci Zernicke	ADRC-CW	Community Agency
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NCWRPC – NORTH CENTRAL REGION

2023 LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

AGENDA

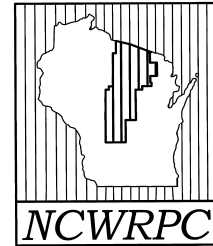
- I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
 - II. PURPOSE OF MEETING and BACKGROUND**
 - III. IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICE NEEDS AND GAPS**
 - A. Review of Demographic Data**
 - B. Review of Service Inventory**
 - IV. IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION* OF STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS NEEDS AND GAPS**
 - * Based on consideration of resources, time and feasibility.*
 - V. WRAP-UP**
 - A. Plan Approval**
 - B. Meeting Evaluation**
-

For more information and resources on Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Planning visit:

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/transit/compliance/coord.aspx>

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403
Telephone: (715) 849-5510 Fax: (715) 849-5110
Web Page: www.ncwrpc.org Email: staff@ncwrpc.org



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2023
TO: Parties with interest in Human Services Transportation in Lincoln County
FROM: Darryl L. Landeau, AICP
RE: Invitation to Meeting

NOTICE OF HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION MEETING

Please attend...

DATE: October 23, 2023
TIME: 9:30 am
LOCATION: Lincoln County Service Center, County Board Room
801 N Sales Street, Merrill

A county meeting is scheduled for stakeholders in public transit / human services transportation coordination for Lincoln County on Monday, October 23 beginning at 9:30 A.M. The meeting will take place at the Lincoln County Service Center in the County Board Room, 801 N Sales Street in Merrill. This meeting will include an assessment of human services transportation needs and gaps within Lincoln County and identification of strategies to address these issues with emphasis on improving service coordination. ***Written comments may be submitted to: NCWRPC, 210 McClellan St. Ste. 210, Wausau WI 54403 or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.***

If you have questions regarding this meeting, please contact me at dlandeau@ncwrpc.org or 715-849-5510 extension 308. If you are elderly and/or disabled and need transportation assistance to this meeting or other accommodations, please contact the Lincoln County Social Services Department at (715) 539-1331.

BACKGROUND ON MEETING

The federal surface transportation program requires applicants for the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Program (5310) grants, as well as state 85.21 projects must be part of a "locally-developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan." This plan is required to be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation services, human services providers and the general public.

To maintain local eligibility for these grants, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has developed a county meeting process to comply with federal requirements. Regional Planning Commission (RPC) planners are coordinating and conducting these meetings statewide on behalf of WisDOT and the counties as independent and objective entities. Your participation is critical for the development of a qualifying plan that will effectively serve Lincoln County.

Darryl Landeau

From: Jessi Rumsey <jessi.rumsey@co.lincoln.wi.us>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Darryl Landeau
Subject: Fwd: Transportation Planning Meeting

Hi Darryl:

Just passing along an email I received this morning from a Councilwoman from Tomahawk regarding the transportation meeting.

Thanks.

Jessi Rumsey

Director

Lincoln County Department of Social Services

607 N Sales St, Ste 202

Merrill WI 54452

Phone: 715-536-6200

Jessi.Rumsey@co.lincoln.wi.us

"Have Your BEST Day!" In honor of the late Dr. Bobbie J. Voermans.

Statement of Confidentiality

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intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Danielle Bender** <danielle.bender@co.lincoln.wi.us>

Date: Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 8:11 AM

Subject: Fwd: Transportation Planning Meeting

To: Jessi Rumsey <jessi.rumsey@co.lincoln.wi.us>

Hey Jessi,

Wanted to send you this information. Pat Haskin was unable to attend the transportation meeting but wanted to let me know her thoughts. Sorry that I am just getting this to you now.

Have a great weekend!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pat Haskin** <haskinpat@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 23, 2023 at 10:27 AM

Subject: Re: Transportation Planning Meeting

To: Danielle Bender <danielle.bender@co.lincoln.wi.us>

Thanks for the invitation but unfortunately I could not make it. I did, however, have a conversation with Joan Litwitz of Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers who advised me she is on top of the Tomahawk area transportation issue. They appear hampered by not having enough volunteer drivers for their 2 vans. She is making application for another grant to add another person to their office and/or meet other needs. Please keep Joan and myself in the loop. I notice we now appear to have a 2nd cab service in Tomahawk. I think moving the disabled is a big problem since TAIV drivers are elderly and they offer little assistance other than rolling the wheelchairs in and out of the van and of course the usual safety restraint work. Again, I fully support all efforts to assist the handicapped and others in need of transportation for appointments. Thank you for your hard work on this subject.

Pat Haskin

Tomahawk City Councilwoman

On Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 3:12 PM Danielle Bender <danielle.bender@co.lincoln.wi.us> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jessi Rumsey** <jessi.rumsey@co.lincoln.wi.us>

Date: Wed, Oct 11, 2023 at 9:11 AM

Subject: Transportation Planning Meeting

To: Everyone - Lincoln County <everyone@co.lincoln.wi.us>

Good Morning:

Please see the attached flyer and memo regarding the Transportation Planning Meeting scheduled for October 23, 2023.

This meeting is open to all stakeholders. We need disabled and elderly individuals to participate in this meeting. Please feel free to share with anyone you see fit.

Thank you!

Jessi Rumsey

Director

Lincoln County Department of Social Services

607 N Sales St, Ste 202

Merrill WI 54452

Phone: 715-536-6200

Jessi.Rumsey@co.lincoln.wi.us

"Have Your BEST Day!" In honor of the late Dr. Bobbie J. Voermans.

Statement of Confidentiality

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and

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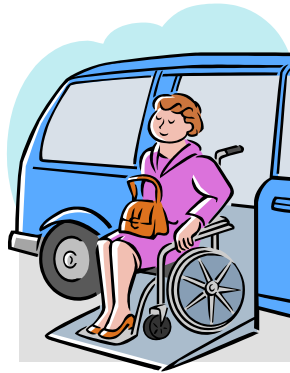
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LINCOLN COUNTY ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING MEETING



PLEASE ATTEND...

A county meeting will be held to assess transportation programs for the elderly and disabled and develop plans to improve transportation services for those in need. The meeting will provide the basis for Lincoln County's Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan as required under federal and state regulations. The meeting will be facilitated by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Lincoln County.

DATE: October 23, 2023

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Lincoln County Service Center
County Board Room
801 N. Sales Street, Merrill

For transportation assistance or other accommodations, please contact the County Social Services Department at (715) 539-1331.

Written comments may be submitted to: NCWRPC, 210 McClellan St. Ste. 210, Wausau WI 54403 or dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

For information about the meeting contact NCWRPC at 715-849-5510 ext. 308 or email dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.



MMC
MULTI MEDIA CHANNELS

**MERRILL Foto
News**

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Advertiser Name and Address:

North Central WI Regional Planning Commission
210 McClellan St. Ste 210
Wausau, WI 54403

STATE OF WISCONSIN}
COUNTY OF LINCOLN}

Dave Wood, being duly sworn, says:

That he is the Publisher of the Merrill Foto News, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Lincoln County, Wisconsin; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

October 12 & 19, 2023

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

Dave Wood

Publisher

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 19th day of October, 2023

Heidi R. Schult

Heidi R. Schult, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

HEIDI R SCHULT
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

My commission expires May 3, 2026

Publication Cost: \$70.09

An affidavit cost of \$1 is included in the Publication Fees listed above.

Campaign ID: 56320 (Foto News-Notice of Elderly & Disabled Transp Public Meeting)

Customer No: 124181

Notice of Elderly and Disabled Transportation Public Meeting:

A county meeting will be held on Monday, October 23 beginning at 9:30 AM in the County Board Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill to assess transportation programs for the elderly and disabled and develop plans to improve transportation services for those in need. The meeting will provide the basis for Lincoln County's Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan as required under federal and state regulations. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) is coordinating the meeting on behalf of WisDOT and the County. Those persons unable to attend the meeting and would like to submit comments in advance may send them to: NCWRPC, 210 McClellan St. Ste. 210, Wausau WI 54403 or email to dlandeau@ncwrpc.org. Seniors or persons with disabilities who would like to attend the meeting and require a ride or other accommodations should contact the Lincoln County Social Services Dept at 715-539-1331. The meeting location is accessible. dlandeau@ncwrpc.org
Published October 12 & 19, 2023
WNAXLP



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Advertiser Name and Address:

North Central WI Regional Planning Commission
210 McClellan St. Ste 210
Wausau, WI 54403

STATE OF WISCONSIN}
COUNTY OF LINCOLN}

Dave Wood, being duly sworn, says:

That he is the Publisher of the Merrill Foto News, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Lincoln County, Wisconsin; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

October 11 & 18, 2023

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

Publisher

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 19th day of October, 2023

Heidi R. Schult, Lincoln County, Wisconsin

HEIDI R SCHULT
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

My commission expires May 3, 2026

Publication Cost: \$47.49

An affidavit cost of \$1 is included in the Publication Fees listed above.

Campaign ID: 56320 (Tomahawk Leader-Notice of Elderly & Disabled Transp Public Meeting)

Customer No: 124181

Notice of Elderly and Disabled Transportation Public Meeting:
A county meeting will be held on Monday, October 23 beginning at 9:30 AM in the County Board Room 257, Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill to assess transportation programs for the elderly and disabled and develop plans to improve transportation services for those in need. The meeting will provide the basis for Lincoln County's Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan as required under federal and state regulations. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) is coordinating the meeting on behalf of WisDOT and the County. Those persons unable to attend the meeting and would like to submit comments in advance may send them to: NCWRPC, 210 McClellan St. Ste. 210, Wausau WI 54403 or email to dlandeau@ncwrpc.org. Seniors or persons with disabilities who would like to attend the meeting and require a ride or other accommodations should contact the Lincoln County Social Services Dept at 715-539-1331. The meeting location is accessible. dlandeau@ncwrpc.org
Published October 11 & 18, 2023
WNAXLP

ADRC-CW Merrill Office
607 N. Sales St., Ste. 206
Merrill, WI 54452

Jessi Rumsey, Director
Lincoln Co. Social Services
607 N. Sales St., Ste. 202
Merrill, WI 54452

Ryan Hanson, Administrator
Pinecrest Nursing Home
2100 E. 6th Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Renee Krueger, Admin. Coordinator
Lincoln County
801 N. Sales St., Ste. 205
Merrill, WI 54452

John Olson, VSO
Lincoln Co. Veteran's Services
801 N. Sales St., Ste 104
Merrill, WI 54452

Don Friske, County Board Chair
Lincoln County Service Center
801 N. Sales Street, Suite 201
Merrill WI 54452

NCCAP - Merrill Office
503 S. Center Ave., Suite 1
Merrill, WI 54452

Midstate Independent Living
Consultants, Inc.
3262 Church Street, Suite 1
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Karalyn Peterson, Res. Coordinator
MILC, Inc.
3262 Church St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Kimberly Edwards, Area Admin.
WI DCF Northern Region
2187 N. Stevens St. Ste C
Rhineland, WI 54501

Patricia Noland, Director WDA 6
Division of Vocational Rehab.
731 North 1st Street, Ste 4000
Wausau, WI 54403

True Lor, Area Coordinator
DHS Northern Region
2187 N. Stevens St. Ste C
Rhineland, WI 54501

Brad Brummond, Administrator
Merrill-Go-Round Transit System
1004 East First Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Wendorf Bus Service
N745 County Highway W
Merrill, WI 54452

Tomahawk Bus Service, Inc.
1801 Kaphaem Road
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Abby Vans
1115 W. 4th Street
Neillsville, WI 54456

Bobbie Craig, New Freedom Dir.
CIL Wisconsin Partnership
2920 Schneider Ave SE
Menomonie, WI 54751

VSO Transportation Services
PO Box 400
Rhineland, WI 54501

Blue Jay Taxi
126 N. Prospect Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Amber Haluska, Dir. Pupil Services
Merrill Area Public Schools
1111 N Sales Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Wendy Simonis, Dir. Pupil Services
Tomahawk School District
1048 East King Rd
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Joan Litwitz, Director
Tomahawk Area Interfaith Vol.
113A S Tomahawk Avenue
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Lincoln County Arc
P.O. Box 143
Merrill, WI 54452

Nick Musson
GWAAR
1414 MacArthur Rd., Suite A
Madison WI 53714

Tomahawk Senior Center
113 S. Tomahawk Ave.
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Mark Hilliker, CEO
Inclusa Inc.
2801 Hover Rd, Unit 3
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Sara Muhlbauer, CEO
Lakeland Care Inc.
N6654 Rolling Meadows Dr.
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

James Torgerson, Administrator
Tomahawk Health Services
720 East King Road
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Jessica Heikkinen, Administrator
Riverview Health Services
428 North Sixth Street
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Melissa Dengel
Woodland Court Elder Services
1102 South Center Avenue
Merrill, WI 54452

Kristine McGarigle
Bell Towers Residence
1500 O'Day Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Maya Will
Our Way Inc.
PO Box 917
Merrill, WI 54452

Diane Goetsch
Kindhearted Home Care
120 S Mill Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Ann Lepak
ODC Inc.
1191 Huntington Ave
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Amanda Meindl
Country Terrace Tomahawk
300 Theiler Street
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Carole Mietelski
Milestone Senior Living Lincoln
314 E Lincoln Ave
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Believe & Achieve Learning & Rec.
101 E 1st Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Forward Service Corporation
697 North Sales Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Northwoods Mobility Services
9548 County K
Tomahawk, WI 54487

Sara Brandner
Lincoln Co. Social Services
607 N. Sales St., Ste. 202
Merrill, WI 54452

Meeting Evaluation Form

(2024-2028) Transportation Coordination Plan Meeting

County/Region:	Lincoln County
Date:	10/23/2023
Facilitator(s):	Darryl L. Landeau

Instructions: For each item below, please circle the number/response that best expresses your opinion.

General Meeting Questions		Strongly Agree		Agree	Strongly Disagree		Don't Know
1.	The information covered in the group discussions, examples and explanations was understandable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	The meeting provided a good forum for communication about public/human services transportation coordination.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Participants at the meeting were from a broad stakeholder group.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	The county/region's prioritized action plan is comprehensive and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	The county/region has a working coordination team.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	The previous coordination plan has been implemented.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Developing the prioritized action plan was meaningful and valuable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	I feel the coordination process in the county/region will be improved based on the assessment, action plan and implementation strategies.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Facilitator Questions							
9.	Facilitator was knowledgeable about the meeting process.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	The information was presented in a clear, logical format.	1	2	3	4	5	6

10. The time allotted for the meeting was: __ too much X about right __ not enough

11. List key points/issues presented during the meeting that were the most valuable or useful.

12. List any information or meeting content you felt was omitted or needed further clarification.

13. Are you interested in participating on the team that will implement the coordination plan strategies? If yes, indicate your availability.

14. Other comments (write on back)

Meeting Evaluation Form

(2024-2028) Transportation Coordination Plan Meeting

County/Region:	North Central Region
Date:	Oct 23, 23
Facilitator(s):	Darryl

Instructions: For each item below, please circle the number/response that best expresses your opinion.

General Meeting Questions		Strongly Agree		Agree	Strongly Disagree		Don't Know
1.	The information covered in the group discussions, examples and explanations was understandable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	The meeting provided a good forum for communication about public/human services transportation coordination.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Participants at the meeting were from a broad stakeholder group.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	The county/region's prioritized action plan is comprehensive and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	The county/region has a working coordination team.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	The previous coordination plan has been implemented.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Developing the prioritized action plan was meaningful and valuable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	I feel the coordination process in the county/region will be improved based on the assessment, action plan and implementation strategies.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Facilitator Questions							
9.	Facilitator was knowledgeable about the meeting process.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	The information was presented in a clear, logical format.	1	2	3	4	5	6

10. The time allotted for the meeting was: ☐ too much ☒ about right ☐ not enough

11. List key points/issues presented during the meeting that were the most valuable or useful.

The key areas of need from 5 yrs ago continues to grow.

12. List any information or meeting content you felt was omitted or needed further clarification.

13. Are you interested in participating on the team that will implement the coordination plan strategies? If yes, indicate your availability.

14. Other comments (write on back)

Meeting Evaluation Form

(2024-2028) Transportation Coordination Plan Meeting

County/Region:	LINCOLN
Date:	10/23/23
Facilitator(s):	

Instructions: For each item below, please circle the number/response that best expresses your opinion.

General Meeting Questions	Strongly Agree		Agree	Strongly Disagree		Don't Know
1. The information covered in the group discussions, examples and explanations was understandable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. The meeting provided a good forum for communication about public/human services transportation coordination. <i>for those present</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Participants at the meeting were from a broad stakeholder group.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. The county/region's prioritized action plan is comprehensive and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. The county/region has a working coordination team.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. The previous coordination plan has been implemented.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Developing the prioritized action plan was meaningful and valuable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. I feel the coordination process in the county/region will be improved based on the assessment, action plan and implementation strategies.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Facilitator Questions						
9. Facilitator was knowledgeable about the meeting process.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. The information was presented in a clear, logical format.	1	2	3	4	5	6

10. The time allotted for the meeting was: __ too much __ about right __ not enough

11. List key points/issues presented during the meeting that were the most valuable or useful.

12. List any information or meeting content you felt was omitted or needed further clarification.

13. Are you interested in participating on the team that will implement the coordination plan strategies? If yes, indicate your availability.

14. Other comments (write on back)

Meeting Evaluation Form

(2024-2028) Transportation Coordination Plan Meeting

County/Region:	Lincoln County
Date:	10-23-23
Facilitator(s):	Darryl Landeau

Instructions: For each item below, please circle the number/response that best expresses your opinion.

General Meeting Questions		Strongly Agree		Agree	Strongly Disagree		Don't Know
1.	The information covered in the group discussions, examples and explanations was understandable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	The meeting provided a good forum for communication about public/human services transportation coordination.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Participants at the meeting were from a broad stakeholder group.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	The county/region's prioritized action plan is comprehensive and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	The county/region has a working coordination team.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	The previous coordination plan has been implemented.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Developing the prioritized action plan was meaningful and valuable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	I feel the coordination process in the county/region will be improved based on the assessment, action plan and implementation strategies.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Facilitator Questions							
9.	Facilitator was knowledgeable about the meeting process.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	The information was presented in a clear, logical format.	1	2	3	4	5	6

10. The time allotted for the meeting was: __ too much 2 about right __ not enough

11. List key points/issues presented during the meeting that were the most valuable or useful.

12. List any information or meeting content you felt was omitted or needed further clarification.

13. Are you interested in participating on the team that will implement the coordination plan strategies? If yes, indicate your availability.

14. Other comments (write on back)

Meeting Evaluation Form

(2024-2028) Transportation Coordination Plan Meeting

County/Region:	Lincoln
Date:	8-23
Facilitator(s):	

Instructions: For each item below, please circle the number/response that best expresses your opinion.

General Meeting Questions		Strongly Agree		Agree	Strongly Disagree		Don't Know
1.	The information covered in the group discussions, examples and explanations was understandable.	①	2	3	4	5	6
2.	The meeting provided a good forum for communication about public/human services transportation coordination.	1	②	3	4	5	6
3.	Participants at the meeting were from a broad stakeholder group.	1	2	③	4	5	6
4.	The county/region's prioritized action plan is comprehensive and realistic.	1	2	③	4	5	6
5.	The county/region has a working coordination team.	1	2	3	4	⑤	6
6.	The previous coordination plan has been implemented.	1	2	③	4	5	6
7.	Developing the prioritized action plan was meaningful and valuable.	1	2	③	4	5	6
8.	I feel the coordination process in the county/region will be improved based on the assessment, action plan and implementation strategies.	1	2	③	4	5	6
Facilitator Questions							
9.	Facilitator was knowledgeable about the meeting process.	①	2	3	4	5	6
10.	The information was presented in a clear, logical format.	①	2	3	4	5	6

10. The time allotted for the meeting was: ☐ too much ☒ about right ☐ not enough

11. List key points/issues presented during the meeting that were the most valuable or useful.

12. List any information or meeting content you felt was omitted or needed further clarification.

13. Are you interested in participating on the team that will implement the coordination plan strategies? If yes, indicate your availability.

14. Other comments (write on back)

Meeting Evaluation Form

(2024-2028) Transportation Coordination Plan Meeting

County/Region:	Lincoln
Date:	10/23/2023
Facilitator(s):	Daryl Landeau

Instructions: For each item below, please circle the number/response that best expresses your opinion.

General Meeting Questions		Strongly Agree		Agree	Strongly Disagree		Don't Know
1.	The information covered in the group discussions, examples and explanations was understandable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	The meeting provided a good forum for communication about public/human services transportation coordination.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Participants at the meeting were from a broad stakeholder group.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	The county/region's prioritized action plan is comprehensive and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	The county/region has a working coordination team.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	The previous coordination plan has been implemented.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Developing the prioritized action plan was meaningful and valuable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	I feel the coordination process in the county/region will be improved based on the assessment, action plan and implementation strategies.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Facilitator Questions							
9.	Facilitator was knowledgeable about the meeting process.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	The information was presented in a clear, logical format.	1	2	3	4	5	6

10. The time allotted for the meeting was: __ too much __ about right __ not enough

11. List key points/issues presented during the meeting that were the most valuable or useful.

12. List any information or meeting content you felt was omitted or needed further clarification.

13. Are you interested in participating on the team that will implement the coordination plan strategies? If yes, indicate your availability.

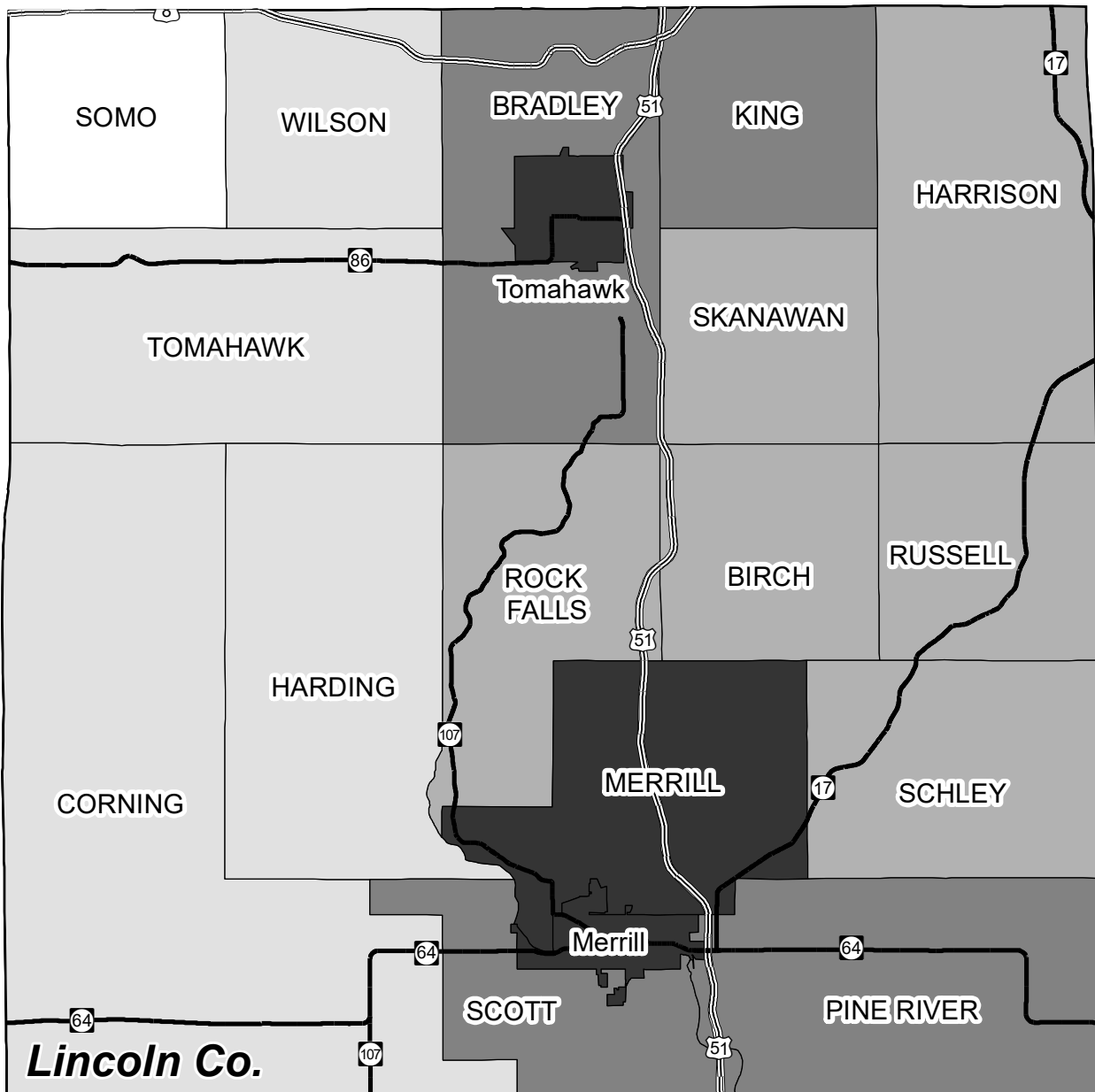
14. Other comments (write on back)

TABLE 1 LINCOLN COUNTY PROVIDER INVENTORY

Service Name or Sponsor Name	Service Type	Passenger Eligibility	Service Description	Hours of Service	Fleet Information	Use of Federal/ State Funds
Lincoln County						
Pine Crest Nursing Home	Flexible route	Pine Crest Residents Only	Flexible route. Pre-determined destinations in Merrill area.		Pine Crest has a van that holds two wheelchairs; bus company bus that holds 4 wheelchair bound and 22 seated passengers.	Resident pays out of pocket
			Transportation for medical appointments throughout Wisconsin		Other van companies that can transport one wheelchair at a time.	85.21 will cover up to \$2000 annually
Lincoln County Social Services (Support/Medical Services)	Volunteer-escort	Elderly and people with disabilities	Demand response (door-to-door) by volunteer driver escort, serving all of County to appointments within Wisconsin.	24 hours a day, 7 days a week if a driver is available	Private vehicles owned by volunteer drivers.	85.21
	Specialized	Elderly and disabled people that are wheelchair bound			Northwood's Mobility has four vans that can hold two wheelchairs	85.21
Lincoln County Social Services (Merrill-Go-Round)	Public Transit	Elderly and people with disabilities	Demand response (door-to-door) in City of Merrill.	Mon.-Fri. 7am – 5pm	Five 27-passenger busses. Each bus holds 24 seated and two wheelchair bound passengers.	85.21
Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers	Volunteers	Elderly and people with disabilities	Serving Tomahawk and surrounding Townships within the Tomahawk School District	Mon.-Fri. 7am – 5pm	1 van w/ lift and use of private vehicles owned by volunteer drivers	
New Freedom Regional Volunteer Driver Program (CILWW)	Volunteer Driver	Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities	Must enroll through Midstate Independent Living Choices in the supportive home care program and then transportation could be a service provided.	24/7 subject to driver availability. 48 hour advance notice.	N/A	5310 / Partner Agreements

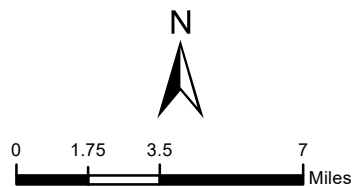
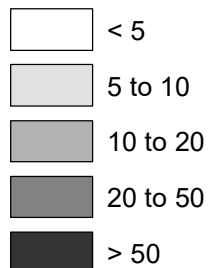
Population Density / By MCD

Lincoln County



Legend

POP / Sq. Mi



Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC, US Census ACS 2017-21

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



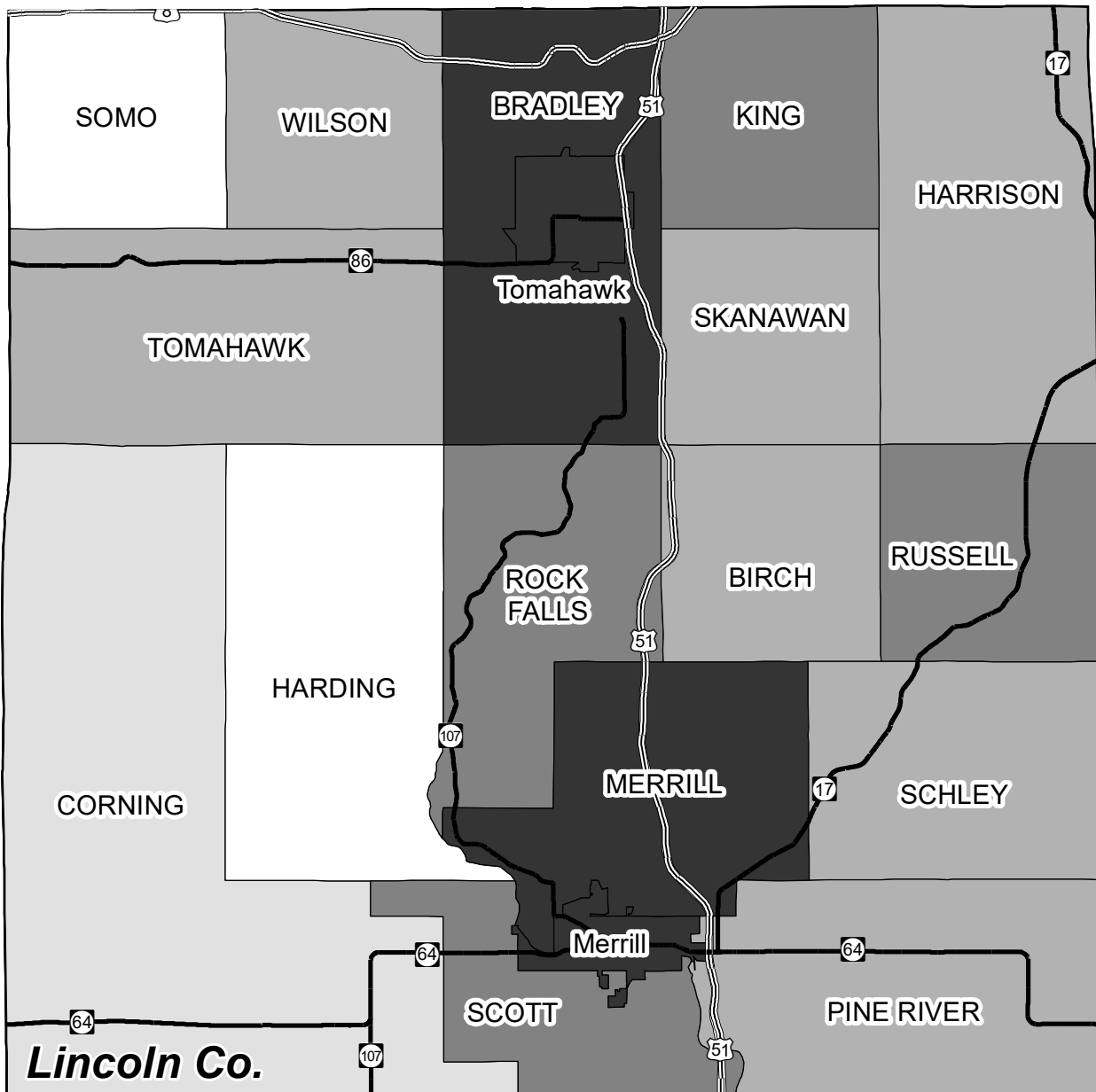
Prepared By:

**North Central
Wisconsin Regional
Planning Commission**

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715-849-5510 - staff@ncwrpc.org - www.ncwrpc.org

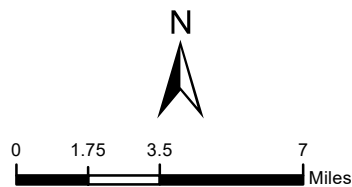
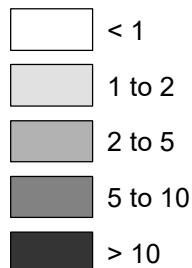
Population Density of Persons over 65 / By MCD

Lincoln County



Legend

POP65 / Sq. Mi



Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC, US Census ACS 2017-21

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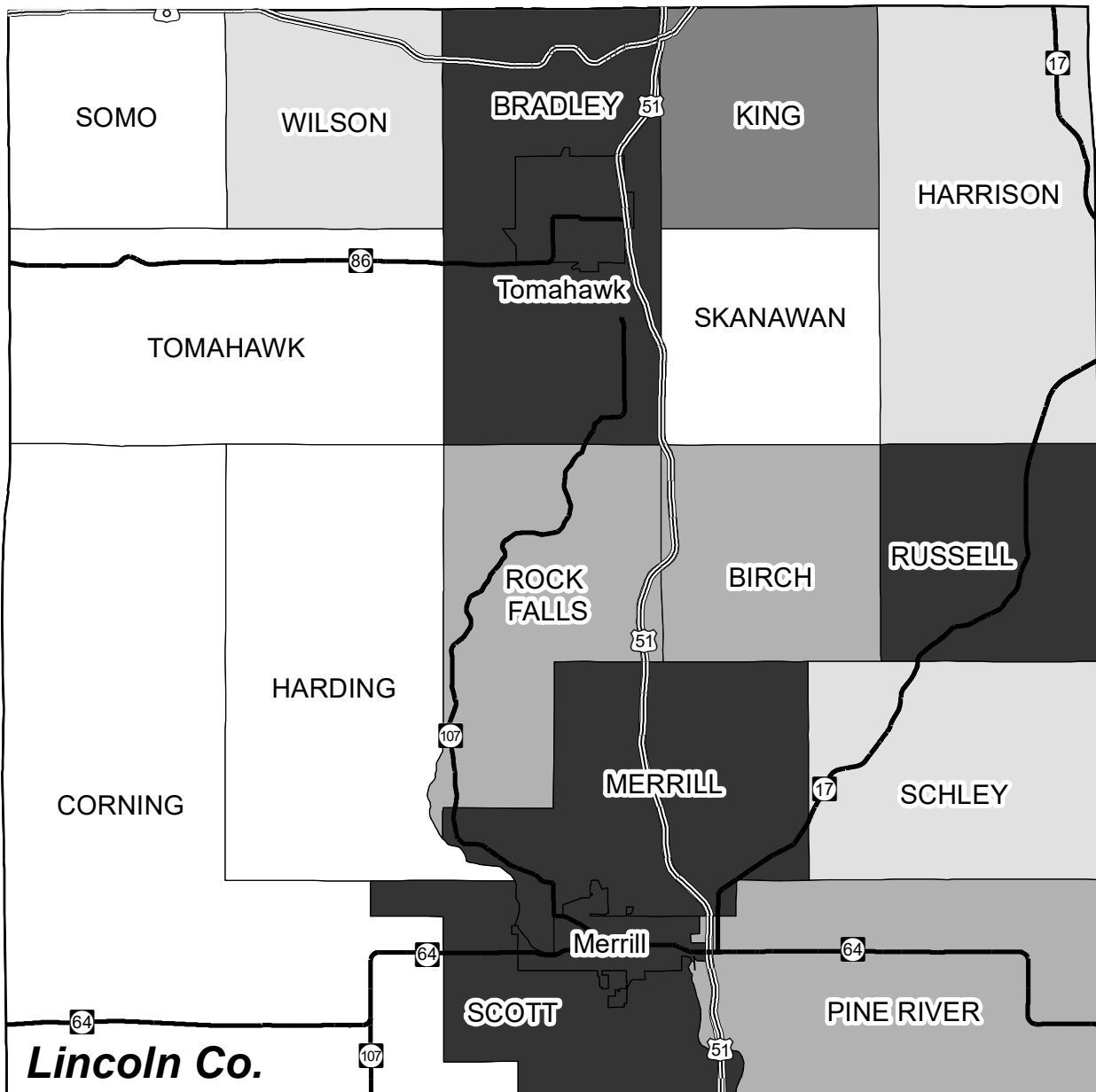
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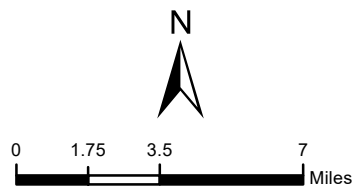
Population Density of Persons with Disabilities / By MCD

Lincoln County



Legend

DISABLED / Per Sq. Mi



Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC, US Census ACS 2017-21

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



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