

Connecting Lorain with Public Transit

City of Lorain Engineering Department

The Application

Lorain County Transit and the Lorain County Commissioners with the assistance of the City of Lorain submitted a CMAQ application in May of 2023.

This application has been nominated for award in the amount of \$2,884,447.00.

This funding would be available in 2027-2029 to operate up to 5 new bus routes in the City of Lorain for 3 years, fare free.



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Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program

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The banner features the text "CONGESTION MITIGATION & AIR QUALITY PROGRAM" in large, bold, blue and white letters against a background of a blue sky with white clouds. On the left side of the banner is the NOACA logo, which includes a map of the Northeast Ohio region and the text "NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY" and "NOACA: Planning For Greater Cleveland".

The Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds projects that reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and help urban areas make progress toward meeting federal clean air standards. The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) typically holds a program solicitation every two years. We expect the next solicitation in Spring 2025 for projects to be implemented in 2030-31. Approximately \$40 million is available for the NOACA region for project implementation. Projects are selected through a statewide competitive process.

2023 Program Application

The Future

How do we get there?

NOACA has requested a plan for attaining a full system roll out in 2027

1. 2024 – West Side Loop and modification to LCT Route #1 stress test
2. 2025 – Lighthouse Loop and East Side Loop stress test
3. 2026 – Downtown Loop and South Lorain Loop with modification to LCT Route 2 stress test
4. 2027 – full project roll out with financials and stress test data from 2024-2026



LCT CMAQ PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING PLAN

Work Phase	State Fiscal year	Total Cost	LCT Funds	LCT Share	Private Funds	Private Share	Local Funds	Local Share	Other/Local Funds Description
Westside Loop & Mod LCT #1	2024	\$ 808,200.00	\$ 646,560.00	80%	\$ 80,820.00	10%	\$ 80,820.00	10%	2 bus purchase and remix purchase included
Subtotal	2024	\$ 808,200.00	\$ 646,560.00	80%	\$ 80,820.00	10%	\$ 80,820.00	10%	Request Ford Private Share
Lighthouse Loop	2025	\$ 743,200.00	\$ 594,560.00	80%	\$ 74,320.00	10%	\$ 74,320.00	10%	2 bus purchase included
East Lorain Loop	2025	\$ 343,200.00	\$ 274,560.00	80%	\$ 34,320.00	10%	\$ 34,320.00	10%	use 2 2024 buses from year 1 pilot
Subtotal	2025	\$ 1,086,400.00	\$ 869,120.00	80%	\$ 108,640.00	10%	\$ 108,640.00	10%	Request Nord Private Share
Downtown Loop & Mod LCT #2	2026	\$ 743,200.00	\$ 594,560.00	80%	\$ 74,320.00	10%	\$ 74,320.00	10%	2 bus purchase included
South Lorain Loop & Mod LCT #2	2026	\$ 343,200.00	\$ 274,560.00	80%	\$ 34,320.00	10%	\$ 34,320.00	10%	use 2 2024 buses from year 1 pilot
Subtotal	2026	\$ 1,086,400.00	\$ 869,120.00	80%	\$ 108,640.00	10%	\$ 108,640.00	10%	Request Mercy Private Share
All Loops	2027	\$ 1,737,666.67	\$ 1,390,133.33	80%	\$ 173,766.67	10%	\$ 173,766.67	10%	remix purchase 3 yr service, buses from 2024-2026 used
All Loops	2028	\$ 1,737,666.67	\$ 1,390,133.33	80%	\$ 173,766.67	10%	\$ 173,766.67	10%	remix purchase 3 yr service, buses from 2024-2026 used
All Loops	2029	\$ 1,737,666.67	\$ 1,390,133.33	80%	\$ 173,766.67	10%	\$ 173,766.67	10%	remix purchase 3 yr service, buses from 2024-2026 used
Subtotal	2027-2029	\$ 3,475,333.33	\$ 2,780,266.67	80%	\$ 347,533.33	10%	\$ 347,533.33	10%	NOACA proposed funding \$2,884,447.00 (need to find private/local funding)
Total		\$ 8,194,000.00	\$ 6,555,200.00	80%	\$ 819,400.00	10%	\$ 819,400.00	10%	

NOACA
funds to
run pilot
program

2024 Requested Route and route modification

The City of Lorain would propose to LCT a route addition of the Westside Loop. This loop visits many medical facilities as well as shopping areas. Areas our residents need to travel to.

Next, we are requesting an addition to the existing LCT route #1. This addition would include a stop at the Nord Center on Broadway. A much needed stop for our community.



Westside Loop Stops and Schedule

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
38 min round trip

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Westgate Shopping Center | 9. Oak Tree Dr N and Oak Point Rd |
| 2. Valero on 58 | 10. Oak Hills West Apartments |
| 3. Corner of 58 & Tower Blvd | 11. Mercy Hospital entrance |
| 4. Cleveland Clinic on 58 | 12. Franke Dr and Route 6 |
| 5. DaVita Dialysis | 13. Lakeshore Colonial Apartments |
| 6. Cleveland Clinic on Cooper Foster Park Rd | 14. Erie Ave and Madison Ave |
| 7. Deerfield Shopping Center | |
| 8. Mercy Health on Oak Point Rd | |



2025 Requested Routes

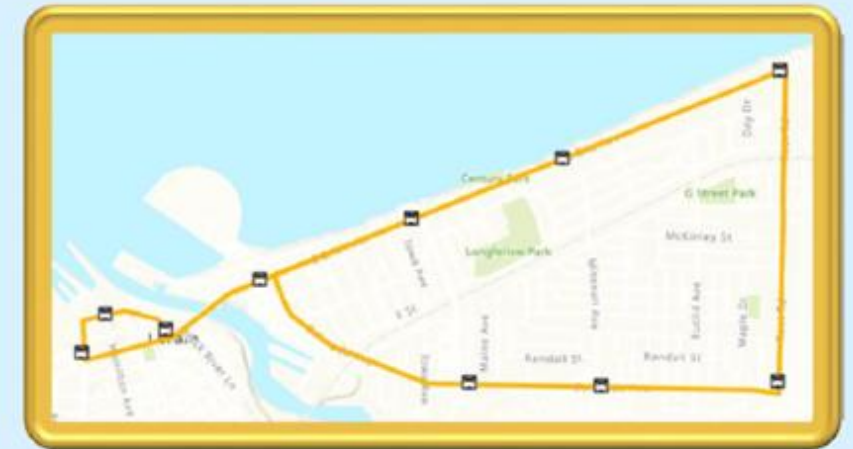
The City of Lorain would propose to LCT route additions of the Lighthouse Loop and the East Lorain Loop. These loop visit several of Lorain's busiest corridors as well as shopping and grocery areas. It also travels down Broadway, a major attraction for people to gather at Black River Landing, the Lorain Palace, as well as numerous eateries.



Lighthouse Loop

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

The Lighthouse Loop brings residents through a variety of shopping centers, offices, parks, and restaurants. The route travels along some of Lorain's busiest collector streets, Leavitt Rd (SR 58), Tower Blvd, Meister Rd, and Broadway.

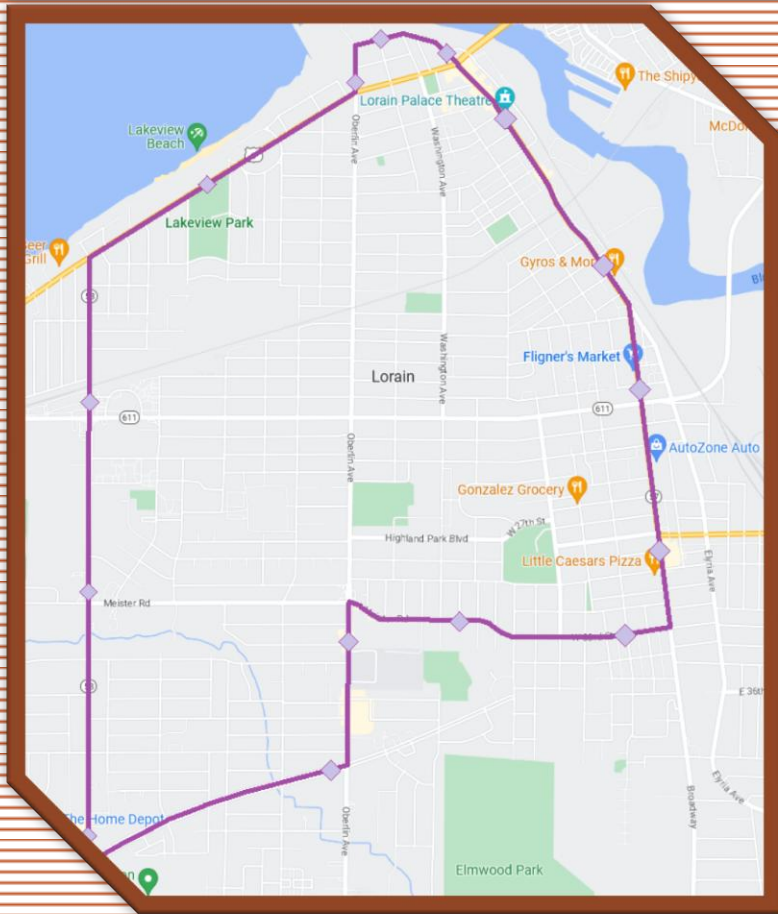


East Lorain Loop

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

The East Lorain Loop reaches a portion of Lorain that is wholly separated by the Black River and the world's second largest bascule bridge. This route transports residents to the heart of Lorain and near several linked stops that will allow travel across the City of Lorain.

Lighthouse Loop Stops and Schedule

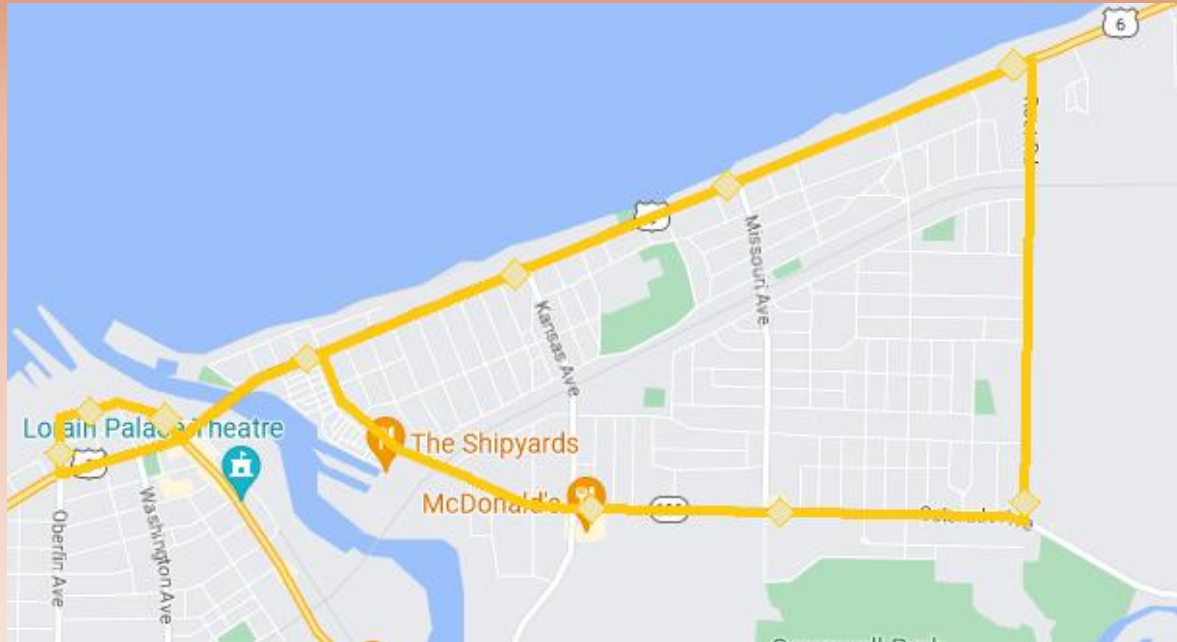


7:00 AM – 7:00 PM; 39 minute round trip

1. Lorain Script Sign
2. Sunset Pier Park
3. 1144 W Erie Ave on Oberlin Ave
4. Lakeview Park at Lakeview Dr
5. Westgate Shopping Center
6. Valero on 58
7. Corner of 58 & Tower Blvd
8. Big Lots on Tower Blvd
9. Lorain Plaza Shopping Center on Oberlin
10. Falbo Park
11. W 33rd St and Livingston Ave
12. Broadway and W 29th St
13. Advance Auto Parts on Broadway
14. Gyros & More
15. Palace Theater

East Lorain Loop Stops and Schedule

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM; 26 minute round trip



1. Erie Ave and California Ave
2. Erie Ave and Kansas Ave
3. Erie Ave and Missouri Ave
4. Erie Ave and Root Rd
5. Valero on Root Rd and 6II
6. 6II and Missouri Ave
7. 6II and Lehigh Ave
8. Lorain Script Sign
9. Sunset Pier Park
10. 1144 W Erie Ave on Oberlin Ave

2026 Requested Routes

The City of Lorain would propose to LCT a route addition of the Downtown Loop, the South Lorain Loop and Route modifications to the existing Route #2.

As the Downtown Loop and South Lorain Loop would duplicate many stops on Route #2, modifications would have to be made. Possibly the removal of route #2 during 2026.

These loops connect Central and South Lorain to the Lakefront. The routes also travel down Broadway, a major attraction for people to gather at Black River Landing, the Lorain Palace, as well as numerous eateries.

South Lorain Loop

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

The South Lorain Loop reaches Lorain's most disadvantaged region. South side residents live in a food desert with limited economic, recreational, and commercial options. This route will circle through South Lorain's neighborhoods and transport riders to Broadway, libraries, grocery stores, parks, and the lakefront.



Downtown Loop

3:00 PM – 11:00 PM

The Downtown Loop circles the dense urban core of Lorain. The hours of operation provide high school students the ability to travel to after school jobs and allows residents access to grocery stores and the City's downtown Entertainment District. It serves a large residential neighborhood, bringing residents to Broadway and the lakefront.

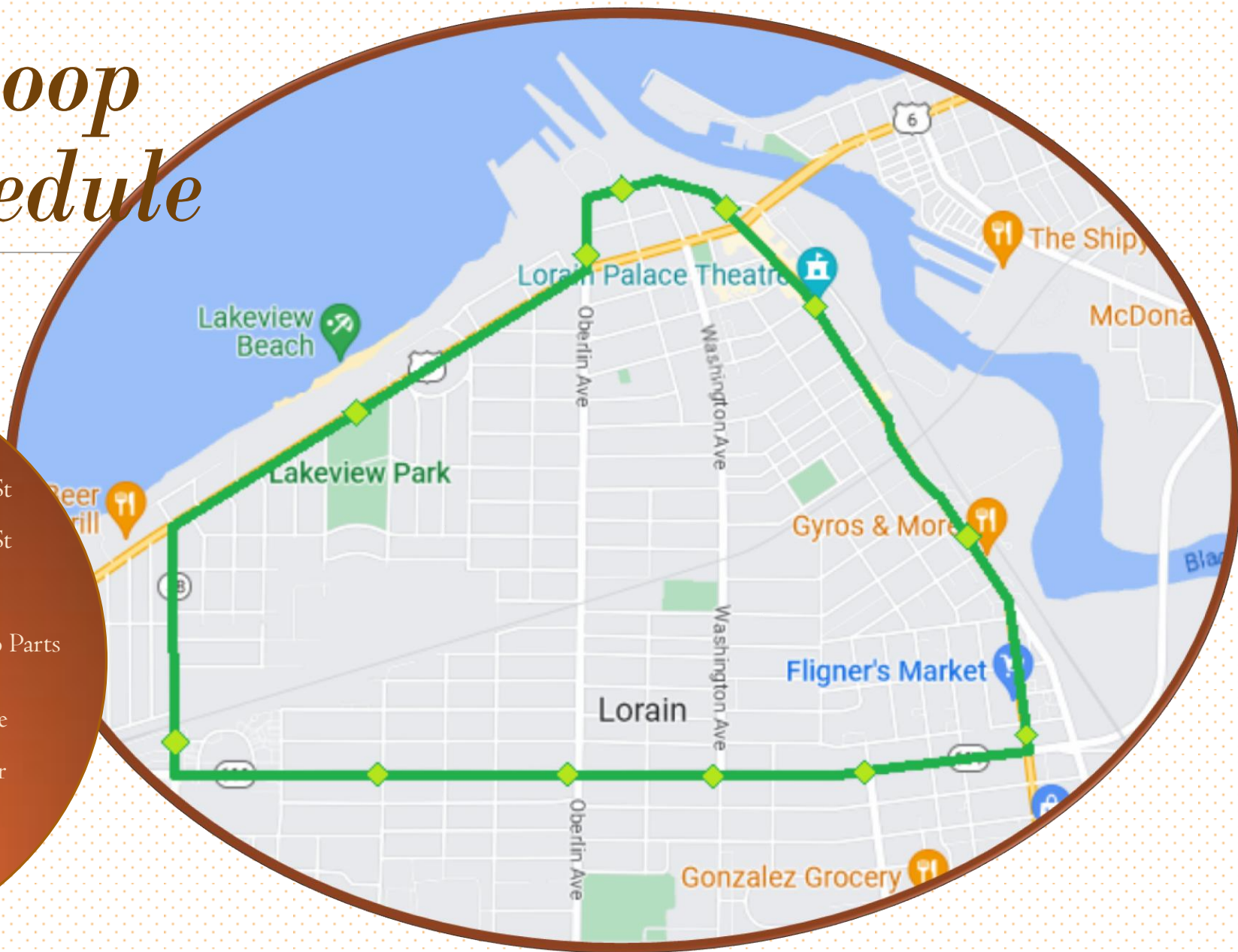


Downtown Loop Stops and Schedule

3:00 PM – 11:00 PM

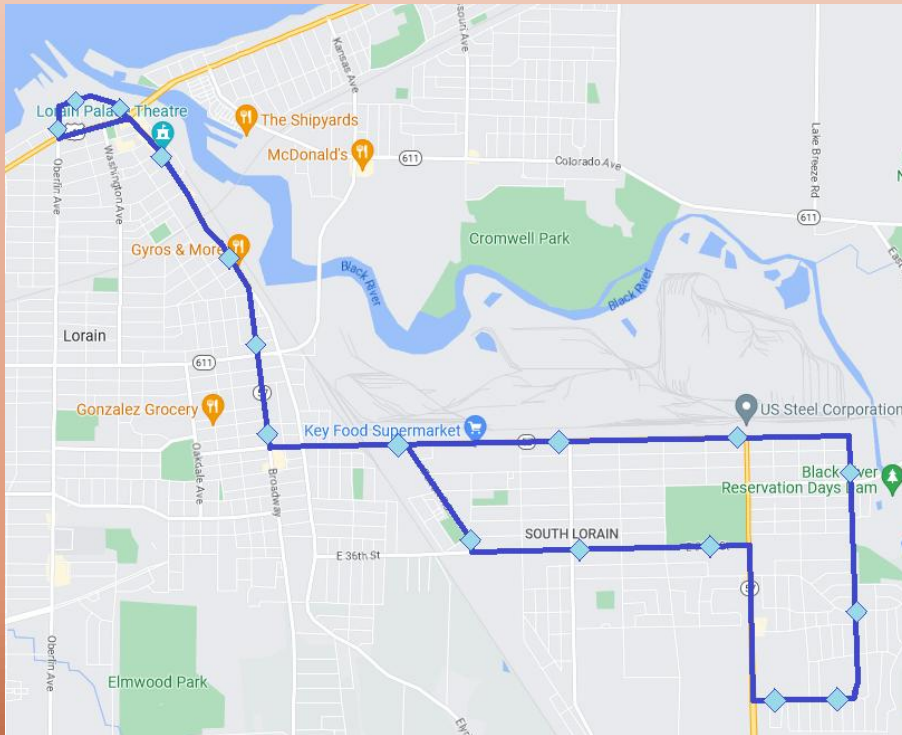
28 min round trip

1. Lorain Script Sign
2. Sunset Pier Park
3. 1144 W Erie Ave on Oberlin Ave
4. Lakeview Park at Lakeview Dr
5. Westgate Shopping Center
6. 21st St & Pole Ave
7. 1217 W 21st St
8. 1015 W 21st St
9. 603 W 21st St
10. Advance Auto Parts on Broadway
11. Gyros & More
12. Palace Theater



South Lorain Loop Stops and Schedule

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM; 43 minute round trip



1. 1374 E 28th St & Fulton Rd intersection
2. El Centro on E 28th St
3. DM Food Mart/Marathon on E 28th St
4. 3020 Tacoma Ave
5. Tacoma Ave and Homewood Dr
6. Fairless Park
7. Fairless and 57**
8. Oakwood Park
9. E 36th St & Pearl Ave

intersection

10. Fulton Rd and E 31st St
11. Rite Aid on E 28th St
12. Advance Auto Parts on Broadway
13. Gyros & More
14. Palace Theater
15. Lorain Script Sign
16. Sunset Pier Park
17. 1144 W Erie Ave on Oberlin Ave

2027 Pilot Realized

Lorain Public Transit

CONNECTING LORAIN WITH COMMUNITY CIRCULATORS

The City of Lorain is the ninth largest community in the State of Ohio, and yet lacks public transit. In order to benefit residents and visitors of all ages and abilities, the City plans to create a safe, accessible, and reliable transit system comprised of community circulator buses.

With 9% of households lacking a vehicle, and 43% of households with only one vehicle, Lorain residents are limited in their ability to access shopping, medical treatment, and employment opportunities. Further complicating the issue is the pattern of current development which relies on automobile transportation only. Car-centric design and a lack of public transportation is not only a heavy financial burden for Lorain residents, but a burden on the City's air quality and traffic congestion.

This is why the City is designing **five new fare-free bus routes in Lorain**, with the intent of creating a sustainable public transportation system that:

- Encourages economic development
- Improves quality of life
- Minimizes wait time
- Makes citywide travel convenient via overlapping routes

This initiative is a crucial step towards building a more equitable and sustainable future for our community.



Downtown Loop

3:00 PM – 11:00 PM

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Westside Loop

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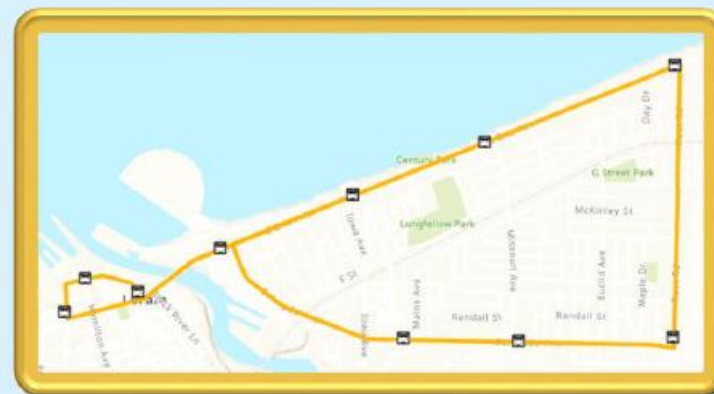
The Westside Loop has a particular focus on providing access to Lorain's health and medical services. It passes by a hospital, three medical centers, and several pharmacies. This route will not only provide residents with access to their doctors, but will also provide immediate transportation to pharmacies.



South Lorain Loop

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

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