



Transit Means Moving our Economy Forward

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For many Hoosiers, getting from point A to point B isn't a problem. They hop in their car and drive. They get their groceries, they go to work and go to church. But for others, a lack of reliable transportation is the difference between job and no job, living in their home or an assisted living facility, getting medical treatment or suffering. Transportation is literally the vehicle that moves our economy forward.

On March 1, 2019, I took a new role as the next Executive Director of Community Transportation Network (CTN). At CTN, we're proud to be known as the 'friendly' drivers who are dependable and efficient. Each one of us works hard every day to provide the freedom that a ride can give to our clients. Because of CTN and other transit networks, people are able to stay in their homes long after they can no longer drive. I am proud to see the dignity and respect we give to our clients and they have with staying in their own homes.

I spent the last six years with Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., Allen County's chamber of commerce and economic development agency. With a county unemployment rate hovering around 3%, and a state rate not much higher, employers need to find new ways to find workers. Transportation continues to be a barrier for workers. There may be only one or two vehicles within a family. There may be no vehicles for some!

Remember the seniors or individuals with disabilities that live with family members who work. Those individuals still have medical appointments, therapies, or other programming during the day. Transit programs like CTN and Citilink offer a way for those individuals to maintain their freedom and enjoy their lives.

Transit networks like CTN and Citilink are doing all they can but need support to do more. It is simple math: when more people can get to work our economy improves. When more people stay in their homes longer, our economy improves. Companies can do more, employees can earn more, and in turn, everyone can spend more.



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