



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Release**

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Planning is under way to improve access to transportation for people in Door County. Door-Tran is committed to finding affordable, available, and accessible transportation for Door County residents. "Research has been an intricate and ongoing project of Door-Tran and this opportunity for Easterseal's to help with a current needs assessment will allow us to keep people moving in Door County", said Pam Busch, Mobility Manager for Door-Tran.

Door County was among 10 communities selected to receive the Accessible Transportation Community Initiative (ATCI) grant offered by Easterseals Project Action Consulting (ESPAC), which is the consulting arm of Easterseals, Inc. Easterseals is a nonprofit charitable organization that assists more than one million children and adults with disabilities and special needs through a network of more than 550 service sites in the United States, Canada, Australia and Puerto Rico.

Door County was chosen through a very competitive application process in which a commitment to improving access to transportation had to be expressed. Door-Tran submitted an application for the ATCI grant through a team of representatives from the City of Sturgeon Bay, County of Door, Door-Tran, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and United Way of Door County. This team's first step is to host a two-day Accessible Transportation Coalition event. The planning for this event is underway now. "The event is designed to bring our community together to develop a plan to strengthen the availability and accessibility of transportation services locally," Pam Busch, mobility manager at Door Tran, said. "An important way to do that is through a cross-agency approach and the team intends to continue our cooperative efforts after the event."

ESPAC staff will facilitate the two-day coalition event, which will result in the development of an action plan to increase access to transportation. ESPAC will continue to work with Door County 12 months after the event providing technical assistance on the implementation of the action plan.

In addition to the two-day event, the ATCI team is hoping to gather additional information from Door County residents through a Needs Assessment survey that can be accessed on-line at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DoorCountyNeedsAssessment>. Surveys can also be obtained by calling Door-Tran at 920/743-9999 or picking one up at Door-Tran located on 1009 Egg Harbor Road in Sturgeon Bay.