TOWN OF OXFORD
INCLUSIVE HEALTHY COALITION

Food Access Study

CMMPO PRESENTATION
5/21/2025

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Regional Planning Commission

GOAL:

Identify transportation barriers to food resources for vulnerable populations, specifically older adults and persons with disabilities

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STUDY PRIORITIES

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Persons with physical disabilities/limited mobility
- Persons with developmental disabilities
- Older adults (60+)

PRIORITY DESTINATIONS

- Food pantries
- Farmers Markets
- Supermarkets and grocery stores
- Convenience stores / other
- Other essential destinations

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PROJECT SCOPE

Quantitative Data

- Demographics
- Vehicular Traffic patterns
- Transit Access
- Active transportation network
- Food security data
- Essential Destinations

Partner Interviews

- Oxford FoodShelf
- Oxford Senior Center
- Tri-Valley, Inc.
- Oxford Housing Authority

Study Findings

- Travel Patterns
- Interview themes
- Gaps and barriers

Recommendations

- Recommended Activities
- Possible funding resources

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PROJECT TIMELINE

JAN

APRIL

Kick-off Meeting

Introduction to project and scope of services

Initial Findings

Presentation of existing conditions and preliminary findings

Draft Report & Final Presentation

Two Week Review Period

Coalition and town officials will provide feedback on report

Final Report Approved

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FINDINGS

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INTERVIEW THEMES

1. Funding limited to support food delivery/transport programs
2. Growing number of older adults who cannot afford groceries
3. Concerns around possible limitations on SNAP benefits and other safety net services
4. Bag limits on fixed routes challenging for those in need of transit services for grocery shopping

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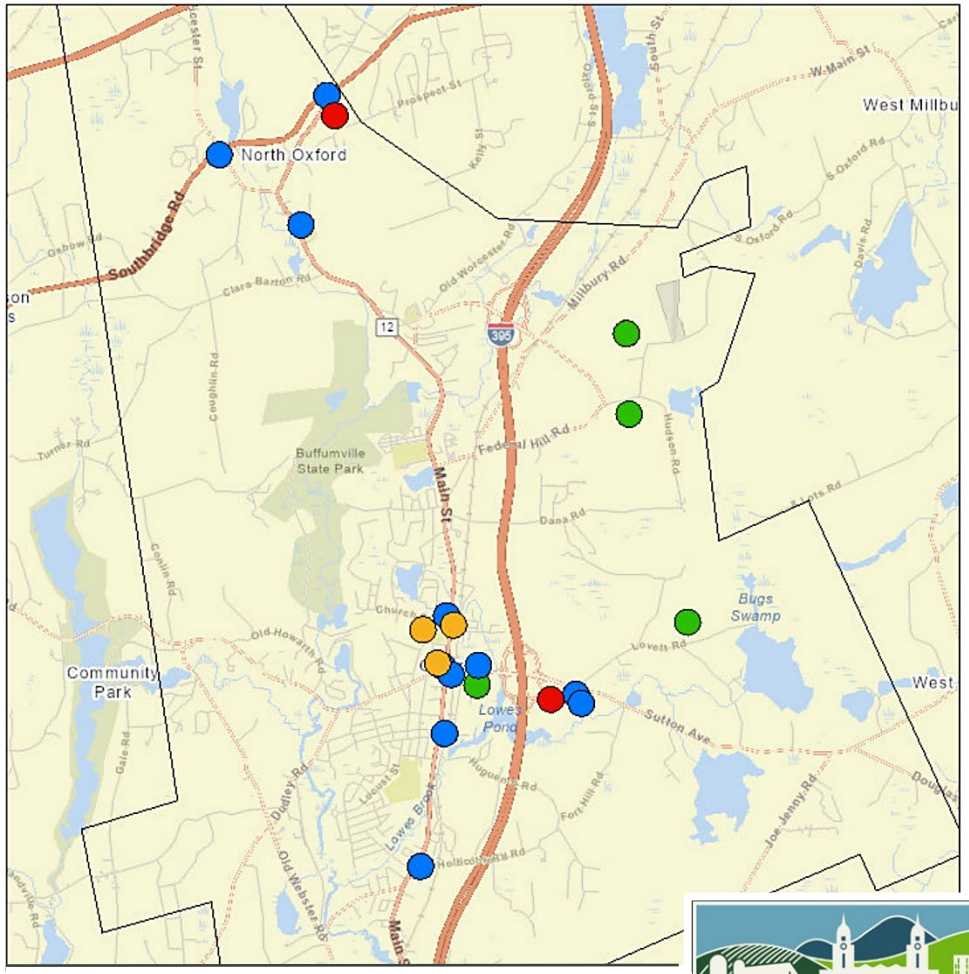
Study Findings

- Dependance on cars over walking/biking or transit
  - Auto passenger rides make up ~22% of rides in Oxford per week
- Pedestrian network and fixed bus routes focus on Main Street and Route 20
- Majority of identified food resources are focused along Main Street and Route 20
- Over half of identified food resources are convenience stores (gas stations, corner stores, etc.)
  - Local farms and Market Basket not located along Main Street or Route 20
- COA van services and Senior Center Van services do not align with Food Pantry hours
  - Impacted by driver shortage



Oxford Food Resources

- Supermarket
- Local farms
- Convenience stores
- Non-Profits and Emergency Food

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Recommendations

First- and Last-mile Connections

Prioritize gap between an individual's origin and/or destination and the existing transportation network along Main Street and Route 20.

Partnership with Private Transportation Providers

Partner with on-demand private transit service to allow service to be available to qualifying residents in Oxford.

Food Pantry / Van Service Alignment

Pursue funding opportunities to expand the capacity of Senior Center or Council on Aging transport services.

Mobilizing Food Resources

Partner with grocers, farmer's market or other food resources to provide food delivery and mobile van services.

Pedestrian Network Improvements

Improvements to sidewalk segments of "fair" or "poor" quality in central and southern Oxford.

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THANK YOU!

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