Minutes Approved

As circulated November 2, 2026
Nov. 16, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday November 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. by President Mitchell. President Mitchell opened the meeting requesting observance of a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by council member Cerra. President Mitchell requested all cell phones please be turned off or placed on silent position out of respect for the council.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Cerra, VanWormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Oswald, Lipian , Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell
OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, SSD Loesch, Finance Director Pileski, Law Director Deery, Police Chief Welsh, Fire Chief Vargo, Engineer Schneider

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting minutes of the October 19th council meeting was moved for approval by Council member Cerra, seconded by Council member Rothgery.
MOTION CARRIED

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor:

Mayor Brubaker introduced the new Chronicle Telegram reporter Garrett Looker and shared that Owen MacMillan resigned and is no longer working for the newspaper. Mr. Looker will cover city council and city business. Mayor Brubaker announced that Elyria Community Partnership Executive Director Monet Roberts was in attendance to provide an update as well as Acting Administrator for Lorain County Karen Perkins and Commissioner Moore to provide a brief presentation regarding the status of VIALorain County. Mayor Brubaker shared that IT Personnel Brian Perez will be in attendance at the November 16th council meeting to provide an overview of the solar panel that was recently installed in the parking lot. The last updated provided from Mayor Brubaker was regarding an area behind the Dollar Tree Store located on Cleveland Street that had a large area of households dumped in the area. The area will be cleaned up by Premier Development.
Council member Oswald inquired about semi-trucks parking in the parking lot in that area. Mayor Brubaker explained the property is private property.
Monet Roberts- 225 East Ave., Elyria Oh. Provided a presentation and update on ECP, Elyria Community Partnership. - https://youtu.be/8De7X54_v7U
Commissioner David Moore/ Karen Perkins- 226 Middle Ave., Elyria, Oh.- Provided a presentation and update on VIALC (VIA Lorain County)- Additional discussion held. President Mitchell referred the matter to the Finance Committee for Monday November 9th.

Elyria Council Meeting 11226.pptx

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued
SSD Director: No Report

Law Director:
Law Director Deery explained the item on the agenda under miscellaneous and unfinished business, is the matter of a new liquor license request for the Bistro on Taylor Street submitted with time sensitivity.

FD:
Finance Director Pileski provided a cash balance report update on the general fund balance that has dropped by $2.56 million since the first of the year, expenditures have exceeded revenues by the 2.56 million amounts in the general fund from January 1st through October 31st. December is another three-payday amount, there are still five pays to post through the remainder of the year.

EPD: No Report
Chief Welsh expressed he didn't have anything new to report on for the evening meeting, however wanted to express concerns regarding the liquor request for the Bistro located at 645 Taylor Street. Chief Welsh asked that the council request a hearing in an effort to hear all appropriate facts that the Police and Law Department would present during the hearing from the last investigation. April 2, 2026, 645 Taylor Street under the LLC of Xanmar Corporation, formally doing business as the Bistro was denied their liquor license renewal by the Division of Liquor Control, due to many safety concerns and complaints.
Law Director provided additional clarification regarding the property ownership in that it is owned by Xanmar Realty, ho was the entity operating the business when they lost their license in April 2026. In July 2026 a new LLC was filed with the Secretary of State, that entity has filed for a new liquor license at the same location. Law Director Deery anticipated having additional discussion on the matter when it comes up on the agenda under miscellaneous and unfinished business, regarding the ownership remaining with same entity that initial lost their liquor license.
Law Director Deery advised council to request a hearing.
Council member Lipian stated the Bistro is in his ward and he has had many complaints, he strongly suggests a hearing.
President Mitchell expressed a concern with e-bikes.
Council member Armstrong inquired about staffing. Chief Welsh stated staffing is down due to retirements. Some personnel changes are necessary in regard to the traffic unit.
Council member Oswald reminded residents to check on fire alarms with the change of setting clocks back.

EPD: No Report
Fire Chief Vargo confirmed the best time that Elyria Fire encourages residents to change their carbon monoxide and smoke detectors is during the time change.

ENGINEER: No Report
Council member Armstrong inquired about updates on the pocket park. Engineer Schneider responded he would have Engineer McKillips follow-up with Council member Armstrong.

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued
President Mitchell express how impressed she is with how nice the pocket park is coming along. Council member Lipian inquired about safe routes to school. Engineer Schneider shared there are a few more things that need to be done, such as installations, pavement markings and signs.

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:
** Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter of a request of an encroachment agreement for the Chronicle Telegram building located at 225 East Avenue, Elyria, OH.
REFERRED BY: BILL HUDNUTT
REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/FINANCE

2. The matter of a conditional use for a home animal husbandry accessory.
REFERRED BY: CITY PLANNER SCHOENIG
REFERRED TO: PLANNING COMMISSION/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3. The matter of request to update the Design Review Guidelines.
REFERRED BY: CITY PLANNER SCHOENIG
REFERRED TO: PLANNING COMMISSION/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4. The matter of revisions to Part Eleven, Planning and Zoning Code.
REFERRED BY: CITY PLANNER SCHOENIG
REFERRED TO: PLANNING COMMISSION/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

5. The matter of contract approvals for 2027: McCaulley & Company LLC - Lobby and Grant Writing Services and Bricker Graydon Wyatt LLP- Legal Services.
REFERRED BY: MAYOR BRUBAKER
REFERRED TO: FINANCE

6. The matter of disposal of city property unfit for municipal use: IBM # 1310.
REFERRED BY: PWS EYE
REFERRED TO: FINANCE

7. The matter of a moral claim as requested by Christina Smith.
REFERRED BY: SSD LOESCH
REFERRED TO: FINANCE

8. The matter of entering into an agreement for the East Rec. Roof Project.
REFERRED BY: P&R DIR REARDON
REFERRED TO: FINANCE/UTILITIES

9. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Local Public Agency (LPA) agreement with ODOT for the LOR SR 57 18.990 project.

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:
REFERRED BY: ENGINEER SCHNEIDER
REFERRED TO: FINANCE/UTILITIES

Items 10 - 11 received and placed on file in the clerk's office:
10. List of items received collected by each division of the Clerk of court's office for September 2026
11. Approved Claim for Damage: Belinda Brown

7. PETITIONS--LOBBY: None

8. PETITIONS--COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Misc. & Unfinished Bus.

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING: None

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:

Sponsored by Finance
P. Tollett
C. Schneider
B. Davis
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 145
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE A NEW TOOL TRUCK BODY FOR A CHASSIS CAB FOR THE WATER DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT, THROUGH A PARTICIPATING PURCHASING PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE OF OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION		EMRGENCY		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by Finance
C. Schneider
P. Tollett
B. Davis
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-146
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2026-34, KNOWN AS THE "2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE," TO CHANGE FUNDS IN VARIOUS ACCOUNTS.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by Finance
P. Tollett
C. Schneider
B. Davis
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-147
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE RADIOS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE ELYRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT, THROUGH THE STATE PURCHASING PROGRAM OR EQUIVALENT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Van Wormer seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION		EMRGENCY		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by Utilities
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald
B. Davis
G. Rothgery
B. Armstrong
Finance
P. Tollett
C. Schneider
B. Davis
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-148
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 EMERGENCY SANITARY AND STORM SEWER REPAIRS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Davis moved, Armstrong seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION		EMRGENCY		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0

MOTION CARRIED

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Sponsored by Utilities
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald
B. Davis
G. Rothgery
B. Armstrong
Finance
P. Tollett
C. Schneider
B. Davis
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-149
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH K.E. MCCARTNEY & ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE SPRING VALLEY STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Davis moved, Rothgery seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION		EMRGENCY		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by Utilities
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald
B. Davis
G. Rothgery
B. Armstrong
Finance
P. Tollett
C. Schneider
B. Davis
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-150
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR), AND ACCEPT, IF OFFERED, THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Davis moved, Armstrong seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION		EMRGENCY		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0

MOTION CARRIED

14. ORDINANCES--SECOND READING:

Sponsored by Community Development
C. Schneider
E. Doehne
D. Mitchell

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE SECTION 1119.02, OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE MAP, TO REZONE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 420-428 OBERLIN ROAD, ELYRIA, OHIO, FROM CORRIDOR DISTRICT TO COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

Public Hearing Scheduled 11/16/2026

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Mon. 11/9/2026 Immediately following Community Development. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/ C. Schneider, Mayor, Law Dir. Fin. Dir., SSD, Engr.

JOINT CD/FINANCE
Mon. 11/9/2026 Immediately following Community Development. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/ C. Schneider, Chr., w/ P. Tollett, Chr., Mayor, Law Dir. Fin. Dir., SSD, Engr.

JOINT FINANCE/UTILITIES
Mon. 11/9/2026 Immediately following Community Development. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/ C. Schneider, Chr., w/ D. Mitchell, Chr., Mayor, Law Dir. Fin. Dir., SSD, Engr.

FINANCE
Mon. 11/9/2026 Immediately following Finance/Utilities All Referred Items Council Chambers Chr., w/ P. Tollett, Chr., Mayor, Law Dir. Fin. Dir., SSD, Engr.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Mon. 11/16/2026 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items Council Chambers W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Director, Law Director, Engineer

17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Sponsored by Community Development
C. Schneider
E. Doehne
D. Mitchell

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2026-6
THE MATTER OF A NEW LIQUOR PERMIT FOR TE SLT BISTRO, LLC LOCATED AT 645 TAYLOR STREET, ELYRIA, OH. 44035 AND THE CITY OF ELYRIA DOES REQUEST A HEARING.

Schneider requested that City of Elyria does request a hearing, Lipian seconded.

SUSPENSION		PASSAGE	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes Approved

As circulated November 2, 2026
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18. ADJOURNMENT:

Davis moved, Schneider seconded to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Victor Stewart, III
Clerk of Council

Donna Mitchell
President of Council

YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoudE-puvR0

Rlp/

ORDER

Mailed: April 2, 2026

VIA CERTIFIED, FIRST CLASS, & E-MAIL
Article # 9214 7969 0099 9790 1659 9358 66
Xanmar M77 LLC
c/o Marsha Bodiford
645 Taylor Street
Elyria, OH 44035
a1bizness@aol.com

VIA CERTIFIED, FIRST CLASS, & E-MAIL
Article # 214 7969 0099 9790 1659 9371 43
Xanmar M77 LLC
c/o Marsha Bodiford
475 Moreley Ave.
Akron, OH 44320
mbodiford01@gmail.com

RE: 2025-2026 Renewal Application
Permit #09804038-1, Class D-2-2x-3-3a
Xanmar M77 LLC
dba The Bistro on Taylor Street
645 Taylor Street
Elyria, OH 44035

Dear Ms. Bodiford:

The Division of Liquor Control has carefully considered this renewal application for the issuance of a Class D-2-2x-3-3a liquor permit. The Division held a hearing beginning on February 23, 2026, concluding on March 2, 2026, at the request of the Elyria City Council upon their objection to the renewal of this permit. The Division has reviewed the application, information gathered from various documents and reports, and the evidence admitted at the hearing.

The Division denies and rejects this renewal application for the issuance of a Class D-2-2x-3-3a liquor permit based upon the following grounds and facts:

1) The applicant has not disclosed all those persons having a legal or beneficial ownership interest in the business. R.C. 4303.293(A), 4303.27, 4303.14 (D-2), 4303.141(D-2X), 4303.15(D-3), and 4303.16(D-3A)

2) The place for which the permit is sought does not conform to the building, safety, or health requirements of the governing body of the county or municipality in which the place is located. R.C. 4303.292(A)(2)(a).

3) A permit business at this location has been operated in a manner that demonstrates a disregard for the laws, regulations, or local ordinances of this State. R.C. 4303.292(A)(1)(b).

4) The place for which the permit is sought is so located with respect to the neighborhood that substantial interference with public decency, sobriety, peace, or good order would result from the renewal of the permit and operation thereunder by the applicant. R.C. 4303.292(A)(2)(c).

Background

This renewal application for a class D-2-2x-3-3a liquor permit was filed with the Division on September 30, 2025. As disclosed in all documentation filed with the Division, the sole member of Xanmar M77 LLC is Marsha Bodiford.

Xanmar M77 LLC is the named permitholder at the premises located at 645 Taylor St. in Elyria, which is in a mixed-used area. The permit premises, known as "The Bistro", is adjacent to both residential properties and commercial businesses. The premises property is leased to the permitholder by Xanmar Realty LLC, an entity controlled by Alex and Marsha Bodiford. Alex Bodiford identifies himself as the owner of The Bistro.

Notably, The Bistro has not been operated by Xanmar M77 LLC or its employees since at least 2022, but rather by Cinqua Thomas and Takori Brown. Together, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Brown have registered a Limited Partnership with the Ohio Secretary of State's Office, "Assiduous Sisters L.P.", listing the 645 Taylor St. permit premises address as the partnership's principal place of business. Testimony by Alex Bodiford at the Division hearing indicated that he had turned over day-to-day operations to Ms. Thomas and Ms. Brown through a management agreement though no transfer of the liquor permit has ever been filed with the Division. Mr. Bodiford's testimony further indicated that he felt his ability to take action was limited due to the management agreement and claimed to have very little knowledge of the ongoing issues that are described below. Also, during the life of this liquor permit, a separate "The Bistro on Taylor LLC" filed Articles of Organization with the Ohio Secretary of State's Office on May 17, 2021, also listing their principal place of business as 645 Taylor St. The authorized representatives listed for that LLC are Michael Bodiford and Deandre Smith. Marsha Bodiford, the sole member of the permitholder LLC, did not appear at the Division hearing and is notably absent from the record for what is purportedly her business. Undoubtedly, the multitude of entities and individuals involved with The Bistro is confusing, but what is clear is that the licensed permitholder, Xanmar M77 LLC, is allowing individuals and entities other than itself to operate the liquor permit business and those operations have been detrimental to the surrounding residential neighborhood and adjacent commercial businesses.

The Bistro building is a single-story complex with small parking areas on the north and east side of the building with no more than 13 parking spaces. The certificate of occupancy for The Bistro issued by the Elyria Building Official establishes an occupancy level of 80 people. The building is constructed of wood and has no sprinkler system.

2022

The Elyria Police Department has been aware of problems at The Bistro since at least 2022. On May 6, 2022, officers responded to the permit premises for shots fired at 3:25 a.m. The investigation immediately raised concerns of after-hours operations, crowd control, and safety. Shortly thereafter, the Police Department was notified of various complaints about The Bistro from residents in the neighborhood. The neighboring business, Parker Aerospace, also reported in June of 2022 ongoing issues involving unauthorized parking by Bistro patrons in their lot, damage to landscaped areas, and excessive accumulation of trash left behind after weekend nights.

There were six case reports associated with the Bistro in 2022 and 30 calls for service emanating from the location. The six cases include a patron's vehicle stolen from the parking lot, patrons assaulting other patrons in the parking lot, an intoxicated patron fleeing police with a firearm while in possession of controlled substances, and a hit-and-run vehicle collision between patrons. Several of these case reports originate with a noise complaint that triggered police dispatch to The Bistro. Due to the large number of incidents at The Bistro and the community complaints,

police determined to begin specified mandatory "directed enforcement activities" in the area to deter ongoing problems. This increased level of sustained and repeated deployment to deal with the problems emanating from The Bistro represents a significant strain on police resources.

2023

Despite these efforts, complaints of large crowds, loud music, intoxicated patrons, physical fights, and misuse of neighboring parking lots continued. Nearby residents and business representatives from Parker Aerospace reported that their adjacent parking lot was being used by The Bistro patrons as an extension of the bar, with dozens of vehicles, loud music, drinking, wild driving, and littering observed with regularity. Residents reported feeling unsafe in their homes. It was becoming apparent that these issues were not merely isolated incidents but a clear byproduct of The Bistro's standard business operations. On March 8, 2023, representatives of the Elyria Police Department met with Alex and Michael Bodiford. Michael Bodiford identified as a manager of the establishment. The nature of the neighborhood complaints were discussed and an amicable discussion occurred regarding remedial steps that could be taken to alleviate the issues and reduce future complaints.

Five case reports were associated with The Bistro in 2023 and there were a total of 27 calls for service. These reports included an incident where upon arrival, police observed 30-40 people shouting and pushing each other outside The Bistro. After the crowd was largely dispersed, officers discovered a patron inside the bar with significant injuries. The patron had facial swelling, lacerations, and a head wound, and reported being punched, kicked and robbed of his wallet and cash by 7-8 unknown males in The Bistro parking lot. Another individual reported being punched in the head and having their cell phone stolen.

Significantly, an assault that took place on March 26, 2023, was reported by a patron who stated she was leaving The Bistro around 5:00 a.m. with a friend. They were being escorted out by Cinqua Thomas (who identified as one of the owners of The Bistro). While being escorted out, the patron was followed out of The Bistro by other individuals, who then began assaulting the patron. Cinqua Thomas joined in on the assault against the patron she was escorting which resulted in the patron sustaining facial injuries requiring stitches and a wrist sprain. In connection to these facts, Ms. Thomas—the same individual entrusted by Alex Bodiford to manage the establishment—was convicted of assault in Elyria Municipal Court in case number 2023CRB01179 on August 14, 2023.

2024

Four case reports were associated with The Bistro in 2024 and there were a total of 26 calls for service. One of these reports involved an intoxicated driver who had come from The Bistro and collided with a nearby fence. Another incident originated with reports of a large fight involving weapons at The Bistro. While on scene, officers observed a crowd in the parking lot and the adjacent lot of Vitalant, a second neighboring business. After ordering the crowd to disperse, Cinqua Thomas exited The Bistro and went to the Vitalant parking lot. Upon receiving instructions to leave the area, she swung a snow brush toward a parked vehicle striking a plastic cup which splashed an alcoholic beverage onto one of the responding officers. Additionally, she failed to provide identifying information when requested. She was subsequently convicted on December 4, 2024, of disorderly conduct and failure to disclose information to law enforcement in Elyria Municipal Court case 2024CRB02616.

Ms. Thomas was not the only party to the management agreement convicted of a criminal offense in the month of December, as Takori Brown, the other half of Assiduous Sisters, LP, was charged with possessing weapons while under disability and possession of a controlled substance.

Ultimately, those charges were dismissed, and Ms. Brown instead plead to and was convicted on December 23, 2024, of misdemeanor attempted possession of a controlled substance in Elyria Municipal Court case 2024CRB03260. In fact, she was represented in this criminal case by Alex Bodiford according to the court's online docket system. There is no evidence suggesting this attempted drug possession case involves The Bistro directly, however it remains concerning that these undisclosed parties are managing and carrying out the liquor permit business while committing and being convicted of criminal violations.

Other cases reported in 2024 involved fights of varying nature emanating from the permit premises.

2025

On March 9, 2025, an overcrowding incident was documented at The Bistro with approximately 170 individuals observed inside, more than double the approved occupancy of 80. Footage from police officers' body-worn cameras presented at the Division hearing reflects a chaotic scene and a building packed with people shoulder to shoulder in a tightly confined space as authorities attempt to disperse the crowds.

Twenty days later, on March 29, 2025, another overcrowding incident was documented. Body-worn camera from this incident also reflects a small building with limited means of egress full of people in excess of the permitted occupancy, demonstrating a disregard by the business operators for the safety of their patrons. As a result, the City of Elyria Fire Department issued an order to vacate and citations under the fire code were issued following a fire safety inspection. During this incident, an officer attempted to stop an individual who began to run and ditched a firearm—loaded magazine with a round chambered—on the hood of a vehicle occupied by several individuals while fleeing.

At the same time, in the early morning hours of March 29, 2025, a health inspection was conducted by Lorain County Public Health. The health inspector noted violations for temperature, smoking, paperwork and cleanliness issues. The smoking violation was due to the presence of ashtrays on two tables with burned and unburned tobacco product in combination with the presence of an odor of both tobacco and marijuana smoke in the facility. The inspection revealed "copious amount of mouse feces, both recent and old" in a storage locker just outside the cooking area near the dining area.

On May 24, 2025, at approximately 2:43 a.m., two patrons were leaving The Bistro. While attempting to leave the neighboring Vitalant parking lot, commonly used by Bistro patrons, an unknown individual waiting nearby ambushed their vehicle firing multiple rounds striking one of the patrons and his vehicle. At least eight .40 caliber shell casings were recovered and an additional three 7.62 caliber casings consistent with an AK-47 were located nearby. Investigation by law enforcement appeared to indicate that at least some shots were also fired from the fleeing patron's vehicle outward toward the surrounding neighborhood.

On July 26, 2025, at approximately 2:59 a.m., Elyria Police responded to The Bistro due to reports of a male who had been stabbed in the neck during a disturbance around closing time. Officers were unable to immediately locate the injured party and received minimal cooperation from bar management. Witnesses reported that a knife fight occurred in the parking lot and that it involved an unidentified male with a knife assaulting two other unidentified males. No victim was found. However, at approximately 4:00 a.m., officers were again dispatched to the area for reports of a stabbing involving the same set of facts, and they then located a victim with a laceration to the left ear and neck, consistent with knife wounds. The victim acknowledge involvement in the

reported incident but refused to identify the suspects or to cooperate in the investigation. The victim was treated by Elyria Fire Department personnel and refused any further care.

There were four case reports in 2025, all of which are briefly described above, and a total of 11 calls for service. While there were fewer calls for service at the permit premises in 2025 than in the previous year, the nature of the calls was undeniably more serious.

Neighborhood Impact

Residents of neighboring homes and neighboring businesses have been making complaints about operations at The Bistro since late 2020 and through 2025.

At the Division hearing, multiple neighbors testified about their complaints and provided videos documenting select incidents related to The Bistro. The three residents who testified described witnessing multiple fights connected to large gatherings at The Bistro, "burnouts" by patrons on the neighboring Parker Aerospace lot, loud music in the middle of the night that vibrated their homes, and the use of large fireworks fired by patrons of The Bistro directly over their homes on July 4, 2025, which caused neighbors to be concerned about potential fires. Bistro patrons would park in a nearby resident's driveway when the various lots would become full. One resident described being terrified by The Bistro because of several incidents of gunshots and fights.

Parker Aerospace, located across the street from The Bistro, has documented numerous incidents affecting their employees and operations, including a shooting that occurred on or about September 8, 2023, in which a stray bullet from The Bistro parking lot shattered one of their windows. Over time, Parker Aerospace leadership determined to advance the timeline on planned security upgrades due to the ongoing issues with The Bistro. In 2023, a fence project was completed around the Parker Aerospace property which cost more than $250,000 and upgraded cameras were installed. Parker Aerospace leadership attempted to discuss the issues with Alex Bodiford on multiple occasions without success. On multiple occasions, Parker employees reported that on Friday or Monday mornings there would be groups of individuals in the middle of the road between The Bistro and their employee parking lot. These individuals would not move when cars attempted to use the road to enter the parking lot. Employees reported feeling unsafe as a result and leadership ultimately had to instruct these employees to use a different driveway on a different side of the property.

Closing

The Bistro is being operated by undisclosed parties with a beneficial interest in the profits of this liquor permit business. Further, it is being operated in violation of building, health, and safety regulations. The liquor permit premises have been operated without regard for the law and management has committed crimes resulting in conviction during their management of the liquor permit business; to wit, assaulting one of their own patrons, and disorderly conduct and lack of cooperation with law enforcement. Neighboring residents and commercial businesses have reported an ongoing pattern of substantial interference that spans years.

5) The Division also denies and rejects this application for good cause pursuant to its general authority to grant or refuse permits. The Division has considered environmental factors affecting the maintenance of public decency, sobriety, and good order, including the number and location of permit premises in the immediate area, as authorized or required by law. R.C. 4301.10(A)(2) and O.A.C. 4301:1-1-12(B).

The pleadings and facts recited in one (1) through four (4) above are restated as if fully rewritten herein.

You may appeal this Order to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. If you choose to appeal this Order, you must file a notice of appeal within 30 days of the mailing date of this Order with the:

Liquor Control Commission
77 South High Street, 18th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108
(614) 466-3132
lcc.ohio.gov

Your notice of appeal should contain a statement of your reasons for appealing.

You must attach a copy of this Order to your notice of appeal.

If a notice of appeal is not filed with the Liquor Control Commission within 30 days of the mailing date of this Order, this Order will become final.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline DeGenova

Jacqueline DeGenova
Superintendent

cc:

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Michael J. Lotko, III, Clerk
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Elyria Council Meeting

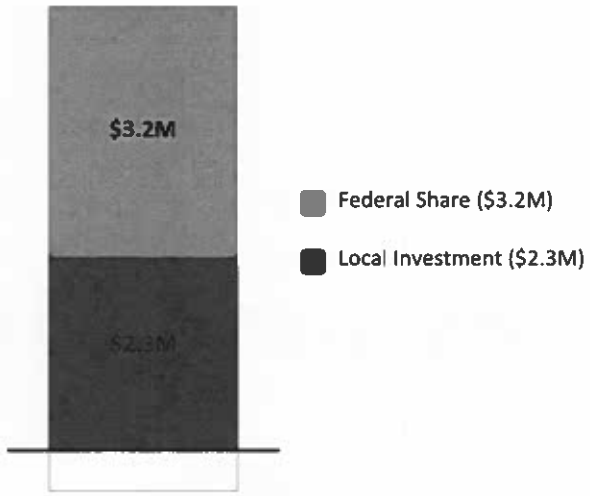


November 2026

Cost of Service Contracts

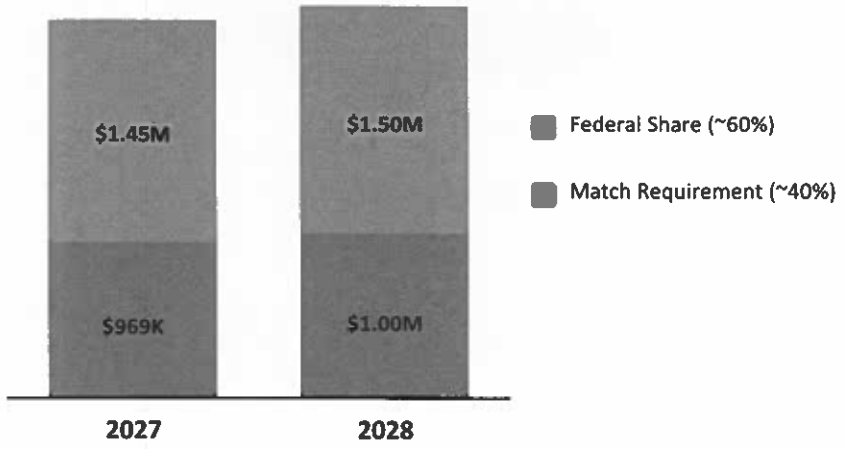
2024 – 2026 Contract Breakdown

Total Current Spend: **$4.40M**



Proposed Contract Extension

Projections for 2027 ($2.42M) & 2028 ($2.50M)



Elyria Stats

Total Rides

104,335

Completed since launch*

Active Riders

3,965

Registered active users*

Monthly Volume

8,682

Avg rides / month in 2026

Cost Efficiency

$23.40

Avg cost per ride in 2026

Rider Growth*

+530 / mo avg

Total new accounts created across ViaLC per month in 2026, with a peak spike in August of **647**.

Rider Experience

4.8 / 5

Average ride rating score across all ViaLC completed journeys.

Safety Record

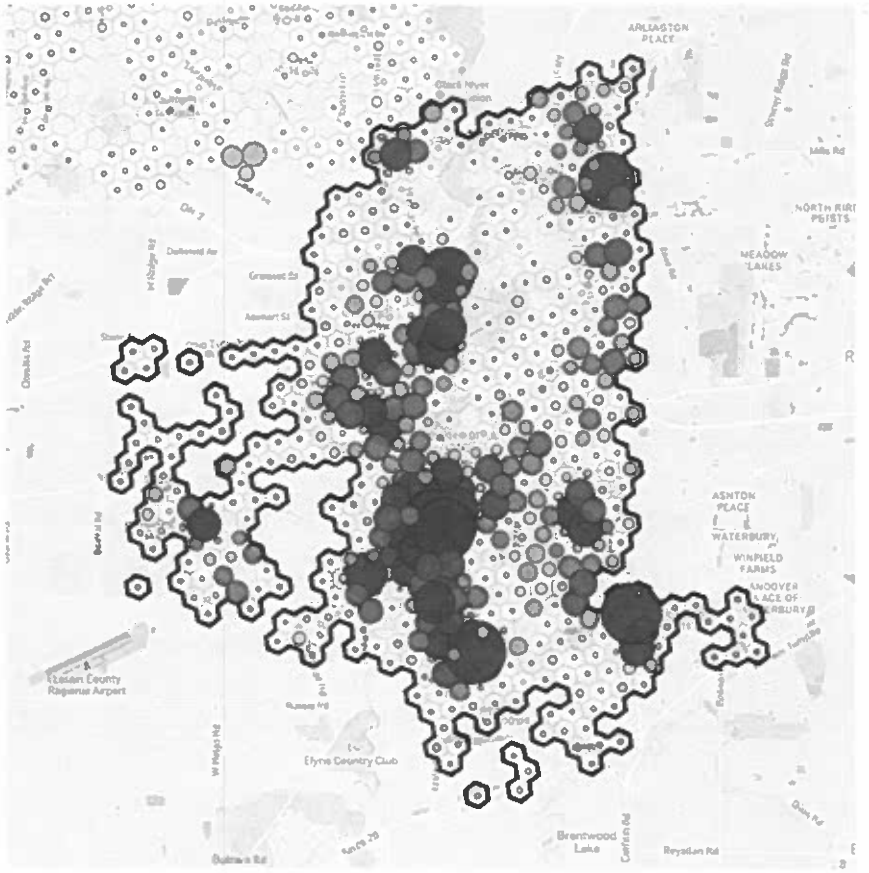
Zero

FTA qualifying safety incidents recorded during the service period.

*July 2024 - September 2026

Top Elyria Destinations

- Elyria High School
  - 2,610 Riders
- Commercial areas; Midway Mall, Hunters Crossing/Walmart, Aldi, Downtown Elyria
  - 6,373 Riders
- Lorain Community College
  - 2,958 Riders
- UH Elyria Medical Center
  - 429 Riders



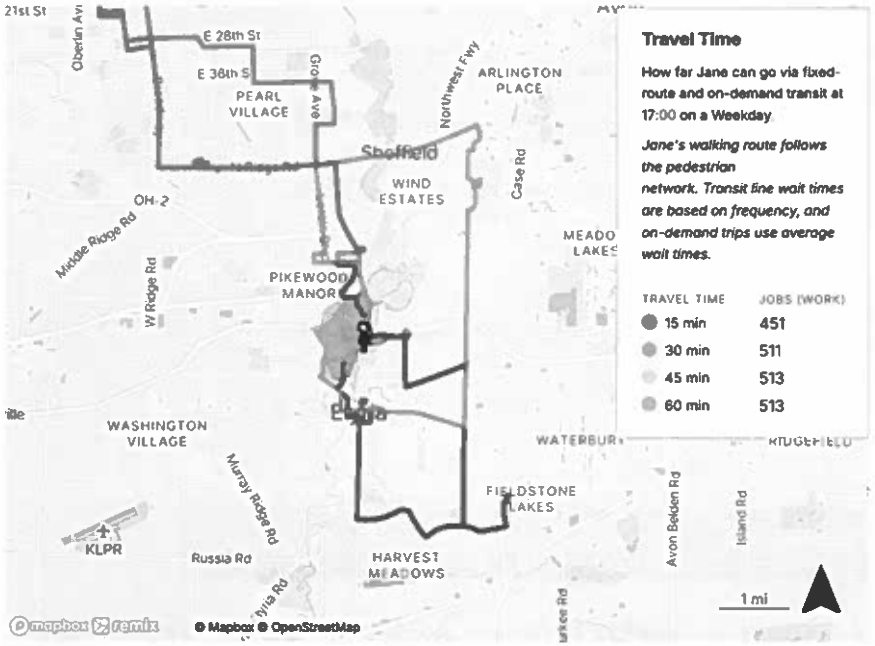
*2026 YTD Data

ViaLC drives economic impact in the City of Elyria

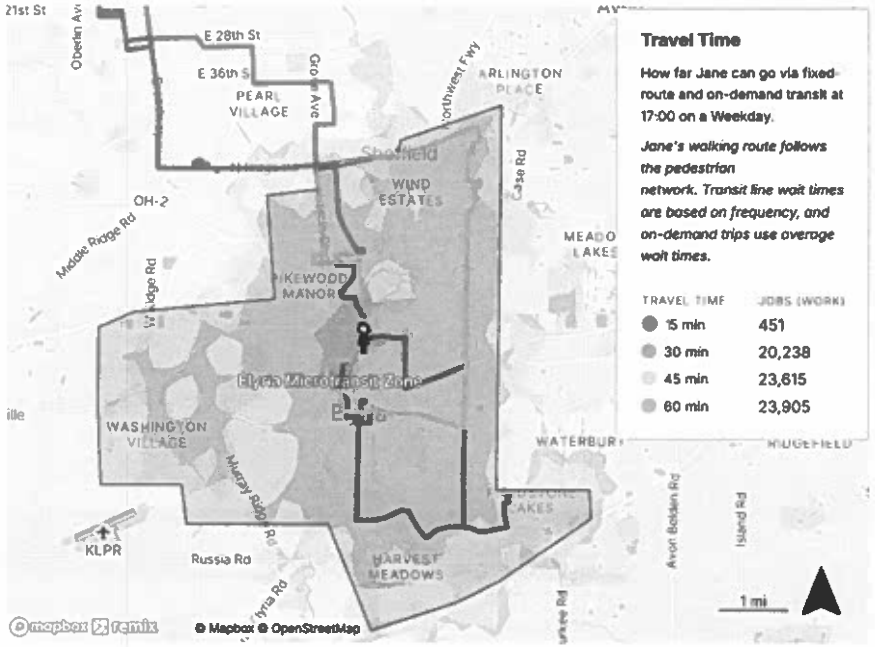
Rank	Destination	Type	Completed rides (PAX)
1	Walmart Supercenter - Chestnut Commons	Retail	2141
2	CSL Plasma - Midway Blvd	Employment / services	728
3	Mr. Hero - Middle Ave	Food	328
4	Giant Eagle	Grocery	326
5	Dollar Tree - Chestnut Commons	Retail	295
6	Target - Market Dr	Retail	269
7	McDonald's - Broad St	Food	256
8	Apples Market - 230 Abbe Rd N	Grocery	228
9	Planet Fitness - W River Rd N	Fitness	208
10	Romeo's Pizza - Chestnut Commons	Food	180

ViaLC Provides Meaningful Access to Jobs

BEFORE



WITH ViaLC



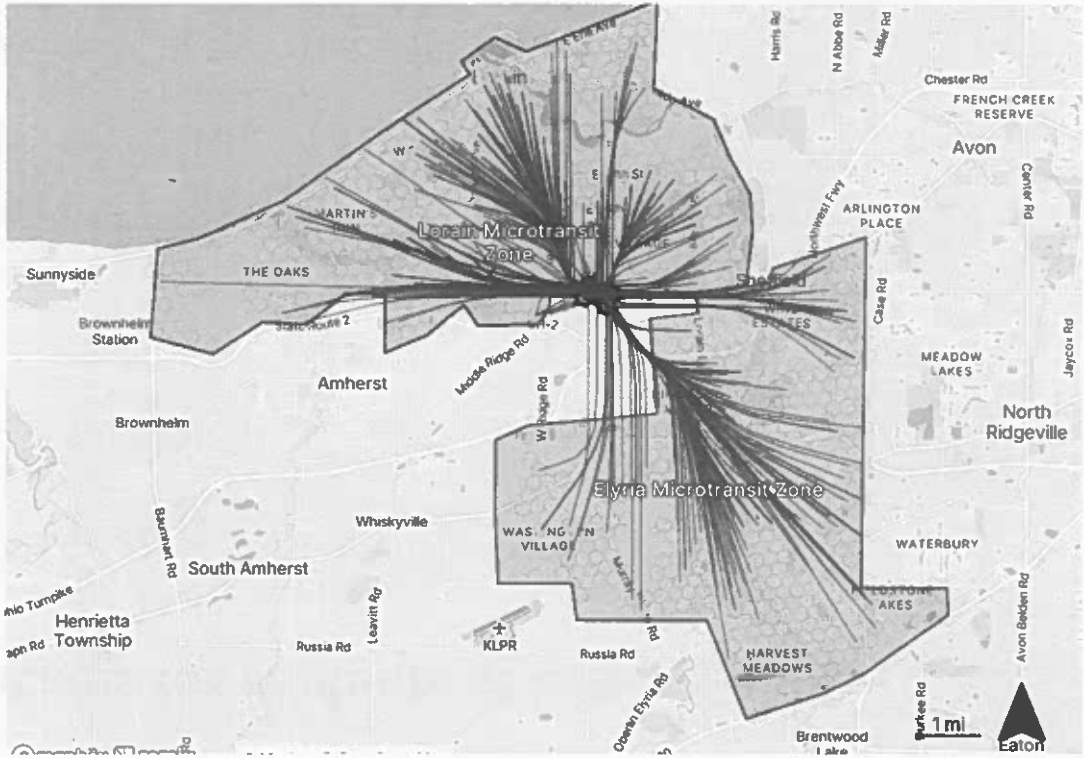
The JFS Transfer Point Has Been Instrumental in Allowing Safe & Efficient Transfers Across Both Service Areas

~900

Number of riders who have traveled to the Transfer Point

~700

Number of riders who have traveled from the Transfer Point



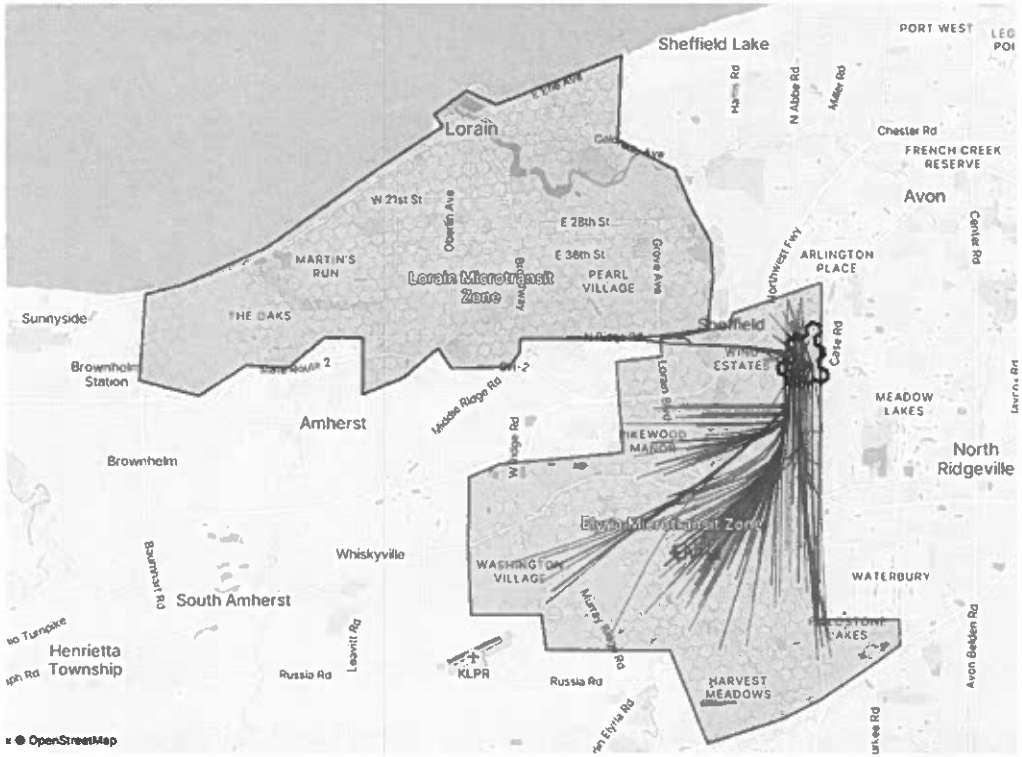
ViaLC provides important access for students at Lorain County Community College

1,675

Number of rides to LCCC in 2026

1,450

Number of rides from LCCC in 2026



ViaLC Survey Results

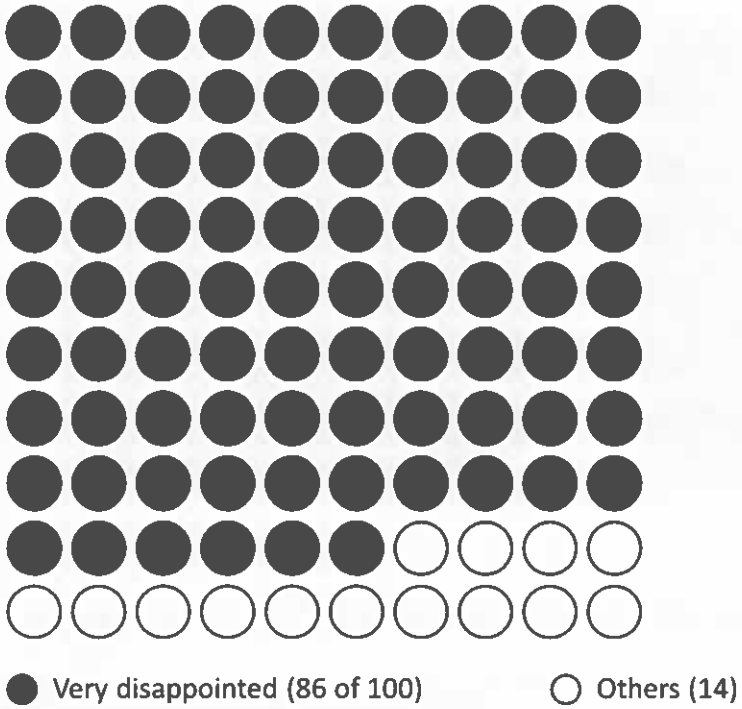
In September Via posted a survey available to all riders in Lorain County:

84%
Riders who do not have access to a personal vehicle

64%
Riders who use the service all or most of the time as their main form of transportation

55%
Riders with an annual income under $25K

86 out of 100 riders would be very disappointed to lose ViaLC

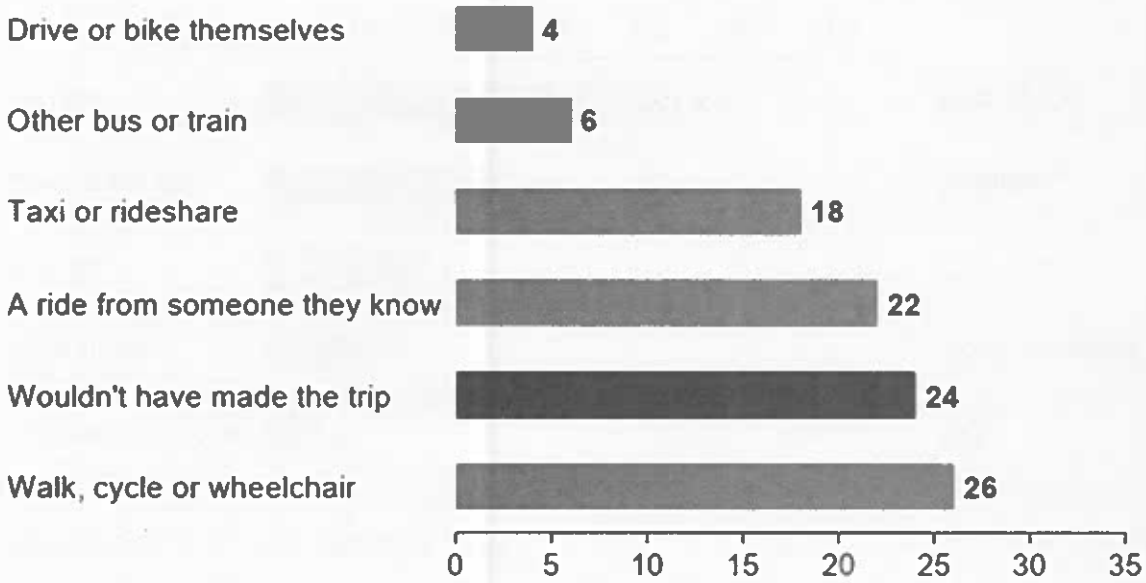


91%
of riders who use ViaLC for most or all of their trips would be very disappointed

92%
of riders without a personal car would be very disappointed

Without ViaLC, 1 in 4 trips wouldn't happen at all

How would you have made your most recent trip if ViaLC weren't an option?



1 in 4

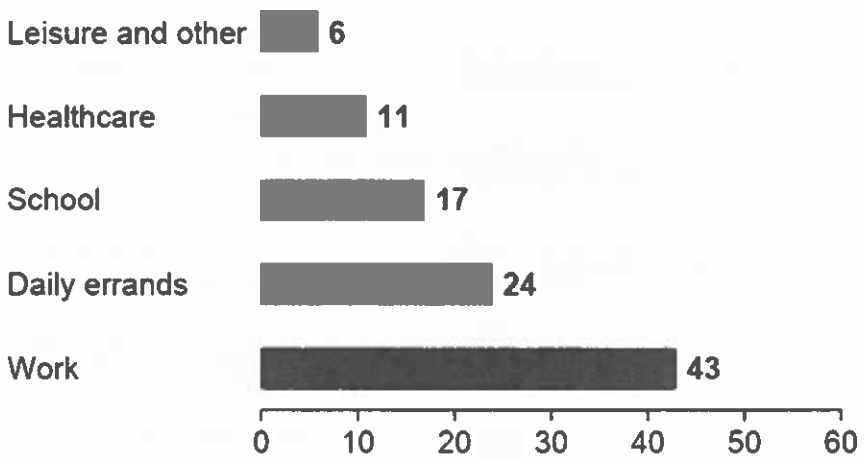
riders say their most recent trip would not have happened without ViaLC

1%

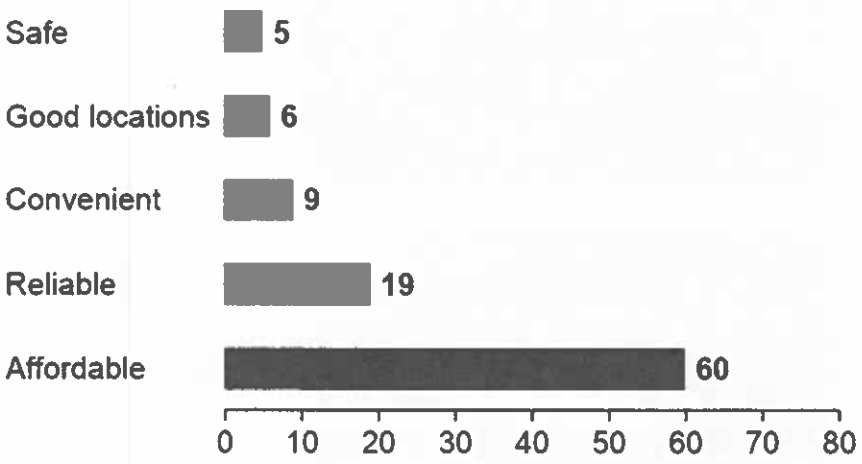
would have driven themselves instead

ViaLC gets people to work, school, the doctor and the store

Where riders go most often (n = 89)



Why riders choose ViaLC (n = 88)

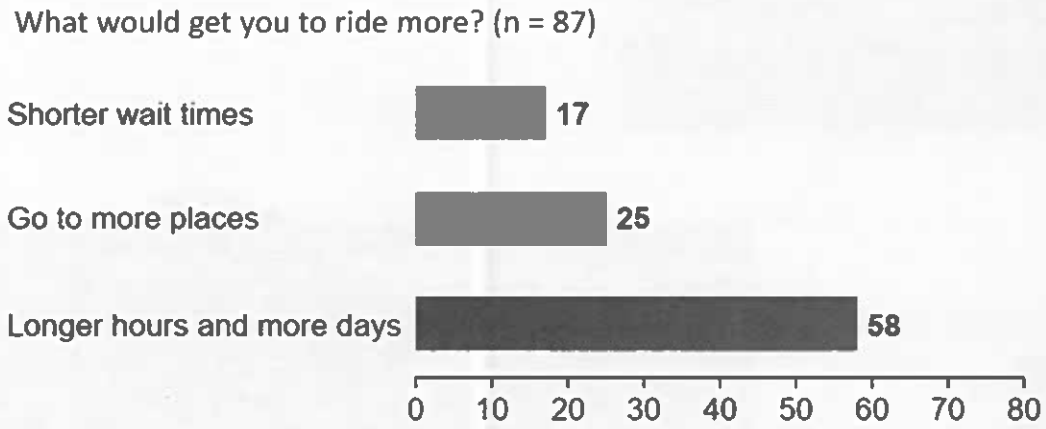


66% say it saves them money

44% travel more often

13% spend less time getting around

Riders want more ViaLC, not less



"

If you had Sunday hours I could go to church and if your hours were later in the evening let's say 9:00 I could take a better job

~30

riders asked for weekend service in their own words

61%

volunteered to join a rider testing panel

64%

are open to a follow-up conversation with Via

n = 77 for testing panel and follow-up.

ViaLC is a critical service to riders in Lorain County

> *Since my work injury, I've lost nearly everything. ViaLC allows me to be able to care for my grandmother and myself. I no longer have a car, and ViaLC has been a blessing not just to me but for the entire community.*

> *It has been an absolute life saver! I am a senior, disabled lady with no help or transportation of my own.*

> *I don't have a license or a car, so this service is invaluable to me.*

Riders will be deeply impacted by the loss of service

[redacted]

Quote pulled from survey

[redacted]

Thank You!