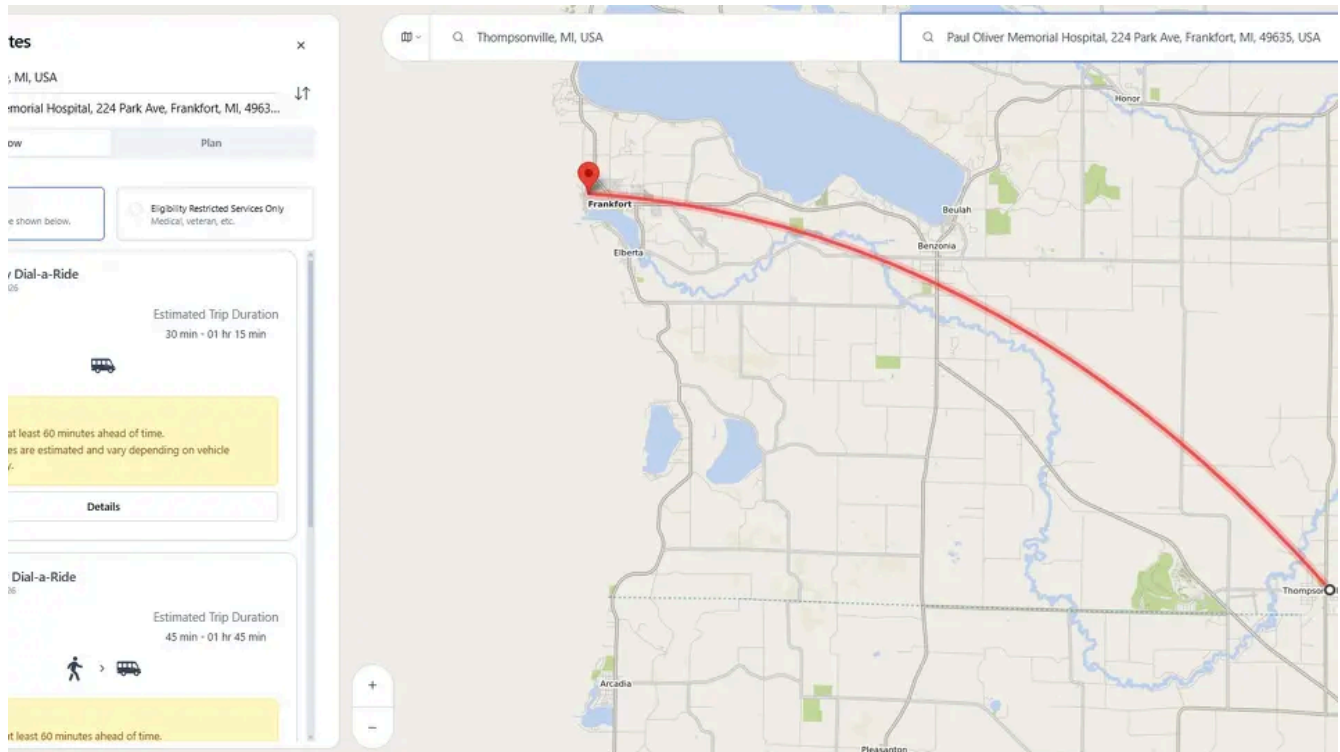


# Benzie Bus highlights tool to simplify transit planning

[recordpatriot.com/news/article/benzie-bus-highlights-tool-simplify-transit-22243089.php](https://recordpatriot.com/news/article/benzie-bus-highlights-tool-simplify-transit-22243089.php)

Colin Merry

May 8, 2026



Benzie Bus is encouraging riders to use an online trip-planning tool developed through the Advancing Rural Mobility pilot project to help residents navigate public transportation options in Benzie County and surrounding areas.

Screenshot courtesy of Michigan Trip Planner

HONOR — [Benzie Bus](#) is encouraging riders to use an online trip-planning tool developed through the [Advancing Rural Mobility](#) pilot project to help residents navigate public transportation options in Benzie County and surrounding areas.

Users can enter a starting point, destination and preferred travel time to view available local and regional transit options. The platform also provides updated service information, including delays and route changes.

The tool was funded through a [U.S. Department of Transportation SMART grant](#) and is part of a statewide initiative involving 15 public transit agencies, including systems in Benzie, Manistee and Wexford counties.

Benzie Bus officials said the tool is intended to improve access to transportation information and expand mobility options in rural communities.

“A rider traveling from Thompsonville to Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital in Frankfort can quickly view available options and plan the trip with confidence,” the release stated.

Benzie Bus was one of the first Michigan transit authorities to use the system, beginning in 2024 alongside Charlevoix County Transit, Roscommon County Transportation Authority and WexExpress.

The trip planner is available at [mitripplanner.org/help](https://mitripplanner.org/help).

Passengers can schedule transportation by calling Benzie Bus at 231-325-3000 or by visiting [benziebus.com](https://benziebus.com).

Advance scheduling is recommended.