

Handicapped await countywide dial-a-ride

There are plenty of problems with public transportation in southeastern Michigan.

And they are compounded if you're blind or physically handicapped, do not have a regular driver, and live outside the City of Detroit.

One person called Wayne and Oakland counties a "disaster area" for the blind and handicapped.

"It's true," said Stan Toppiwalla, federal aid coordinator for Oakland County. "Moving from one place to another is very, very difficult for the handicapped throughout the region."

In Oakland County, the first attempt to provide countywide dial-a-ride service has been stalled for several reasons. The earliest estimates predict that the system known as Oakland County Advanced Reservation Transit System (OCART) will begin service in July.

"In Oakland County you're radically spread out," said Jean Brinley, who is blind and works for the Anderson Counseling Service in Farmington Hills. "We do have (municipal) dial-a-ride services, but nothing is connected to anything else."

THE PROBLEMS are many and varied:

- There is no countywide dial-a-ride service available in either Wayne or Oakland counties.
- Municipal dial-a-ride services will not cross city boundaries, much less county boundaries.
- Attempts to improve public transportation for the handicapped have been tied up in the Michigan Legislature.
- Taxi service outside the City of Detroit is rare. When it is available,

costs for some are prohibitive.

- Persons willing to become regular drivers for the handicapped are few.
- According to some handicapped persons, their "regular" drivers are undesirable in bad weather.
- Conventional buses run infrequently in the suburbs on weekends, and runs are curtailed in the suburbs between the morning and evening rush hours.

"IT'S NOT LIKE all we're doing is running around to coffee klatches," Mrs. Brinley said. "We need the transportation for work, for the doctor, for shopping."

"We're all reliant on other people and family. There's nothing we can do independently," she said.

Betsy Schrauder, a counselor at Wayne State University, said the deficiency in transit services also affects college students.

"Some students live on campus because of the transportation problem," she said. "Others are lucky enough to get into our pools."

"It limits students in their total activity," she said.

"I know one person who wanted to commute to Wayne State from Wyandotte. The only way he could work around the transit problem was to give up his apartment and living arrangements and move onto campus," she said.

DAVID BANKS, a public health educator for the Detroit-based Society for the Blind, said, "If we moved outside Detroit, half of our clientele couldn't get to us."

"Once we get outside Detroit, the

blind just have a devil of a time finding their way on public transportation," he said. "It's hard for them to get from Detroit to the suburbs and vice-versa."

Ben Pumo, associate director for the Society of the Blind, criticized existing services even more.

"As far as the blind are concerned, suburban public transportation is nonexistent. Once you get beyond the Detroit city line, the frequency of buses is cut by a third," said Pumo, a Westland resident.

"A person can get to and from work, but there are no runs at midday or on the weekends," he said.

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMATA) operates

buses in the suburbs. In spite of the many problems in the state's most populous counties, SEMATA boasts that it is one of the nation's pioneers in public transportation for the handicapped.

According to Marvin Meltzer, a SEMATA spokesman, the transit authority led the way in setting up countywide dial-a-ride service in Macomb, Monroe and Livingston counties.

"We've really been way out in front on this thing," he said.

Efforts to get the countywide service in Wayne and Oakland counties, however, have been roadblocked by a state-ordered moratorium on new bus purchases.

The legislature, Meltzer said, has been haggling over standards concerning services for the handicapped. Some legislators argue that all buses should be equipped with special wheelchair lifts. Others say only a portion need to carry the equipment.

Meltzer said as soon as that impasse is resolved, SEMATA would move forward with plans to put 32 dial-a-ride vehicles on the streets of Wayne County and at least 36 dial-a-ride vans into operation in Oakland County.

THE OCART plan has divided Oakland County into two service areas.

The primary service area covers the county's most densely populated area in the south and east. The 324-square

mile area extends northward from Eight Mile to Dalton Road, just north of Rochester and Pontiac, and stretches westward from Dequindre to Haggerty Road.

That area contains 84 per cent of the county's total population, 87 per cent of the county's elderly population, 84 per cent of its handicapped persons and 90 per cent of the households without an automobile.

The remaining 583 square miles are not densely populated. "The need to serve this area is very real, as is the need to comply with federal legislation in all areas of our county," said a county spokesman.

Initially, 14 dial-a-ride buses will serve this area.



OCART vans would not only provide dial-a-ride service throughout Oakland County, but would tie in to normal regional bus service. As the system is planned, blind and handicapped persons could travel from Oakland County to Detroit, or other parts of the tri-county area. Operation, however, will not begin until at least July 1.

GARAGE DOOR OPENERS

BY ALLIANCE
MODEL GS 450

\$17500

INSTALLED
SOLID STATE
CONTROLS

\$185.00
DIGITAL
CONTROLS

1 YEAR WARRANTY

ANTENNA SERVICE CO.

WESTLAND PARTS & SERVICE PONTIAC
326-7575 335-9079

THE BOARDROOM

For the most interesting ways to keep up appearances.

Somerset Mall • Fairlane Towne Center
(Inside Hughes & Harshen)

Kit-Car and Repli-Car Exhibit
February 20-25

WATCH A 1957 PORSCHE SPEEDSTER BEING BUILT IN THE MALL

by Members of The Grand Touring Sports Car Assn.

FROM THIS

TO THIS

somerset mall

Big Beaver Road at Coolidge, Troy
Shop Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9
Other days 10-6, Closed Sundays & Holidays

A Dynamic Value

OMEGA

In an Omega Dynamic watch. It's self winding and rugged.

55 with calendar 125.00
55 with day date 135.00
14kt & steel calendar 155.00
14kt & steel day/date 175.00

Other Omega Men's sportwatches available from \$7.50.

George Ohrenstein Jewelers Ltd.

Creative Jewelers
Creative Jewellers, Precision fine pieces, Diamonds
Precious Stones HARVARD ROW MALL 353-3146

Custom Draperies up to 30% savings

- Styling with imagination
- Sensible prices
- Decorator fabrics
- Fine workmanship

db drapery boutique

Orchard & 14 Mile Center 30888 Orchard Lake 37441 Grand Blvd 43620 Van Dyke Farmington Hills Farmington Hills Farmington Hills
(313) 625-4313 (313) 478-3183 (313) 759-1222

WOW! \$9.98 Sale

Selected Group Prescription Optical Frames

with Purchase of Lenses

Optical Coupon \$9.98 SALE

Some In... see our great group of popular frames selected from our regular stock for this sale... values are up to \$19.98... so you save big on frames plus... you'll experience the low prices Perry Optical is becoming more famous for everyday on producing your optical prescription. Only the price is discounted. The quality is unsurpassed in materials and professional craftsmanship.

TRUST Perry Red Coat Prescription Service.

SPECIAL PRICE REDUCTIONS ON ALL FRAMES DURING THIS SALE.

PERRY Optical Centers IN THESE PERRY DRUG STORES

Imley City
• Canal St. at M-21

Warren
• 12th St. at 11 Mile

Mid. Clemens
• 12th St. at 11 Mile

Pontiac
• Perry St. at Walton Blvd.

Madison Heights
• W. 14 Mile at Campbell

Fleet
• Downtown Ford St. S. S. S. S. S.

Becher Rd. at Calvert

Jackson
• Michigan at Delman

Waterford
• E. 14 Mile at M-24

Rochester
• Rochester Rd. at Hamlin

Huntington Woods
• Goodridge at 10th Mile Rd.

SENIOR CITIZENS 60 or OVER SAVE 10% MORE

FREE FRAME ADJUSTMENTS No matter where you purchased your glasses.

WE PARTICIPATE IN ALL AUTO WORKER OPTICAL CO-PAID PLANS

Englander Triangle Announces a Magnificent Exhibition and Sale of Oriental Rugs...

3rd Floor, Birmingham Store Only.
Corner of Maple & Hunter Blvd. Last 3 Days.
Over \$1,500,000 Worth of New and Used Far East Treasures.

We've assembled a superb collection of new and used rugs. Each and every one meticulously inspected and then labeled according to their condition.

Hand woven of pure wools and silks, rich in color, design and tradition, these rugs are true treasures — unequalled in plush patterns and textures.

And now they're on sale through Feb. 25th.

Come see the collection and talk with our consultant. You'll be delighted with the choice and the outstanding investment value of these exquisite Oriental masterpieces.

PARTIAL LISTING COLLECTOR'S ITEMS

Size	Style	Price
4 x 3	Bergama	169
5.3 x 2.8	Belouj	279
4.6 x 2.10	Fine Ardabil	279
4 x 3.2	Milas	279
4.7 x 3	Keyseri Prayer	329
4.6 x 3	Keyseri Prayer	329
6.3 x 3.4	Belouj	379
4.1 x 2.8	Tabriz Rust	379
6.7 x 3.6	Belouj	379
5.2 x 2.9	Kula	399
6 x 3.5	Belouj	399
4.2 x 2.8	Afshar	399
6 x 3.6	Milas	399
5.4 x 3.7	Fine Ardabil	399
5 x 3.8	Yalameh	449
5.2 x 3.8	Yalameh	449
5 x 3.3	Fine Ardabil	449
5 x 3.10	Fine Ardabil	449
6 x 4.1	Kula	449
4.6 x 3.3	Tabriz	449
5.3 x 3.7	Yalameh	449
11.4 x 2.5	Meshkin	449
7.5 x 4.9	Kashkay Kilim	449
5 x 3.5	Yalameh	449
5.4 x 3.8	Fine Ardabil	449
5.2 x 3.8	Afshar	449
5.2 x 3.5	Ardabil	449
5.8 x 3.7	Kula	459
5.5 x 3.8	Afshar	459
5 x 3.5	Joshagan	499
4.5 x 2.6	Tabriz	499
5.3 x 3.6	Joshagan Dk. Blue	499
5.3 x 3.6	Joshagan	499
12 x 4.4	Kilim	529
11.7 x 2.5	Meshkin	529
5.2 x 3.5	Afshar	599
6.4 x 4.5	Fine Ardabil	599
6 x 4.1	Afshar	599
5.4 x 4.4	Keyseri	599
6.10 x 3.10	Milas	629

PARTIAL LISTING

Size	Style	Cond. Price
5.4 x 4	Sennabuff	629
7.4 x 4	Milas	629
5.8 x 4.3	Afshar	679
5.6 x 3.5	Kum Prayer	749
4.10 x 3.5	Tabriz	749
5.9 x 3.6	Kum Light Blue	749
6.1 x 3.5	Kum Blue with Silk	799
5.9 x 3.9	Tabriz	879
5.6 x 3.9	Tabriz Dk. Blue	949
9.8 x 2.8	Tabriz Lt. Blue	1,049
12.9 x 2.5	Tabriz	1,149
12.6 x 2.6	Tabriz	1,179
5.2 x 3.6	Fine Kork Kum w/silk	1,199
12.4 x 2.8	Tabriz	1,249
7 x 4.8	Kum w/silk	1,499
7.2 x 4.9	Kum w/silk	1,499
6.6 x 4.7	Fine Senna w/silk	2,249
5.3 x 3.8	Afshar w/silk warp	3,599
5.7 x 3.6	Silk Kum	3,999
8.4 x 5.6	Nain	5,099

PARTIAL LISTING

Size	Style	Cond. Price
8.3 x 6.2	Kula	E 999
10 x 6.3	Fine Pak.	E 999
11.7 x 5.5	Deluxe Pak. Rust.	E 1,049
10.7 x 6.7	Mashkin	E 1,199
9.6 x 5.10	Fine Ardabil	E 1,299
10.6 x 7.5	Mashkin	E 1,249
7.2 x 4.10	Tabriz	E 1,349
12.5 x 9.3	Pak. Bukara	E 1,449
8.7 x 7.3	Mir. Sarouk	E 1,449
9.2 x 5.4	Fine Ardabil	E 1,429
9.6 x 5.4	Fine Ardabil	E 1,429
10.6 x 7	Fine Bakhtari	E 1,579
9.5 x 6.3	Fine Tabriz	E 2,199
10 x 5.8	Tabriz	E 2,399
10.4 x 7.1	Tabriz Hunting	E 2,499
10 x 6.10	Fine Mood	E 2,599
10 x 6.5	Fine Tabriz Hunting	E 2,899
11.4 x 8.2	Tabriz	E 3,299
11.2 x 8.6	Tabriz Lt. Bl.	E 3,599
10.9 x 8.8	Fine Mood	E 3,399
11.7 x 8.8	Tabriz	E 3,569
12.6 x 9.4	Tabriz Pashchlo	E 3,999

USED ROOM SIZES

Size	Style	Cond. Price
8.2 x 5.1	Super Pakistan Br.	E 629
7.10 x 5.6	Fine Pakistan	E 659
7.10 x 5	Roumanian	E 659
7.6 x 4.10	Ardabil	E 679
7.7 x 4.10	Kula	E 699
9 x 5.6	Ardabil	E 799
8.6 x 5.7	Karak	E 749
8.3 x 5.3	Fine Pakistan	E 749
9.4 x 6.4	Pakistan Bukara Rust.	E 799
7.7 x 5.5	Shiraz	E 799
6.10 x 4.9	Bukara	E 879
9.1 x 5	Chinese Dk. Bl. Ovel	E 949
6.7 x 6.10	Fine Pakistan	E 949
9.2 x 6.3	Deluxe Pak. Rust.	E 949
9.10 x 4.7	Kashkar	E 949
9.4 x 5.2	Deluxe Pak	E 949
8.6 x 5	Very Fine Pak. Dk. Bl.	E 949

Also included in our collection are: Peking Chinese, India, semi-antique, new, and used rugs in both large and room sizes.

Englander Triangle

601 EAST MAPLE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM