**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Subject: Ride BATA Day**

**Traverse City** – For many older people, driving their own car represents freedom. When a senior gives up driving due to financial, physical or mental challenges, it signals a loss of independence and can pose real transportation problems in areas where mass transit is inadequate.

However, for seniors transitioning to public transportation in the Grand Traverse region, using local bus transportation is safe, easy and readily available. Even though northwest Michigan has too few people and too many miles to cover, the Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA) has created viable alternatives for those in desperate need of transportation, providing more than half a million annual rides to residents and visitors.

Learn more about how to use BATA to go shopping, get to doctor’s appointments and visit friends, during Ride BATA Day, on Wednesday, May 31, starting at 10 a.m. from the Traverse City Senior Center, 801 E. Front Street. Participants can become aware of their options and adept at using the bus system. Included in the event, is a short ride on BATA to the Hall Street Transfer Station for a presentation, snacks and a prize drawing.

The event is free, but advance registration is required.

For more information and to register, email dmikowski@grandtraverse.org or call 231-922-4911.

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