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Making longer lives, better lives.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lori Wells, Manager
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Subject: BATA Buddy Program

Traverse City – Confusion and nervousness are the most common reasons seniors are hesitant to use public transportation. However, avoiding public transport has its own issues, which can contribute to not going out socially, missing out on activities that you would otherwise enjoy or having to organize your day around lifts from other people and then feeling reliant on them.

The key aspect of using public transportation is making sure you understand the Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA) system. There may be unexpected situations that crop up, but you will be able to face them if you've already done your homework over which bus you need to catch, where the stops are or how much it will cost and where you buy your ticket.

So, if you are going for your first ride on the BATA bus, relax and check out the new BATA Buddy program, which offers a FREE, personalized, one-on-one guide for anyone who would like to learn how to use the BATA system. The first ride is completely free and anyone who uses their initial Buddy program venture to ride to any of the Senior Center Network locations for lunch receives that meal free! Additional rides are 75 cents each.

For more information, contact the Senior Center Network at 231-922-4911 or send an e-mail to Lori Wells at lwells@grandtraverse.org to set up an appointment.

One of the BATA Buddies is Mike Trahey, who has lived on the west side of Traverse City for 40 years. Mike enjoys riding his bike nearly every day. His favorite thing to do is to take the BATA bus to Glen Arbor, Suttons Bay, or Williamsburg to take a bike ride in the summer or a ride to Crystal Mountain in the winter to ski.

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The Senior Center Network, part of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department, offers diverse programs to older adults in Grand Traverse County. Thousands each year enjoy dozens of activities on a daily basis at locations in Traverse City, Acme, Fife Lake, Interlochen, and Kingsley. Business hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 231-922-4911, or visit www.grandtraverse.org/scn or our Facebook page.