

PAST: BRINGING PEOPLE TO RESOURCES

Linden led the nation when it launched Linden Empowers All People (LEAP), the country's first daily residential self-driving shuttle on a public road in February 2020. The Linden LEAP didn't get much time to serve its goal of connecting residents with community resources before it was taken out of service after an incident on Feb. 20 where a vehicle traveling at seven miles per hour came to a sudden stop, causing a passenger to slip to the floor.

After national review, it was determined that the sudden stop was triggered by a slight deviation in the steering of the shuttle.

Smart Columbus, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the shuttle operator, EasyMile, established a set of safety enhancements and a plan to bring the shuttle back to service.

PRESENT: BRINGING RESOURCES TO PEOPLE

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health, especially for high-risk residents, Smart Columbus and project stakeholders came together to determine how the shuttle could be used to serve the immediate needs of the community. It was identified that the shuttles could help distribute food into the community in alignment with physical distancing and stay-at-home recommendations.

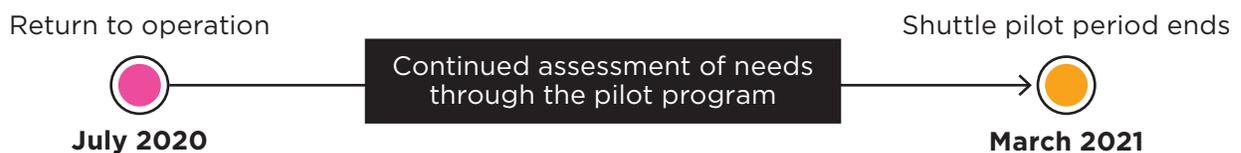
Any Franklin County resident can simply drop by the Rosewind Northbound Linden LEAP station Monday through Friday between 12 PM-3 PM (or until all boxes have been distributed) to pick up a food box courtesy of the St. Stephen's Community House Food & Nutrition Center provided in support from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective.

SAFETY

The following protections will be in place:

- 1 The operator will wear a mask when**
 - Interacting with food pantry staff to collect and load boxes
 - While at the Rosewind northbound station distributing boxes and interacting with residents
 - While unloading the shuttle and returning the boxes to the food pantry staff
- 2 Hand sanitizer will be kept on the shuttle for operators and residents (upon request)**
- 3 The shuttle will be cleaned and sanitized at the conclusion of each shift. Following cleaning, the operator will close the door to the vehicle before powering down to protect the integrity of the cleaning**
- 4 Patrons are asked to**
 - Wear a mask when picking up a box
 - Maintain six feet of separation

TIMELINE



The Linden LEAP pilot program is funded by the Smart City Challenge grant awarded to Columbus by the U.S. Department of Transportation.