CHAPTER SEVEN
GIS & CONGRUENCY ANALYSIS

This chapter addresses congruency in the Citilink system and its operating environment. Congruency represents the final analysis step of route development process and investigates route coverage and service availability. Once this information is developed, it is utilized as a major tool for identifying service need. Subsequent chapters utilize congruency, along with all elements of service analysis to identify system issues that need to be addressed in a five-year plan, and issues that may fall beyond that five year implementation period.

7.1 Service Coverage

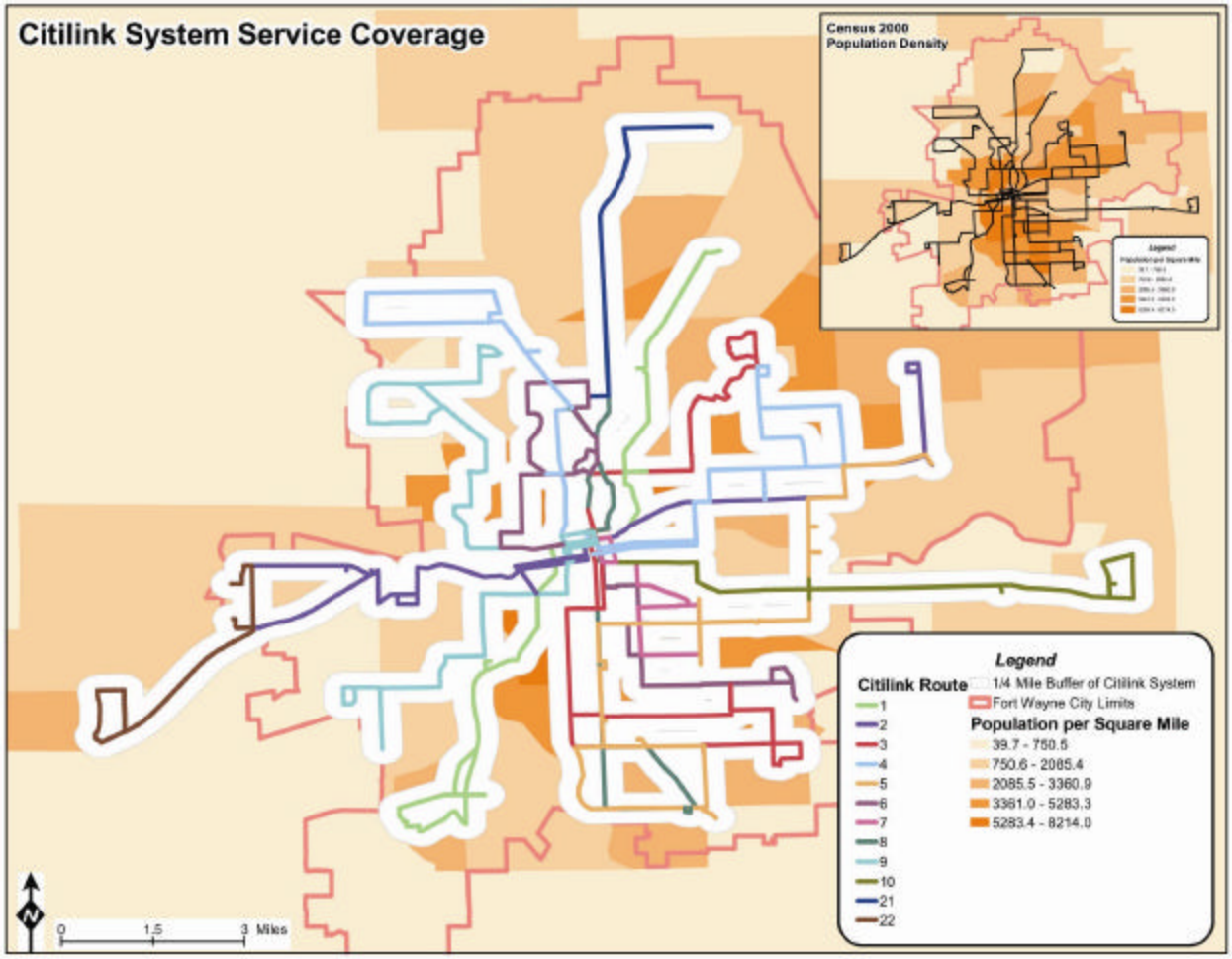
This section provides and analysis of service coverage in Fort Wayne based on population density within the service area and the existing routes. Transit service coverage is defined as the area one-quarter of a mile from fixed route service. This distance represents a reasonable measure of how far transit patrons can be expected to walk to access service. The service standards chapter presents a 1/3 mile standard for route availability, which should be utilized in future years. The current analysis, however, is performed with a ¼ mile standard. If patrons cannot perform this walk, they are considered as potential candidates for ADA paratransit service. Figure 7-67 displays the existing Citilink system with the quarter-mile buffer around all routes. This information has been developed to provide an analysis of walking distances to Citilink routes throughout the current service area.

Overall, the Citilink system does an excellent job of covering the majority of areas that have higher levels of population density, which is generally the best indicator of transit need. The highest density areas of the system, in those areas south of downtown, maintain excellent coverage with one small area un-served between Routes 1 and 3 near Rudisill Boulevard. This area will need to be field-checked in an effort to make sure that availability is adequate for residents of this area.

There is one area of medium to high range density in the northeastern part of the city that is not covered by the routes and will need to be addressed through service design. The growth in this part of the city has become pronounced in recent years and it was an area identified as in need of service by stakeholders, drivers, riders, and other persons who have been contacted to date in the planning process. This area will need particular attention paid to it in order to ensure that transit need is being met in the area.

Routes in lower density areas tend to serve major generators which provides an understanding of the function of the route in question. These generators are addressed in the next section of the report that details congruency in terms of transit generators. The combination of these two analysis functions provides an overall picture of transit coverage in Fort Wayne.

Figure 7-67: Service Coverage Map for Citilink System



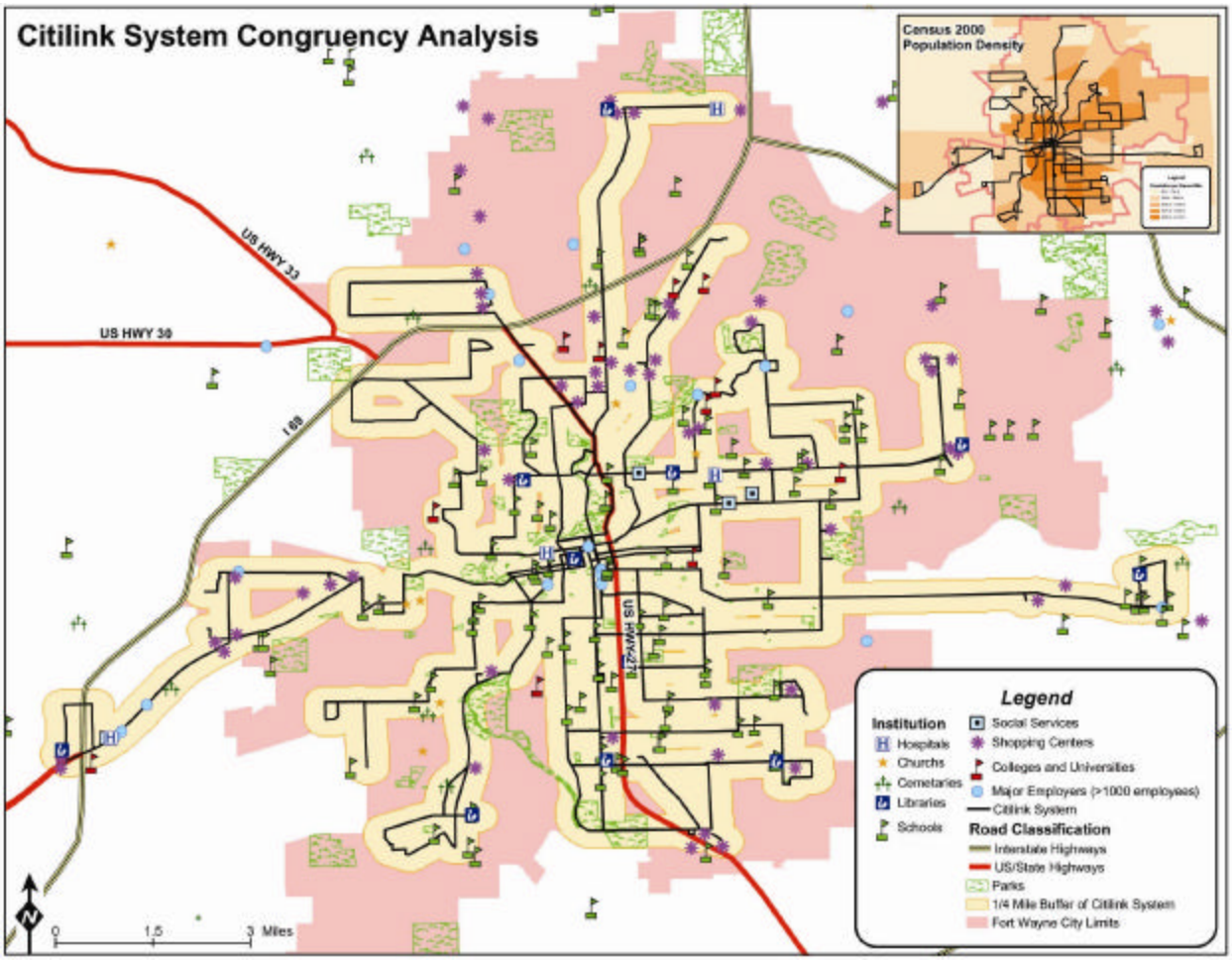
7.2 Congruency Analysis

Service congruency is an analysis of service based on the generators that have been identified throughout the study process. Transit generators were identified to include schools, colleges, and universities, social service centers, hospitals, commercial centers, major employers, libraries, and cultural and entertainment centers. These generators were identified for the current service area. Figure 7-68 depicts the service congruency situation in Fort Wayne. This analysis, when combined with the service coverage analysis in the above section provides an overview of the un-served areas and populations within Fort Wayne. While this may not immediately result in service changes, it is an excellent opportunity to analyze overall service.

Service coverage is excellent for the core Citilink service area. Within the higher density populations and major transit generators Citilink provides comprehensive service delivery on its routes and services. All hospitals, social service centers, and libraries within the route network are served by Citilink. The services provide connections to nearly all schools, colleges, and

universities. This is an excellent testament to Citilink efforts to provide comprehensive service to major generators in its service area.

Figure 7-68: Congruency Map for Citilink System



Citilink maintains service to major employers and retail areas throughout Fort Wayne and the adjacent areas. There are some unserved retail employers in the growing northeast area that will need to be considered as service changes are proposed. These employers, which also provide shopping opportunities represent a major market for employment of Citilink riders.

In terms of employers, there are a number of regional employers that need to be considered as a planning strategy is put together. Similar to many areas around the country, employers are becoming increasingly regional. Current Citilink service does not serve Sirva, ITT, Shambaugh & Son, GE Medical, Intl. Truck and Engine Corp., and Meijer Headquarters, all of which have more than 1,000 employees. It may not be a regular route change that provides these connections based on overall need, but consideration will need to be given to regional jobs transportation that can be provided through jobs access or other innovative financing sources.

One key location that is not served is the Fort Wayne airport. This area is not only a link to a nationwide transportation system, but there is also growing employment in this area. This link will need to be considered similarly to regional employment needs listed above.

7.3 Conclusion

This chapter provides the results of GIS analysis of the Citilink system. The two analyses in this chapter can be combined to gain an overall view of service availability in Fort Wayne and the adjacent areas. The agency does an excellent job of covering the majority of locations with service needs, and is faced with a region that is quickly expanding in terms of employers and other regional features including residential development and retail shopping. These regional needs will affect the future of Citilink service as it seeks to balance service to its core areas and meet evolving needs.