

10/31/2019 Halloween ECRTCC Meeting
ECRDC Conference Room ~ 10am – noon
Mora, MN

In Attendance:

Ben Byker – CMCOA // TMCC & Volunteer Driver System Development Subcommittees
Amy Christensen – TriCAP
Kathi Ellis – Kanabec County Commissioner/ECRDC Liaison
Jack Friebe – Field Representative for Pete Stauber //Policy Action Subcommittee
Tom Gottfried – MnDOT/DHS
Lori Gudim – VOA// Centralized Training Subcommittee
Brandi Herbst – B's Home Care //TMCC Subcommittee
Denise Johnson – Industries, Inc. // TMCC Subcommittee
Carri Levitski – City of Cambridge/ECRDC Liaison // Policy Action Subcommittee
Penny Messer – Isanti County Family Services // Volunteer Driver System Subcommittee
Tina Neary – MnDOT Tribal Liaison
Rebecca Perrotti – Central MN Jobs & Training //TMCC Subcommittee
Jen Peterson – Welia Health Social Services // TMCC Subcommittee
Kathy Reid – Pine Technical & Community College // Centralized Training Subcommittee
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs County Commissioner/ECRDC Liaison // TMCC Subcommittee
Tim Schmutzer – Industries/Phase // Policy Action Subcommittee
Susan Siemers – MnDOT
Kevin Stenson – Mayor of Lindstrom/ECRDC Liaison // Transportation Exploration Subcommittee
Beth VanderPlaats – Mille Lacs County Veteran Services // Transportation Exploration Subcommittee
Marcia Westover – City of Cambridge // Policy Action Subcommittee
Glen Williamson – Wilma Township Rep./ECRDC Liaison

Staff:

Bob Voss
Ashley Eckdahl
Karen Onan-Wakefield

Recognition of new Chair – Tim Schmutzer, Co-Chair – Penny Messer, and Secretary – Jen Peterson.

Tim asked Karen to run the meeting.

Overview of Mission & Goals.

Updates on work done over the last 2 months.

County Commissioners meetings schedule shared.

Information can be found on RTCC website (ECRDC.org) to catch up on anything missed.

2 Resounding Points recently discovered:

1. Recognize the need for shared universal software/dispatch and universal standardized fare.
2. Need a Volunteer Driver recruiter such as Martin Leapak (AEOA). Ask Rick Olseen.

Volunteer drivers for TRY are in the Mille Lacs area only, many repeat users, no donations given to the organization yet.

Foley Care – Connie Cardinal – *Volunteer driver* program. Encouraged businesses to allow their employees to volunteer on company time. A local insurance company has taken on the role of “adopting” a woman to help her get to her appointments. The company is allowing their employees to each take 10 hours per year to use the company car (complete with insurance company advertising) to help this woman. Businesses are acknowledged regarding their time.

Ministerial Council – Volunteer Drivers

How are churches serving congregations and what needs are they witnessing?

Meeting on November 19th. Ashley and Karen to attend and speak.

Discussed **LYFT** entrance into region 7E. It was suggested that we speak with Washington and Dakota counties (TCAPs) to see how they brought them into their regions. Have further conversations with Sheila and Robyn. Possibly ask them to come up to one of our meetings. We plan to hold 3 expos in our region (southern areas) in order to recruit drivers and advertise to riders. We hope that Chapin Hansen from LYFT will assist us with this. Chapin stated that he would look into where LYFT has drivers in our region currently. Maple Grove has a LYFT training facility that we will attend. Encourage Transportation Exploration Committee to participate. *Ashley and I attempted scheduling for a LYFT ride from Mora to Cambridge through the app. There was no one available to take us. Chapin was surprised to find this out.*

MetCouncil meeting information was shared. TransitLink can (as a rule of thumb) travel 2 miles into counties bordering their service area. Currently it comes up to Wyoming and picks up there at a Fairview healthcare facility. We were reminded of boundaries, that they are all subsidized by the State Office of Transit. It is required that they stay within the rules.

We were also reminded that it is more the responsibility of Chisago and Isanti Co Heartland Express (H.E.) to go down into the Twin Cities – all it would take would be written permission from MetCouncil & MnDOT. Met Council & Mn DOT make the boundary decisions.

It was suggested that we speak with Isanti Co. commissioners about H.E. not being reachable or attending/participating in our ECRTCC meetings – not being represented here.

Operational Plan could allow H.E. to go into St. Paul daily. Met Council’s permission needed to provide service.

****Sheila Williams – MetCouncil’s Project Manager.**

Contact information has been shared between Sheila Williams & Paul Smith.

Tina, Paul & Sheila need to connect! *** Karen would like to be involved.

RTCC- meetings occurred with statewide RTCCs. Discussed using FLOCK to share information between our 12 RTCCs. Share the letter to legislators, it should be a common letter. There must be consistency. Structures should be consistent. We must develop our elevator speech – for the RTCC in general but also to speak of the legislative action we require.

At **MCOTA** meeting, Sue Siemers shared our charitable reimbursement rate legislative letter. Margaret Donohue from MN Transportation Association will take it to Washington.

NLX stations = bus/mobility hubs when possible.

Cambridge NLX station appears it will work out beautifully for a transportation hub.

Mobility Management Training in St. Cloud – main conclusions:

Universal Payment Structure

Universal Software/Dispatch

TCAPs are the RTCCs of the Metropolitan area. RTCC's are rural. We should all be working together. MCOTA is our HUB. RTCCs should all work off the same database, GIS, software, etc. so that when it all comes together, Statewide that it is consistent.

Hennepin County just started their planning phase.

Dakota, Scott, Carver Counties – into it 8 years,

Washington County is in various stages,

New Tracks (Provider) in Ramsey County is starting with pieces.

Will work in concert with RTCCs at some point,

possibly use FLOCK or something as a universal database

MnDOT to help bring both together

We MUST bring Anoka County to our table – Sue to send us contact information.

Mille Lacs County Commissioner's Meeting – when?

Tim Schmutzer suggested that we ask county commissioners in our upcoming meetings to sign the legislative letter in support of the reimbursement amount change.

Tasks:

Public Policies/State Solutions

Tom Gottfried is working with Human Service Directors across the state to identify

~ statutory issues

~ counties delivering services

Transportation/the RTCCs are finally recognized by DHS - this took place last week.

RTCCS must bring up the questions, identify the issues and statutes and discuss these with DHS.

MCOTA will be our voice to DHS.

We must clearly explain what more money injected into the Volunteer Driver issue would do.

As this is a Congressional issue – related to the IRS, the State could mitigate, based on our suggestions,

RTCCs - do what we are doing and push ahead, initiating MCOTA, present legislation to legislators. Legislators can bring information to the table at any time – **IT'S UP TO US**.

RTCC Tasks:

The question was asked whether the RTCCs all have the same tasks. Yes & No. The first 2 tasks are all being taken on by all RTCCs – except the Volunteer Driver System Development. Headwaters RDC is doing a Vehicle Sharing program instead. The last 3 tasks were chosen by our Advisory Board. These are different than

other RTCCs although similar. The ECRTCC is the only one doing State Solutions/Policy Action. The Volunteer Driver Reimbursement Rate letter is an issue that could be combined in with Volunteer Driver task – which all RTCCs will support.

We will apprise the ECRTCC Advisory Board as to the level of our progress within each of our tasks.

The new MN DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, has a provider background. She came from Lutheran Social Services (LSS).

Invite her to our meeting.

DHS has tendency to be metrocentric focused, we must open her eyes to rural living.

Also, invite RTCCs from all over the state – invite DHS & MnDOT Commissioner, Governor Walz.

Promote MCOTA & DHS partnership.

Subcommittee Updates:

TMCC:

Discussion of GIS mapping – most counties have a GIS specialist. ESRI is the name of the GIS program. Ask the county for support. Matt Kalroos from Region 5 may be able to help us frame how this will work and how it will look.

Jen brought up the transportation barriers pertaining to health care.

Send out minutes from meeting – volunteer driving – services data,

5310 services available,

Private for profit/ Non-profit.

Tom to send out list of STS providers.

Rebecca brought up that everyone in the subcommittee has different clientele with varied needs. We need to consider NLX, bikes, scooter, other options that are safe, feasible, to get thru town must be cost effective.

Brandi has her PCA's driving clients.

Issues with H.E.'s availability. Brandi would like to know when the right time would be for her clients to utilize the bus system – this is to be answered by public service provider.

Tom – Capacity issues – transit configured to be responsive to needs at certain times,

Amy – addressed changing resources. Adding a bus is not feasible.

Brandi could alert her clients (seniors) to the bus downtime for them to schedule their appointments at these times.

Amy will gather data – times, etc. for Brandi.

Comprehensive data gathering,

Line up User to Provider

Volunteer Driver Committee:

Lakes and Pines – has not been very receptive to the idea. Their funding sources have restrictions, they have transportation regulations that they need to work within.

Legislation – regulations are stifling.

a new layer of legislation needs to be looked at,

Federal funding – a need to make changes – state funding/federal funding -

Local Policy?

If Lakes and Pines is restricted to particular rules within their transportation funding, why can't we

change those rules? Broaden the funding? Grants can be adjusted.

A different layer of legislative funding

Discover – Ask, “WHY?”

Lots of grants available.

Private foundations > McKnight > Blandin

in order to make the match, they’re in the business to do this.

TRY

Coordinate a volunteer program

Take an existing program to broaden it rather than an new entity.

Inventory of all volunteer programs in the region.

Proposal – RFP to provider – who will expand their program?

Who will collaborate together?

Amy feels that the volunteer driver program at TriCAP is cost prohibitive.

Volunteer drivers are hard to find – NEED RECRUITER! Rick Olseen was a suggested candidate. Who will pay him? How?

Four counties have come to TriCAP looking for volunteer drivers.

The program is very high maintenance.

Transportation Oversight/Policy Action:

Marcia reported that Susan Morris (Isanti County Commissioner) attended our meeting. Susan will be reaching out to the legislators.

“Stay Safe” program is being prepared by MCOTA, MN Dept. of Commerce, MN Board on Aging, and MnDOT which will be important when working with insurance issues of volunteer drivers.

Lobbyist – Critical Mass with other RTCCs - make the difference.

~ “Volunteer Driver Tax Act” – Get Charitable Reimbursement Rate up (Stauber, Peterson)

~ County Commissioners meetings – support the house bill. What can county do to help support our transportation initiatives? Have them sign the letter of support.

Needs change as years progress and age of population rises.

Volunteers – Reimbursement

No Load Miles – what can they get reimbursed for?

NEMT – no load miles are not counted, every county is dealing with this if

not paid for by county,

volunteer drivers are dwindling. Counties are paying the no load

miles \$ from their coffers as it’s not eligible for federal

reimbursement.

Set Price & Statute.

Rural >>>> Managed care issues

No Load – Insurance issues...

Navigant – Waiver Services>>>> Rate & Access.

~ We need to make Commissioners & Legislators understand our cause.

Centralized Transportation Training:

Kathy Reid of Pine Tech-

Potential driver's training:

CDL Licensure – scholarships?

EMS, mental health, cultural sensitivity, passenger assistance, diversity training, etc.

Amy-

New CDL (Jan 2020) restrictions:

Need more hours under their belt

Tech college support – thumbs up

TriCAP has had the issue of the provider pays to put a person thru the training, etc. – what if the person chooses not to follow through and stick it out.

Sue suggested speaking with Hermine (RTAP) training, tap into her as she may offer something. Share with the other RTCCs.

Transportation Exploration:

Electric Vehicles, Charging Stations? Lindstrom in Chisago County has charging stations at their Kwik Trip. We see that it takes time to charge, so placing these in retail areas is a boom to the retail partnership with encouraged shopping. The installation cost for the charging station is \$1500 - \$2000. Who pays for the power? No gas tax – MnDOT charges for gas tax – what will happen?

Wheelage Tax?

Autonomous Vehicles

WAYMO – trials in the southern part of the US but also in Michigan

Kevin Stenson – success of WAYMO

Lindstrom wants it, no service yet.

Brandi asked how insurance is handled? Will people own these vehicles?

Most likely a subscription to services. Not ownership.

Kevin mentioned TU Simple – Autonomous over the road trucks

2 week Dry Run > Phoenix to Dallas > U.S. Postal Service --- Positive Results

Genny utilized something like WAYMO in Las Vegas. She stated that the cars had a Driver (that doesn't drive) and a Co-Pilot (who only answers questions). Vegas has served over 50,000 rides. APptive? Name of business.

There has only been one accident but it was the fault of the OTHER driver who backed into the Autonomous vehicle.

Level 5 = Completely Autonomous

Kevin voiced concern over the software algorithms -differences. There needs to be a common algorithm for safety.

State laws need to stay on top of these vehicles and what they do.

Beth mentioned that at our meeting we also discussed 3 LYFT driver recruitment events – One in Lindstrom, one in Cambridge, and one in Princeton. The choice to stay south to begin with to gain momentum.

Use the Dakota County model of information at the County Board Meetings. Ask commissioners to

consider recruiting for LYFT drivers.

WAYMO.com videos were shown.

Next ECRTCC meeting will be on Thursday, December 19th, 2019. 10 – noon.

Subcommittees will be Doodled for upcoming meeting dates.