

1/27/2021

ECRTCC Advisory Board Meeting as a Whole

Introductions:

Name,	Title, Organization,	Subcommittee(s).
Helen Pieper –	Timber Trails Transit –	Volunteer Driver program
Sue Siemers –	MnDOT/OTAT/Federal 5310	Coordinator
Brandy Herbst –	B's Home Care –	TMCC, Transportation Exploration, VD
Brandon Nurmi –	Arrowhead Transit –	TMCC (Transportation Management Coord. Ctr.)
Marcia Westover –	City of Cambridge –	Policy Action
Kevin Stenson –	Mayor of Lindstrom –	TE
Jack Friebe –	On the phone, listening only	
Mike Moilanen –	Mille Lacs Band Director planning and policy management –	TE
Carri Levitski –	City of Cambridge –	Policy Action
Amy Christensen –	Tri-CAP –	Volunteer Driver
Bob Benes –	Lake and Pines –	Policy Action, TE
Ashley Eckdahl –	Staff	
Nikki Klanderud –	Community Engagement Cambridge Medical Center –	TMCC
Tim Schmutzer –	PHASE/Industries –	Policy Action
Julia Dupla –	Arrowhead Transit –	TMCC
Lori Gudim –	VOA –	Volunteer Driver
Monique Mendyke –	RSVP –	Volunteer Driver
Emily Carpenter –	Mheath Fairview –	TMCC?
Mary Rains –	Mille Lacs Health System –	TMCC?
Tina Neary –	Transit Project Manager MnDOT	
Rebecca Perotti –	CMJTS –	TMCC

Tim Schmutzer – RTCC Advisory Board Chair – Present

Karen to continue with running the meeting.

Current topics of interest:

Heartland Express/Arrowhead update:

Brandon and/or Julia:

Status quo. Arrowhead is hiring as many current employees as possible. March 1st – the phone number will not be the same Heartland Express number, as that is a County phone number. So people will need to use the Arrowhead 800 number. We let Julia know that we can assist in sharing the number. Brandy would like more information about what is current – brochure, pre-empting any issues, she wishes to learn of changes. Brandon assured us that brochures about 60% done. Within next week or so they should be available then. Brandon will send the information asap - to all of us.

Updates from Amy and Helen:

How have service rules changed "Post" COVID?

COVID-19 Vaccination Transportation for those over 65?

Helen: TTT not offering yet, but will happen when vaccines become massively available. Taking a real precautious lead.

Amy: Tri-CAP also not currently doing vaccination transportation. Not yet. Proceeding as TTT is.

~ 5-year plan is in review with MnDOT and OTAT.

~ Resumed fare collections now.

~ Less same day reservations, due to upcharge. People more planful with transit needs.

~ Notified by OTAT as approved for a grant from FTA as grant for MnDOT (Partner) in a grant for contactless payment systems.

~ First transit system to go through the GIS/GTFS mapping program with MnDOT. Set up to do Morrison County next (Region 5).

Timber Trails GIS Mapping system – in the works. Helen is excited for the mapping system.

Arrowhead coming up to be done soon. Meeting on February 10th.

Covid Positive Client Transportation:

Has been stopped as of December 30th and monies unspent sent back.

ECRTCC Budget Adjustments:

We will return any funds that we don't use.

*Transportation Scenarios: * see attached*

6 mile distance too short of a distance for transportation provider to drive.

Brandy – Use of a case manager can be of help (reimbursement) with per trip (time) rather than per mile.

No waiver, no case manager, causes for angst.

Per ride contract is useful.

Volunteer Drivers?

Helen:

2 Scenarios:

Dialysis – Friday holidays (Thanksgiving & Christmas) – insurance wasn't covering a client's rides – she got very sick.

End of Life issue – person who lived ½ mile outside of service area – not able to help – TTT did find a way.

Smaller vehicles would be useful. Per trip on the waiver – Helen will look into this.

Tim:

Helen – End of Life Service area boundaries, please write up this testimonial for Karen. (End of Life issue) what did TTT do in order to make something happen. Get this onto social media. Share these stories – could help elicit some volunteer drivers into action.

Late Dec. Covid Relief \$45 billion & broadband – Appropriations Act – extended the COVID-19 Positive Transportation Act – Monies returned.

At this point in time, there is no COVID-19 Positive Funding – per Sue Siemers.

Tina: CARES Act funding: 100% operating funding from March 1, 2020 to the end of Feb. 2021 for public service providers through COVID-19 funding which covers the local share for operating dollars. Awards what MnDOT covers.

Federal funding through Feb 2021, and will be picked up by the state through the year. CARES act ends the end of February. The state wishes to help the systems through this difficult time.

TMCC (Transportation Management Coordination Collaborative):

Northern Mille Lacs Transit Survey: Power Point by Ashley (attached)

Amy: Results are reflective of what is going on in the area. Helps to specify the needs. What are the next steps? Need to explore, there may be some wiggle room for transportation diversification, will need to have a conversation on what we need to do next. Add other service providers to the conversation as interested.

Mapping will help us to see where service providers could possibly hook up with each other so that folks can get to St. Cloud, Brainerd, Duluth, T.C.

Some buses can not go down narrow or dirt roads. No turn around. Smaller vehicles could do this.

50% utilization – Tri-CAP – Ridership is down 50% from Pre-COVID levels. Same with TTT.

DHS Procedure Codes, NEMT and ancillary - individualized rides. Enhance these individualized rides. Procuring smaller vehicles. NEMT volunteer driver rides.

Paid drivers of smaller vehicles may be the way of the future. Cost. How to pay these drivers?

Is there a reimbursement mechanism? Wage Scale that DHS was looking at was not a human wage. Are there any payment procedures? Any funding mechanisms? 5310 smaller vehicle procurements? Due to needs assessment.

According to a national survey, Helen brought to our attention that -

Rural Seniors are looking for:::

Individualized Service:

Vehicle Comes Close to home for pick up:

Into Home to help bring in items:

GIS/GTFS:

Geographic Information Systems (Mapping)/General Transit Feed Specification (Data Format)

Gaps. Service possibilities.

Volunteer Driver Program Development, Coordination & Training:

Virtual Volunteer Driver Forum Series: <http://www.coordinatemntransit.org>

November 18th - Series overview.

December 9th – Real World Stories, Policy Action

January 20th – Volunteer Driver Recruitment and Promotion

February 17th – [How to Start a Volunteer Driver Program](#)

March 17th – [Person-Centered, Cultural Diversity, and Equity Training](#) (2 sessions)

April 21st – [Trauma-Informed Care Training and Providing Community Education About People Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) (2 sessions)

May 19th & [Best Practices for Volunteer Driver Programs to include: Safety, Security,](#)

June 2nd [Crisis, Medical, Passenger, Resiliency & Boundary Issues](#)

(4 sessions over 2 days)

May 19th – 9:30 – 11:30 Module 1: Safety and Security &

Module 2: Emergency Preparedness

1:00 – 3:00 Module 3: Passenger Assistance and Safety

June 2nd – 9:30 – 11:30 Module 4: Dealing With Difficult Customers & Self Care

1:00 – 3:00 Module 5: Ethics and Boundaries &

Module 6: Best Practices and Summary

Beware that Volunteer Drivers are needed for the Chisago/Isanti Areas. Please contact Martin Lepak. Please share information that you will find on our Social Media.

Volunteer Driver Brochure update:

Tom Gottfried

Old Brochure is out of date...

MCOTA Report – We all must be aware of who MCOTA is, what they do. Please learn more about them: see attached pdf

Policy Action:

Vehicle sharing

PHASE vehicles – how many are WAV? Useful for UBER.

ADA accessible: 1/6 of them are.

In order to utilize these vehicles and bill to people other than PHASE clients, the vehicles must be STS certified.

Large DT & H (Day Training and Habilitation) vehicles may be a barrier.

Cost of operation due to restricted number of passengers.

PHASE is reducing their fleet size. Building up WAV mini vans. Working on this and to broaden the area/times that the vehicles are used. Brandy has a couple of these small vehicles.

Insurance issues.

Vehicles that are owned by the company but driven by others, insurance issue. Focus area.

Meeting with Congressman Stauber – face to face meeting at RDC office

Charitable Mileage Reimbursement vs. Business Mileage Reimbursement –

RTCCs in collaboration now. Volunteer Driver Coalition. MCOTA.

Broadband.

Jack Friebe – update.

Transportation Exploration:

*RTCC Website. Updated. All Advisory Board and Subcommittee meetings/notes available.
Social Media updates.*

Further Discussions:

Subcommittee Meetings coming up Feb/March - DOODLES

Adv. Bd. Meeting towards the end of March.

Next Grant Application for 2 years.