

East Central Regional Transportation Coordination Council

6/10/2021 ECRTCC Advisory Board Meeting as a Whole 10:am

This meeting was recorded for use in creating these meeting notes.

In Attendance:

*Tim Schmutzer – PHASE/Industries Executive Director, ECRTCC Chair
Penny Messer – Isanti County HHS – Division Leader, ECRTCC Co-Chair
NEW Member - Craig Rempp – Tri-CAP Transit Director
NEW Member - Scott Olson – Arrowhead volunteer driver recruiter
NEW Member - Tony Buttacavoli – Family Pathways – Executive Director
Ashley Eckdahl – ECRTCC Coordinator
Bob Voss – ECRDC Executive Director
Beth Sumner – Financial Assistant Supervisor, Mille Lacs Co.
Brandon Nurmi – Arrowhead Transit, Asst. Transit Director
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs County Commissioner, ECRDC Board Member
Helen Pieper – Timber Trails Public Transit Director, Kanabec County
Kathy Burski – Director Kanabec Co. Community Health
Kevin Stenson – Mayor of Lindstrom, ECRDC Board Member
Lori Gudim – VOA Our Home Permanent Supportive Housing
Natalie Matthewson – CMCOA, Community Development Supervisor – Eastern Counties
Michelle Lichtig – MnDOT Program Manager for RTCCs
Sue Siemers – MnDOT OTAT – 5310 Program Coordinator
Tina Neary– MnDOT – Transit Manager, Tribal Transit
Noel Shughart– MnDOT OTAT – Program Unit Supervisor Local Human Service Plan
Tom Gottfried – MnDOT, MCOTA Executive Director*

Call to order:

Tim Schmutzer, Advisory Board Chair

Tim identified meeting's structure as informal for now, we will look into using more Robert's Rules when we come together in person

Regular dates of Advisory Board meetings moving into Phase IV.

Suggested:

August 5, October 7, December 9, 2021, & February 3, April 7, June 2, 2022

First Thursday of each month at 9 – 11 am

Natalie suggested that a doodle poll go out. Done 6/17/2021

Introductions:

Name, Organization, Title

Welcome new members and visitors of Advisory Board.

Suggest that they look at the ECRTCC website on the ECRDC site. New members will be asked the spreadsheet questions for their consideration prior to the meeting.

New website: <http://eastcentraltransit.com/>

Under construction, building

Directory – share with Advisory Board, discuss distribution. Would like to give out to those who can distribute to those who need it. Have 550 of them. Who would like? Put into chat with address to send it to (We will have a smaller sized booklet at the fair booth).

Current topics of interest:

What are you wondering about?

Tim - Question about mask applicability – exemptions? CDC mandates. Transportation Conveyances.

Noel – as of now, CDC mask mandate for transit still exists. 5310 vehicles – same.

Tina – Sept. 13th Federal mask mandate will be dropped.

Link for Federal Mask Mandate: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/TransitMaskUp>

UPDATES:

Local Human Service Transportation Plan/Coordination Plan

Noel Shughart

Review Power Point (send out Noel's PPP)

We would appreciate if this Advisory Board (you) would act as STEERING COMMITTEE for this year- long plan.

Meets 4 times during the year.

There have been 3 prior plans. The last one done was 2017 and the RTCCs sprang out of that plan. It is very important.

We will also be looking for other participants including those who are transit users.

Purpose of LHSTP - Identify Projects for 5310 program/OTAT

This one is extremely important because it is POST COVID. Unexpected.

specificity

minimum components

relearning transportation – starting from scratch

programmatic needs changes

One – on – one rides

Identify issues, how to meet needs, find gaps

Be innovative and creative

Identify resources, bring partners to the table

Planning workshop – Steering Committee delegates who attends

Outcome: Strategies

13 – 15 members on the Steering Committee – Advisory Board

MnDOT members as Ad Hoc – helpful to keep them involved at the meetings

Previous plans on ECRDC website

Figure out what components we don't have at the table – schools, private providers, public – end users, volunteer driver – cross section, private sector = Steering Committee members

Focus Group = End Users included

MCOTA

Tom Gottfried

MN Council on Transportation Access -

You're invited to please join in the meetings if you're interested.

MCOTA link: <http://www.coordinatemntransit.org/MCOTA/>

June 23rd, is the next meeting. This is a Senior Leadership Meeting. We are all invited to attend.

MCOTA Senior Leadership Meeting has been postponed

Overarching helpful organization that has many agencies as members.

Can help RTCCs (and TCAPs in Metro) overcome barriers. MCOTA has a lot of pull.

Volunteer Driver Forum series sponsored/hosted by MCOTA

Legislative Updates

Volunteer Driver Coalition link: <https://volunteedrivermn.org/>

MnDOT

Michelle Lichtig

Review Power Point Presentation

Movement into Phase IV

Connection of our goals to other RTCCs and MnDOT (state of MN) in general

Coordination, Coordination, Coordination!

Phase IV:

Work plan with 7 tasks

Logic Model – drives how we look at performance

GIS mapping moving into non-public transportation – as we move into 2022

Updating MCOTA website with RTCC information

GIS

Jake Schutt:

Responded via email:

Two updates about the GIS build that could interest your advisory board:

- 1. We have completed all public provider interviews in your RTCC and finalized the data. We were held up a bit with the transition that happened in Chisago-Isanti, but had service design interviews with Arrowhead to catalog all their services in East Central. They have been reviewed and approved by Arrowhead staff late in May.*
- 2. We had our data specification review to make sure the way we are collecting our data will meet the needs of RTCC's and providers in GrMn. We convened a meeting with several GIS savvy reps from Headwaters, Region 5, and Arrowhead RTCCs. We didn't receive any significant requests for changes or some deficiencies in our data architecture so essentially full speed ahead. But it was crucial to get some input from our partners that our project will be a benefit statewide.*

Service Provider Updates:

(include information about current volunteer driver program services)

Arrowhead – Pine, Chisago, Isanti counties: Brandon Nurmi and Scott Olson Brandon had to step away, Scott not in attendance

Timber Trails – Kanabec county: Helen Pieper Climbing out from Covid, mask mandate still in effect. Future with PHASE – bookends that held TT together. Loaded routes.

Tim has allayed Helen's fears – fully opening on the 14th, Mora is coming back full force! Tim and Helen will work together to get drivers.

CDL Licensure – jobs needed. Coalitions would be helpful to get people trained to be CDL drivers. Use of vehicles for testing.

Volunteer Drivers needed. WCMP/KBEK radio stations with recruitment efforts. Helen's interview 6/11 at 8:40am KBEK 95.5 fm

ECRTCC sharing booth with Timber Trails at K. Co. Fair – WE need information from our Public Service Providers to set out at our booth.

*Tri-CAP – Mille Lacs county: Craig Rempp **Craig not in attendance today***

*Jefferson Lines: Nick Zelle **Nick not in attendance today***

*Kanabec Cab: Shane Peterson **Shane not in attendance today***

Staff Updates:

Moving into Phase 4

- TMCC (Transportation Management Coordination Collaborative): *Networking, keeping directory current. Survey at a standstill with Tri-CAP situation, GIS mapping.*
- Policy Action: *Moving into Volunteer Driver subcommittee/task – Volunteer Driver Coalition, MCOTA, 5310/5311 funding available, smaller vehicles possibly become available, ride sharing with PHASE as partnerships.*
- Transportation Exploration: *Alternative modes, stay abreast in updates. First/Last mile automated vehicles would be advantage. Electric vehicles. Low maintenance costs. Issues with fuel tax.*
- Volunteer Driver Program Development, Coordination & Training: *Work with new Arrowhead recruiter, volunteer brochure through MCOTA in the works.*

Phase 4 - Work Plan for 2021 – 2023 Grant Application:

*Let's take a look... **see attached spreadsheet and detail from Logic Model (sent previously).***

Discussion ~

Phase IV tasks –

5310 vehicles should be coordinated. RTCCs need to have the knowledge about the 5310 program as a whole. Vehicles shared that are not 5310 as well, resources for needs. Identify all vehicles (inventory) that may be available – for example: churches.

Reassignment of Subcommittees:

At the last meeting we asked you to please give some thought as to where your interests lay.

As we proceed through these descriptions, would you please put the task you are interested in participating in as a subcommittee member – into the chat box? We may make some suggestions as well. I'll be able to take a look after the meeting and get the tasks/board members organized.

Further Discussions:

Subcommittee Meetings will start in July, if I don't hear from you otherwise, you will be assigned based on my assumptions of your interests. Obviously you can make adjustments.

Closing – Adjourn

11:40