

# Interagency Committee on Transit Coordination Report to the Governor 11/1/05

## *Background*

Transportation is a lifeline for persons to access work, school, medical care, and other daily needs. Health and human service organizations have established a variety of transportation systems and the State makes a substantial investment in public transit. However, the delivery of these services is often fragmented or duplicative. In some cases, the transportation services are non-existent. As a result, some people are not able to access the critical services that support their quality of life.

In recognition of the fundamental importance of transportation and the continuing need to reduce barriers between federally-funded human service programs and Minnesota's public transportation systems, the Governor issued an invitation for agencies to work together to ensure that transit services are effective and accessible. Representatives from the Departments of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Health, Human Services (DHS), Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Education, Metropolitan Council, Center for Transportation Studies - University of Minnesota, Board on Aging, and the State Council on Disability are members of the new Interagency Committee on Transit Coordination (ICTC) The Governor has charged this Committee with:

1. surveying existing transportation alternatives, best practices and coordination strategies that have worked in Minnesota and other states, and
2. developing a series of recommendations for improving the levels of transportation coordination.

## *Committee Activities*

In response to the Governor's request the following individuals were appointed by their respective agencies:

Lynda Boudreau, Deputy Commissioner

Dept of Health

Brian Osberg, Assistant Commissioner of Health Care Services	Dept of Human
Bob Isaacson, Director Analysis and Evaluation Econ Dev	Dept of Emp &
Tom Lencowski, Personnel Representative	Dept of Ed
Randy Halvorson, Director Program Management Division Transportation	Dept of
David Christianson, Director Regional Transp. Services Council	Metropolitan
Robert Johns, Director Center for Transportation Studies	University of MN
Joan Willshire, Executive Director Council on	MN State Disability
Toni Baker, Board Member	MN Board on Aging

The Committee has had two meetings, one in September and one in October. The following is a brief overview of the activities undertaken by the Committee to date:

- ⊞ reviewed the presidential executive order and how the Committee interacts with the federal transportation coordination initiatives.
- ⊞ initiated dialogue on client transportation needs in Committee member's agencies and how those needs are currently addressed.
- ⊞ reviewed preliminary findings from the public transit/human service transportation coordination study Mn/DOT and the Metropolitan Council are currently engaged in. The major tasks in the study include:
  - Preparing a planning framework to educate local stakeholders on the benefits of coordination.
  - Identifying best practices and coordination strategies that have worked in Minnesota and other states.
  - Developing a statewide action plan for creating a climate that is conducive to public transit and human services transportation coordination at the community level.
- ⊞ reviewed the Department of Human Services presentation on the Minnesota Non-emergency Transportation (MNET) program. Minnesota Health Care Programs pay for transportation to health care services for certain enrollees who do not have a means of

transportation and for enrollees who need special transportation due to a health condition. Under MNET, a central clearinghouse evaluates enrollee's transportation needs. The early results have shown:

- Better enrollee benefits
- Improved quality of transportation services
- Improved program integrity
- Reduced cost to state health care programs

### ***Vision and Mission***

To assist the committee in more effectively carrying out the Governor's directive, vision and mission statements are being developed (See attached draft).

### ***Future Activities***

The committee intends to meet periodically in its capacity as the forum to work on the attached action items. Status reports on the committee activities, as specified by the Governor's directive, will be submitted annually. Documentation of the findings and recommendations from the completed action items will also be made available to all interested parties.