

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

November 24, 2009

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

Members Present

Tim Henkel, Committee Chair
Kelly Wosika, MN Department of Education
Doug Benson, MN Department of Health
Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging
Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities

Members Absent

Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Billi Jo Zielinski, MN Department of Human Services
Gina Baas, University of Minnesota
Bonnie Elsey, MN DEED
D. Scott Dibble, MN State Senate
Paul Gardner, MN House of Representatives
Michael Pugliese, MN Department of Veteran Affairs
Tony Kellen, MN Public Transit Association
James Pearson, MN Department of Commerce
Rina Kawas, Governor's Office

Guests

Alan Herrmann, Carver County
Gary Bruggenthies, Scott County
Kristin Batson, Director, Office of Grants Management

State Agency Staff

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services
Hal Freshley, MN Board on Aging
Kelly Schroeffer, MN Council on Disabilities
Mike Schadauer, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Judy Ellison, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Tom Gottfried, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
Diane Contreras, Mn/DOT Office of Transit

Welcome

Tim Henkel welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that they introduce themselves and the organization they represent.

ICTC Governor's Report

Noel Shughart provided a draft copy and reviewed the Governor's report with the changes/ suggestions made by members from the last meeting. Changes included listing ICTC membership from November 2008-June 2009 and July 2009-Present. The Introduction section talks about how transportation is very important and how much money was spent in 2006 on transportation. The second paragraph, under the Introduction section, notes the definition of Coordination as developed by the committee. The report also contains information on the formation of the ICTC, its mission and vision, and activities and accomplishments since its inception.

The report also speaks to the efforts of the 2009 Legislature to establish a Council on Transportation Access. While this legislation was not enacted, it did influence the addition of three new member organizations to the committee, and new activities and objectives for the committee to work on.

Tim suggested committee members review the new draft copy of the report and send any changes/suggestions to Noel by noon on the following Monday for incorporation into the report. Noel will then incorporate these changes/suggestions into the final report and submit to the Governor.

Scott-Carver Coordination Project (Issue: Research/Demonstration Projects)

Alan Herrmann, Carver County, and Gary Bruggenthies, Scott County, reported that they began the Scott/Carver County Transit Collaboration project in January 2009 as a way for their organizations to become one. Funding for this project was provided by a New Freedom grant.

They shared how they used collaboration to achieve their mobility management goals.

Items such as:

- both counties have similar operation and management,
- common customers,
- qualified STS drivers from the same union,
- receive funding from the same sources,
- identical dispatching/scheduling software,
- are MCIT insured; and
- have the capacity to be more efficient.

made the transition more possible. Through their collaboration they will become a true transit service, able to provide expanded coverage and increase customer service in the region. In the first six months of the program they provided an additional 18,000 rides. The two counties will continue to address challenges with an open mind and through honest dialogue.

Office of Grants Management (Issue: Cost Sharing/Purchasing)

Kristin Batson reported that the Office of Grants Management was established by the 2007 Legislature and began operation in September 2007. Their mission is to standardize, streamline and improve state grant-making practices and to increase public access to information about state government grant opportunities. Their basic goal is to get all state agencies to follow the same basic policy in developing grants. Since the development of this office, 13 state grant policies have been released, which Kristin reviewed with meeting members. Those policies are; Conflict of Interest, Rating Criteria for Grant Review, Publicizing Grant Opportunities, Use of Grant Agreements, Comments on Fraud/Waste in State Grants, Financial Review of Non-Governmental Applicants, Single/Sole Source Grants, Grant Payments, Grant Progress Reports, Grant Monitoring, Legislatively Mandated Grants, Grand Amendments, and Grant Closeout Evaluation.

Kristin noted that if the committee would like more information in their efforts to increase coordination, the State Grants website is available at www.grants.state.mn.us/ and the Office of Grants Management website address is www.admin.state.mn.us/ogm.

Metro Area MNET Program (Issue: Vehicle/Client Sharing)

With Bob Ries consent, this topic was deferred to the January 2010 ICTC meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Kelly Wosika reported that the Contract Template subcommittee met last week. They want to invite someone from the CMS project team to attend one of their meetings to get their input on this issue. The group is planning to meet again in December.

Member Agency Reports on Transportation

Noel Shughart reported that Minnesota did not get selected for the United Way Demonstration Grant.

Kelly Schroeffer, MN Council on Disabilities, reported that the Council held Pathways to Employment sessions recently in Hibbing, Brainerd, Mankato and Marshall. Tom Gottfried noted that he participated in the sessions and that the Office of Transit prepared three surveys (Employer Survey, Transit Providers Survey, and Transit User Survey Representatives for Person with Disabilities) for attendees to complete. Information gathered from these surveys may be considered in the preparation of the Investment Plan document.

Mike Schadauer reported that the Northstar Commuter Rail line began service on November 16. The new line stretches 40 miles from Big Lake to Target Field in downtown Minneapolis, includes six stations along the route and has an estimated 2010 ridership of 3,400 passengers a day. This new form of transportation was made possible with the cooperation of the Met Council, county and local governments, the Northstar Corridor Development Authority and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad.

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services, reported that DHS can no longer contract for Medical Access Transportation.

Tom Gottfried, Mn/DOT Office of Transit, reported that Tri-County Action Program, Inc., has submitted to our office for consideration, a grant request for federal funding for a Mobility Management project. The scope of this project is similar to Scott/Carver's project, expand service to more counties and partners. Tom also reported that Mn/DOT has just released its Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. This document outlines how Mn/DOT is working to comply with this important statute.

Hal Freshley, MN Board on Aging, reported that TPT has done a couple shows on cars and the challenges of transportation when you get older.

Tim Henkel reported that a draft of the Freight/Rail Plan has been released. The plan will provide guidance for rail initiatives and investments in the state, and will be included in the State Transportation Plan upon completion.

Next Meeting Date

January 26, 2010
1 to 3 p.m.
Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building
840 Westminster Street
St. Paul, MN

