

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

February 23, 2010

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

Members Present

Tim Henkel, Committee Chair
Kelly Wosika, MN Department of Education
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging
Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities
Tony Kellen, MN Public Transit Association
Gina Baas, University of Minnesota
Tina Armstrong, MN Department of Commerce

Members Absent

Billi Jo Zielinski, MN Department of Human Services
Bonnie Elsey, MN DEED
Senator D. Scott Dibble, MN State Senate
Rep. Paul Gardner, MN House of Representatives
Michael Pugliese, MN Department of Veteran Affairs
Rima Kawas, Governor's Office
Doug Benson, MN Department of Health

State Agency Staff

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services
Hal Freshley, MN Board on Aging
Mike Schadauer, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Judy Ellison, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Diane Contreras, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Becky Alper, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Fay Cleaveland, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit

Welcome

Tim Henkel welcomed everyone to the meet and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Greater Minnesota Transit Plan

Noel Shughart announced that the Greater Minnesota Transit Plan 2010-2030 has been completed. The plan is the result of extensive collaboration between the citizens of MN, transit systems throughout Greater MN, other partners and stakeholders, and the MN Department of Transportation. The Plan establishes a 20-year strategic plan that sets forth directions for the future of public transportation in Greater MN. The Plan describes current challenges, examines future transit service needs and estimates future levels of funding that would be required to meet that need. It also establishes policies to guide future transit investments in Greater MN.

The success of transit in Greater MN depends on the coordinated efforts of many government agencies and public and private transit providers. The Greater Minnesota Transit Plan 2010-2030 can be view on the Office of Transit's web page, www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/transitplan/index.html.

Noel noted that the policies and strategies identified in the Greater Minnesota Transit Plan 2010-2030 will provide the framework for the joint efforts and foundation for the next undertaking--the *Greater Minnesota Transit Investment Plan*. As directed by the

Minnesota Legislature, the objective of the Plan is to determine the level of funding required to meet at least 80% of unmet transit service needs in Greater MN by July 1, 2015, and at least 90% by July 1, 2025. To achieve that objective, Mn/DOT will analyze existing transit service, demographic trends, travel destinations and transportation coordination opportunities on a county level. It will also specifically address special transportation service ridership and needs.

Noel reported that before any plan developed by the Department is recommended for approval by the Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner, it is reviewed by the Standing Committee to Advance Modal Planning Integration (SCAMPI). The purpose of this committee is to provide Mn/DOT management oversight and direction, both policy and technical, to statewide system plan and related major studies or policy initiatives. This committee will also provide a forum for vetting proposed policies and investments, and ensuring compliance with all state and federal planning requirements, including public involvement.

Legislation Impacting Coordination

Noel reported that two bills have been proposed this session that impact Coordination. The first one is H.F. 2807 that speaks to the creation of a Minnesota Council on Transportation Access; and H.F. 298 that speaks to changing day training and habilitation insurance.

Mike Schadauer reported that Mn/DOT asked him to comment on H.F. 2807. In his response, he noted that Mn/DOT has expanded the ICTC membership and work tasks to match the membership and work tasks proposed in the bill for a Minnesota Council of Transportation Access. The one area needing clarification would be compensation and reimbursement to the Council-it is assumed that would come from the \$100,000 in contingent set-asides from Greater Minnesota Transit and the Metropolitan Council passed in the 2009 Transportation Finance Omnibus package. Moving those funds to one agency and administering the compensation expenses may present additional unintended bureaucracy. Mike recommended that Mn/DOT remain neutral on the proposed bill.

Tina Armstrong reported that the Department of Commerce has not been asked to comment on H.F. 298, but they have many concerns regarding this proposed legislation. They are not only concerned about the integrity of drivers who could be hired to transport DT & H clients, the appropriate insurance coverage of vehicles, etc. but that this legislation could result in the loss of insurance coverage for DT & H facilities.

Bob Ries, Department of Human Services, noted that as of April 1, 2010, the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program will end. Individuals eligible for GAMC will be automatically enrolled in Transitional MinnesotaCare. For information related to this change and its impact on non-emergency medical transportation for these individuals, please review the information included at the attached link.....
www.dhs.state.mn.us/gamc/changes. In the "More Information" section there is a "Comparison of Coverage" link as well as a "FAQs" link.

Subcommittee Reports

Contract Template – Kelly Wosika, Subcommittee Chair, reported that she had hoped that a couple staff members from DHS could participate on this committee, but

unfortunately there is no one available. However, the subcommittee will meet with a couple DHS staff persons next week to learn about their process.

Planning Guidance – Hal Freshley, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the Planning Guidance Committee has reviewed past Regional Coordination Plans and discovered that everyone did their plans differently even though they were all working from the same guidelines. The Planning Guidance Committee would like to see the next Coordination Planning process come up with projects to coordination instead of problems. The process should again be lead by the RDC's with input from a steering committee composed of providers and stakeholders. Information could be gathered from transit consumer through transit satisfaction surveys and workshops. Hal noted that he will bring the subcommittee's proposed guidelines to a meeting for discussion.

Local Coordination Committee – Tony Kellen, Subcommittee Chair, reported that he met with Noel before the meeting to discuss this issue.

Special Transportation Services (STS) – Joan Willshire, committee member, reported that the committee will be looking at some STS Legislation for next session as it applies to Mn/DOT and training.

Insurance – Tina Armstrong, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the Department of Commerce will continue to follow H.F. 298 and its impact on DT & H organizations.

Legislative – No Subcommittee Chair, Noel reported that he will keep the membership informed on legislation as it comes up.

Member Agency Reports on Transportation

Kelly Wosika, MN Department of Education, reported that their agency is cleaning up the statistics for the 2008-2009 school year. They will be posted to their website soon.

Mary Keop, MN Board on Aging, reported that the Board on Aging will be having their annual meeting in March.

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services, reported that in the last legislative session legislation was passed, which went in effect in January, where providers are now getting a piece of the rate adjustment. Bob also reported that Hennepin County is now the host county for the MNET program.

Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities, reported that Kelly Schroepfer from the Council is leaving the Council to work for the Mn/DOT, Office of Transit.

Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council, reported that TransitLink, the new dial-a-ride service where persons can call one phone number to make reservations, begins on Monday, March 1, in Hennepin County. Service will also begin in Washington, Ramsey and Dakota Counties on March 29.

Gina Baas, University of Minnesota, reported that the CTS Director's job has been posted. Interviews should begin in April and the new Director should be on board in June. Gina also reported that the Itasca County Area Transportation Study has been completed. The study can be viewed at:

www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/ResearchReports/reportdetail.html?id=1840

Becky Alper, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit, reported that the 2009 Transit Report "A Guide

to Minnesota's Public Transit Systems" has been completed. The report can be viewed at:

www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/transitreports/09.

Tim Henkel, Committee Chair, reported that the Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Final Report has been adopted by the Commissioner of Transportation. This plan can be viewed at:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/railplan/resources.html>.

Tony Kellen, MN Public Transit Association, reported that he will be getting copies of the DVD "Transportation as We Age". If anyone would like a copy, let him know.

Next Meeting Date

March 23, 2010

1 to 3 p.m.

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