

# INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

October 23, 2007

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

## Meeting Notes

### Members Present

*Committee Chair* – Tim Henkel, Mn/DOT

Bob Fischer, MN Department of Education

Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council

Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services

Doug Benson, MN Department of Health

Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging

Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities

### Members Absent

Robert Johns, University of Minnesota

Bonnie Elsey, MN DEED

### Guest

Linda Elfstrand, Tri-CAP

### Others

Bob Ries, Department of Human Services

Hal Freshley, MN Board on Aging

Richard Caligiuri, MN DEED

Judy Ellison, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit

Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit

Diane Contreras, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit

### Welcome

Tim Henkel welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to today's meeting.

### Draft Report to the Governor

Judy Ellison reviewed the draft Report to the Governor and asked members if they had any additions or comments. The report is due to the Governor by November 1, 2007.

Mary Koep suggested that the wording in bullet 2 under Future Activities be changed. She interpreted it as a request for funding. Bob Fischer stated that he interpreted it as resources, not money. The group indicated that if the line was changed to read "*Research and consider legislation to encourage/provide resources for coordination*", it would reflect their true intent.

Hal suggested that more information be added to bullets 4 and 5 under Future Activities. He also requested that Mary Koep be listed as the Chair of the MN Board on Aging, not Board Member.

Tim asked and the group agreed that they would approve the report with the modifications suggested today. Tim noted that members would receive a copy of the report before it is submitted to the Governor.

### **Tri-CAP Transportation Resource Center**

Linda Elfstrand, Transportation Director for Tri-CAP Transit Connection, did a presentation on Tri-CAP's transit system and its work to coordinate rides in Benton, Morrison and Stearns Counties with other area service organizations. Tri-CAP began service in 1975 in response to a senior survey that indicated a significant number of transportation needs were unmet. In the early 80s there was a shift to also provide service to the general public. In 1995 they expanded their service types to provide Dial-A-Ride, Route Deviation and Subscription service.

In 1999 they installed the Trapeze Pass Lite dispatching and billing program. The program allows them to better schedule rides and bill agencies they provide rides for. They are now due to upgrade this software. In 2007 they averaged 10 buses on the road a day in the three counties. Along with volunteer driver trips, they average 87,000 one way trips a year.

Linda attributes Tri-CAP's success to formal and informal Memorandum of Understanding agreements with over 20 agencies that they provide service for or buy service from. As a result of these partnerships they have developed a directory of services that can be used by agencies to set up rides that cannot be met by their agency. They also applied for and received JARC and New Freedom funds that will allow them to establish a multi-county call center, increase transportation service for medical and dental appointments, support their volunteer driver program and provide needed training, and update their existing dispatching and billing program.

Linda thanked the group for their interest in Tri-CAP's coordination efforts.

### **Washington State Agency Guidelines Update**

Hal Freshley noted that at last month's meeting members heard about Washington State's legislative mandate for the creation of the Agency Council on Coordination Transportation (ACCT) statute. The statute directed the implementation of a Program for Coordinated Transportation for people with special transportation needs, the elderly, children, the low income, and people with disabilities.

To make this program successful a two level approach to transportation coordination was developed. They wanted to make sure that state agencies were on the same wave length and to develop guidelines for local transportation coordination. To determine whether these guidelines would work in Minnesota, Noel suggested that a subgroup of the ICTC meet to see what could be developed for local agencies and to look at what could be put in place for future planning at the local level. Having consistent guidelines in place could make coordination more cost effective and accessible.

### **Human Service Transportation Forum Update**

Noel distributed a copy of "The Long Road to Work: A Transportation & Employment Dialogue" to meeting attendees. This forum is being presented by the Minnesota State Council on Disability and Pathways to Employment. It will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Minnesota Department of Health Building. Insurance issues will be discussed and that a number of presenters are members of this committee. Also attendees at the Dialogue are the same audience that would be invited to attend the Transportation Forum.

Noel suggested that the Transportation Forum be put on hold until after this dialogue. If members feel that this dialogue did not cover the insurance issue to their satisfaction, the Forum would be held. Noel will report back at the November ICTC meeting.

### **Member Agency Report on Transportation**

Mary reported that the Board on Aging held a planning session in September. She noted that Hal did a wonderful job.

Noel reported that the Metropolitan Council, Board on Aging and Mn/DOT heard a presentation on a new user friendly, web based scheduling software program.

Brian Osberg introduced Bob Ries. Bob is taking John Kowalzak's place representing the non-emergency medical transportation program at DHS.

**Next Meeting Date**

November 27, 2007

2 to 4 p.m.

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building