

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

November 27, 2007

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Bob Fischer, MN Department of Education
Doug Benson, MN Department of Health
Robert Johns, University of Minnesota
Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging

Members Absent

Tim Henkel, Director, Program Management Division
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services
Bonnie Elsey, MN DEED
Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities

Guests

Larhae Knatterud, MN Department of Human Services
Kelly Schroepfer, MN State Council on Disabilities
Barb Lemke, ARC Greater Twin Cities

Others

Terri Ricci, MN Council on Disabilities
Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services
Hal Freshley, MN Board on Aging
Paul Bridges, MN DEED
Judy Ellison, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Diane Contreras, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit

Welcome

Noel Shughart welcomed everyone to today's meeting. He noted that Tim Henkel apologizes for not being able to attend the meeting.

Transform 2010

Larhae Knatterud, from the Department of Human Services, presented a report on Transform 2010, which was launched by the MN Department of Human Services in partnership with the MN Department of Health, and the MN Board on Aging. The overall vision of this report is to make Minnesota a place where people live well and age well, and help others in their community to do the same.

Larhae reported that in less than four years the largest baby boom generation, those born between 1946 and 1964, will turn 65. To learn what the effects and impact the aging population will have on state, some already visible in the rural portion of our state, a series of public forums were held across the state. These meetings spoke of worries about labor shortages, solvency of Social Security, Medicare and private pensions, the ability of the health and long-term care systems to meet the challenges posed by an increasingly older population and the family's ability to continue eldercare into the future.

Feedback from participants who attended these public forums highlighted five key themes to assist government, employers, communities and the baby boomers to prepare for the Age Wave.

1. Redefining Work and Retirement; MN should encourage individuals to continue working in both paid and non-paid roles, and prepare for their retirement and old age. Suggested action steps include employers providing flexible work schedules to take care of personal and family needs, and the establishment of a "Mature Worker initiative to assist mature job seekers and education employers,
2. Supporting Caregivers of All Ages; MN needs to slow the decline of family care giving by offering eldercare in all workplaces and redesigning services to wrap around family care. Suggested action steps include offering eldercare support in all MN workplaces, and activate networks of neighbors and faith communities to support individuals who do not have family or other social support.
3. Fostering Communities for a Lifetime; MN communities should be a good place to grow up and grow old, and offer physical, social and service features for their residents of all ages. Suggested action steps include transform the physical infrastructure of communities, including housing, mobility options and accessible public space, and expand the range of products and services that help community residents stay independent and engaged as they age. The need for

more public transportation and additional transit options was mentioned repeatedly by the participants.

4. Improving Health and Long-Term Care; MN must transform its health care, promote good health for all, improve chronic care and intensify its long-term care reform. Suggested action steps include ensuring that Minnesotans have access to good chronic care management, transform long-term care, recruit and retain a stable health and long-term care workforce, and provide individuals with information to make good decisions about lifestyle and health habits.

5. Maximizing Use of Technology; MN should use technology to maximize the benefits and minimize the hazards that accompany its permanent age shift. Suggested action steps include expand use of technology to help people help themselves; use telehealth and related technology to address worker shortage and distance issues, and transform health care through use of evidence-based technology, achieving both efficiencies and savings while improving outcomes and quality.

Larhae noted that following the actions outlined in this report will help ensure continued economic vitality and quality of life for all Minnesotans. To meet both the opportunities and the challenges presented, they need to start now.

For additional information on this report you can visit the DHS website at <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/2010>.

The Road to Work – A Trip Worth Taking

Noel shared a presentation made at the Work Transportation Solutions Conference that was held in St. Paul on November 7, 2007. The presentation outlined the Pittsburgh, PA, ACCESS Transportation Systems program that began in 1979. The program is sponsored by the Port Authority of Allegheny County and provides 1.8 million rides annually in the coordinated system. Through a partnership with 125 entities, ACCESS uses 430 subcontracted vehicles to provide paratransit, accessible taxis, fixed route transit passes and brokerage support.

ACCESS was developed to address local transportation issues. While some transportation existed, there were unmet needs with many of the transportation services meeting only program needs. This left gaps in service. ACCESS identified that transportation barriers are often shared by people with disabilities and low income workers and found by coordinating

they could: eliminate duplication of service, create more capacity, improve efficiency, reduce the cost per trip and add value to the transportation provided to the community.

Noel reviewed how the feeder to fixed route service options used to provide transportation is working.

Mary asked that information on the cost per trip of Access be provided to see if the program is reaching it's goal of being cost effective.

Work Transportation Solutions Conference Feedback

Terri Ricci, MN State Council on Disability (MCOD), reported that MCOD and Pathways to Employment presented "The Long Road to Work: A Transportation and Employment Dialogue" on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, at the MN Department of Health Building.

Attendees heard the above presentation and "The Transportation Toolbox" presentation by Bob Olsgard, Transportation Coordinator, North Country Independent Living in WI. Attendees also had the choice to attend one of three concurrent breakout sessions.

Issues identified were; insurance makes vehicle sharing difficult, systems not working together which causes duplication of service, inconsistent bus line service makes using bus service to work sometimes difficult.

Attendees felt the conference identified current issues and trends, and they believe a positive change in transportation will occur.

Member Agency Reports on Transportation

Hal Freshley reported that Mn/DOT is involved with a team of multi-agencies in the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Project. The team is charged with developing a program of coordinated activities that will raise the awareness about traffic safety among the public and decision-makers and that will identify a menu of tools to be used to successfully reduce deaths and serious injuries that occur as a result of traffic crashes.

Bob Ries asked if Mn/DOT received a response from the Governor's office regarding the Committee's Report to the Governor. Noel commented that no, we have not, and have not in the past. Bob also report the DHS has been

receiving complaints from their clients regarding their current Medicaid brokered service. Clients do not like being required to pre-sign up for rides and the limits on when the service is available.

Noel reported that Bryna Heifer, FTA United We Ride, received the committee's letter regarding insurance issues Minnesota is experiencing. He noted that these issues are being discussed at the federal level.

Doug Benson reported that he recently attended a meeting where EMTs from the State Ambulance Association are not in favor of the Medicaid brokerage system and are going to the Legislature to insure this program is not supported.

Bob Johns reported that the Center for Transportation Studies is starting work on the ICTC web page.

Bob Fischer reported that the bridge collapse did cause some problems for the City of Minneapolis school bus system, but they made the adjustments to get their students to school. Bob also reported that the Legislature provided additional funding to school districts in the flood areas for school bus transportation.

Next Meeting Date

January 22, 2008

1 to 3 p.m.

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