

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

February 26, 2008

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Tim Henkel, Chair

Bob Fischer, MN Department of Education

Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council

Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services

Doug Benson, MN Department of Health

Members Absent

Robert Johns, University of Minnesota

Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging

Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities

Bonnie Elsey, MN DEED

Guest

Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies

Others

Bette Gysland, MN Board on Aging

Krista Boston, MN Department of Human Services

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services

Hal Freshley, MN Board on Aging

Paul Bridges, MN DEED

Donna Allan, Mn/DOT

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

Insurance Summit Discussion

Noel noted that the ICTC committee and the Local Transit Human Service Coordination Plans identified insurance as a road block to coordination. In August the committee heard an insurance presentation from Tom Baker and Lee Spelbrink, from the MN Department of Commerce, where they identified several strategies to resolve this issue.

The strategies identified were:

- ⊖ Contact the insurance industry to learn what insurance companies are willing to underwrite. This is accomplished through the Minnesota Insurance Federation, an organization representing the Minnesota insurance companies.
- ⊖ Apply for self insurance; several state departments and governmental agencies currently do this.
- ⊖ If a group has 100 members, they can apply to be a reciprocal insurance company. This type of structure is used by the Minnesota Automobile Dealers.
- ⊖ Become owners of a self-insurance company, however, there are certain drawbacks in terms of asset protection.
- ⊖ Co-mingling of private and public entities. Work with a large insurance company to undertake this type of insurance. This is similar to the proposal put forth by the Community Transportation Mutual Insurance Company.

At the committee's suggestion, Noel investigated convening a summit for stakeholders to talk about insurance issues. The summit could serve as a forum for sharing the insurance strategies identified by the MN Department of Commerce and foster further discussion by stakeholders to implement the new strategies. The summit is tentatively scheduled to be held in the metro area possibly in May or June.

It was noted that Mn/DOT's Office of Transit will host Risk Management Seminars that will include a discussion on insurance. Seminar dates are April 28 in Mankato, April 29 in St. Cloud and April 30 in Bemidji. Noel could attend these meetings and report back any rural information that would benefit the

summit. Tim asked Noel to continue investigating this issue and bring details to the March meeting.

United We Ride Fact Sheets

Noel distributed and reviewed two fact sheets, “Mobility Management” and “Family of Transportation Services”, that were developed by United We Ride, a federal interagency whose initiative is aimed at improving the availability, quality, and efficient delivery of transportation services for older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes. Noel commented that after reading these fact sheets, committee members will note that a lot of the ideas/text is very similar to the Minnesota Public Transit – Human Services Coordination Study completed in 2006.

Coordination Website Update

Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies, distributed and reviewed the Transit Coordination Website Outline that they are proposing. She reviewed potential URL addresses, Noel suggested www.coordinatemntransit.org as a potential URL address; the design will be similar to the Moving Communities Forward website structure and home page elements. It was suggested that the Center use AARP’s guidelines for color preferences as this site will be used by elderly persons.

Committee members suggested information to be included under content organization categories. Gina asked that each organization send her names of contact person(s) for their organization’s information link.

Report on Agency Coordination Guidelines

Noel reported that a small working group consisting of Paul Bridges, Hal Freshley, Jody Jacoby from Met Council and himself met earlier this month to discuss Agency Coordination Guidelines. Noel distributed and reviewed the State of Washington’s Coordinating Special Needs Transportation language used in preparing its coordination legislation. He noted that Washington and Iowa are ahead of the curve on this issue. Donna noted that Minnesota has done well in coordination in comparison to other states.

The small working group questioned if it would be more practical to look at the statute and then develop guidelines or develop guidelines to revise the

statute. To help answer this question, the small group will review other state's guidelines/best practices used to prepare their legislation. Noel suggested that the small working group prepare a matrix of the different state's guidelines for the committee's review and next steps,

Member Agency Reports on Transportation

Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services, reported that the MNET brokerage aspect of its Service Transportation Program has been discontinued, but the brokerage arrangement part of the program is still alive and well.

Hal Freshley, MN Board on Aging, reported that the Department of Human Services has issued an RFP seeking applications from service providers to expand and integrate home and community-based services for older adults that allow local communities to rebalance their long-term care service delivery system, support people in their homes, expand the caregiver support and respite care network and promote independence. Application deadline is February 29, 2008, and to date they have received 15 to 20 applications. They will ask staff from Mn/DOT to help them review applications.

Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council, reported that Carver, Scott and the City of Hastings are participating in a DHS/Mn/DOT/Met Council pilot project to test a web based dispatching software.

Doug Benson, MN Department of Health, reported that their agency is in the process of updating its Rural Health Plan. They have held four meetings in the last six months asking local officials what they see as rural health issues. The number one issue identified was transportation for the mentally impaired, no one wants to provide this service.

Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT Office of Transit, distributed the revised Volunteer Drivers brochure. Hal thanked Noel for his work in updating this brochure.

Tim Henkel, Mn/DOT, remarked that the Minnesota Legislature voted to override the Governor's veto of a \$6.6 billion Transportation Bill. The Department is looking at the bill to see what it means to them.

Next Meeting Date

March 25, 2008

1 to 3 p.m.

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