

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT COORDINATION

April 28, 2009

Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Tim Henkel, Committee Chair, Mn/DOT
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Brian Osberg, MN Department of Human Services
Gina Baas for Bob Johns, University of Minnesota
Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging
Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities

Members Absent

Kelly Wosika, MN Department of Education
Doug Benson, MN Department of Health
Bonnie Elsey, MN Department of Employment & Economic Development

State Agency Staff

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

Public Attendee

Michael Weidner, Paratransit Providers Association

Welcome

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

State Planning Strategies (Issue: Communication/Coordinated Planning)

Noel Shughart reported that the framework for planning and coordination started with the United We Ride (UWR) concept. In Noel's PowerPoint presentation, "Planning Overview: Institutions, Structures and Opportunities", he spoke about the work the State has done in relationship to the United We Ride Coordination Framework in the areas of transportation planning, planning in rural areas, long range planning process requirements, and transit operations planning.

Hal Freshley then compared Minnesota's planning activities to those of states of Colorado, Iowa, Texas and Washington in the areas of:

Organizational Structure
Planning Process
Outreach Methods
Intake Methods

Research/Reports Guidebook

General discussion followed about what methods would be of benefit to undertake in Minnesota to facilitate a local contact strategy for the ICTC. At a future meeting some recommended strategies will be presented.

Mn/DOT's Greater Minnesota Transit Plan (Issue: Communication/Coordinated Planning)

Noel reported that the Greater Minnesota Transit Plan is a 20-year strategic plan for preserving current public transportation systems while improving mobility for the general public. The plan will build toward a future in which people have more public transportation choices, in which connections between modes are efficient and easy to use, and where public transportation services are coordinated. The stakeholder involvement process, facilitated workshops, structured interviews and an online survey, resulted in the identification of major themes that shaped the development of the plan and are summarized in five challenges;

- Challenge 1: Maintaining and Expanding Public Transit
- Challenge 2: Changing Mobility Needs of Individuals
- Challenge 3: Changing Mobility Needs of the Workforce
- Challenge 4: Exploring Opportunities for Greater Minnesota Transit Options, and
- Challenge 5: Coordination of Services

Noel noted that an extensive network of public transit systems exists in Greater Minnesota which can help meet a significant level of existing and emerging mobility challenges. In Greater Minnesota 75 of 80 counties have some public transit service, there are over 500 vehicles in service and transit providers provided over 11 million passenger trips in 2008.

Now that a draft plan has been completed, Noel and other Mn/DOT personnel will attend Open Houses being held statewide to gather input from the public on the issues that affect their lives and businesses. Many of these open houses are being held in conjunction with the 2009 Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan.

Council on Transportation Access

Noel reported that S.F. No. 1226, Minnesota Council on Transportation Access, is still alive. The bill calls for an appropriation of \$300,000 for the next two years, but it is not known if the appropriation would remain in the bill if passed. Tim Henkel noted that the ICTC was formed as a Governor's initiative and the passage of this bill would continue the work of the ICTC beyond the term of the Governor. Mike Schadauer reported that Mn/DOT will remain neutral on this bill.

Working Committee Reports

- **Metro 5310/HS Meeting** – Noel reported that staff from the Office of Transit has been meeting with the metro area 5310 providers to talk about insurance and to identify strategies to develop an insurance consortium. At the last meeting Noel invited an insurance broker to provide assistance on how to put this consortium

together and to answer questions. Noel hopes to have this individual attend a future meeting.

- STS/CVO Meeting – Noel reported that Sarah Lenz, from the Office of Transit, has been meeting with the Office of Commercial Vehicle Operations to identify a solution to the STS issue. Through due diligence they think they have come up with a solution, however, this solution may require some legislative action. Noel will ask Sarah to attend a future meeting to discuss this issue.

Member Agency Reports on Transportation

Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities, noted that the purpose of the Minnesota's Pathways to Employment (PTE) program is to increase the employment rate and earnings of people with disabilities, and meet the needs of Minnesota employers through full use of the state's workforce. They plan to host workshops around the state on this program in the near future.

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services, reported that DHS is closely following legislation that covers medical type transportation, and they are working with agencies to improve their transportation network.

Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging, reported that she attended a Volunteer Recognition Banquet in Todd County.

Hal Freshley, MN Board of Aging, reported that he had an opportunity to attend the CTS/Hennepin County forum.

Deb Schauffert, MN Department of Human Services, reported that they are going through another federal compliance piece of legislation that is looking at all service payment methodologies.

Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council, reported that the council met for the first time with the advisory committee to work through implementation of the new Dial-A-Ride Transit Service Redesign program. They are also working to identify where they will spend their stimulus dollars.

Gina Baas, University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies, reported that the 20th Annual CTS Transportation Research Conference will be held May 19-20, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington. Concurrent sessions are focused in four categories that match the Center's research emphasis areas—Transportation Safety and Traffic Flow, Transportation Infrastructure, Transportation and the Economy, and Transportation Planning and the Environment—with a fifth category covering Education and Outreach Issues.

Mike Schadauer, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit, reported that the office has been working to develop the final list of projects to receive the \$19M rural and \$6M urban ARRA funding. Most of the funding will be spent on vehicles with a small amount for facilities.

Tim Henkel, Director, Mn/DOT's Modal Planning & Program Management Division, reported that Mn/DOT is working to establish a new Passenger Rail Office. This office will not only be involved in the planning and construction activities, but also in the development of that network. This new office will be located under his division.

Next Meeting Date

May 26, 2009
Hiway Federal Credit Union Administration Building
840 Westminster Street