Minnesota Council on Transportation Access

Moving Transit Forward with Coordination, Action and Advocacy

9/19/11
Importance of Transportation

- Creating accessible transportation for all is about more than improving individual lives.
- Transit is required for:
  - Creating a healthy economy.
  - Supporting our state’s communities and culture.
  - Enabling people with low incomes, older adults and people with disabilities to be independent.
Current Transit Challenges

• Despite significant investment at all levels of government, serious service gaps exist.
• Multitude of programs makes communication & coordination difficult.
• At least 62 transit programs at the federal level alone!
• Complex web = duplicative efforts, confusion.
Coordination is the Key

• By working together, we can find solutions:
  – Increase capacity to serve unmet needs.
  – Improve quality of service.
  – Improve understanding of transit services.
  – Improve access to transit services.
  – Achieve more cost-effective service delivery.

• This is the function of the Council
The Coordination Goal

Minnesota Council on Transportation Access
About the Council

• Formed by the MN State Legislature in 2010.
• Succeeds the Interagency Committee on Transit Coordination (ICTC).
  – Established by MN Gov. Tim Pawlenty in 2005
• Made up of 13 separate agencies and organizations ...
The Council

- Office of the Governor
- Minnesota State Council on Disability
- Minnesota Public Transit Association
- Minnesota Department of Education
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Department of Commerce
- Minnesota Board on Aging
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Management and Budget
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Minnesota Council on Transportation Access
Mission/Vision Statement

**Mission**

• *To work together to remove obstacles that prevent the successful coordination of transportation programs and resources among their respective customers.*

**Vision**

• *Minnesotans will have access to coordinated transportation services to meet their mobility needs.*
Our Duties

• 20 duties related to five Key Issue Areas:
  – Vehicle & Client Sharing
  – Cost Sharing & Purchasing
  – Communication & Coordinated Planning
  – Reporting & Evaluation
  – Research & Demonstration Projects
Key Issue Area #1: Vehicle & Client Sharing

- Vehicles used in human service transportation should be made available to other state, federal and publicly-funded programs to reduce duplicative transportation services and idle time for drivers and vehicles.
Vehicle & Client Sharing Accomplishments

• Created a model contract for use by local agencies contracting with external organizations to provide transportation services.

• Working through the Dept. of Commerce to clarify the issue of insurance requirements related to sharing clients and vehicles.
Key Issue Area #2: Cost Sharing & Purchasing

• State agencies are encouraged to work together to create funding mechanisms that support shared ownership of funding responsibilities to ensure adequate resources are available for transportation services.
Cost Sharing & Purchasing Accomplishments

- MnDOT Office of Transit updated Council on their efforts to develop a cost allocation model for the transit systems in Greater Minnesota.
Key Issue Area #3: Communication & Coordinated Planning

• Agencies are encouraged to participate in a community transportation planning process for human service transportation programs to promote the development and delivery of coordinated transportation services.
Communication & Coordinated Planning Accomplishments

• Developed the Minnesota Coordination website.  [www.coordinatemntransit.org](http://www.coordinatemntransit.org)

• Produced a planning guidance document with a model for locally developed and coordinated planning across the state of Minnesota.
Key Issue Area #4: Reporting & Evaluation

- State agencies dealing with transportation services are encouraged to agree upon common measurements and definitions for tracking and reporting the costs of those services.
Reporting & Evaluation Accomplishments

• Developing definitions of transportation terms that participating agencies can refine into a consistent set of terminology.

• Included a cost allocation methodology in the model contract to more consistently and effectively describe transportation costs.
Key Area #5: Research & Demonstration Projects

• State agencies should conduct demonstration projects to investigate coordinated planning, vehicle and client sharing and cost sharing in order to test the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of new transit approaches.
Research & Demonstration Projects

Accomplishments

• Developing a library of successful practices to use as part of the local coordination planning process.
For More Information

• Visit:
  – coordinate.mntransit.org/MCOTA/index.html

• Contact:
  – Noel Shughart, MnDOT Office of Transit
    – Noel.Shughart@state.mn.us
    – 651-366-4181