
Minnesota Council on Transportation Access

Moving Transit Forward with
Coordination, Action and Advocacy

9/19/11

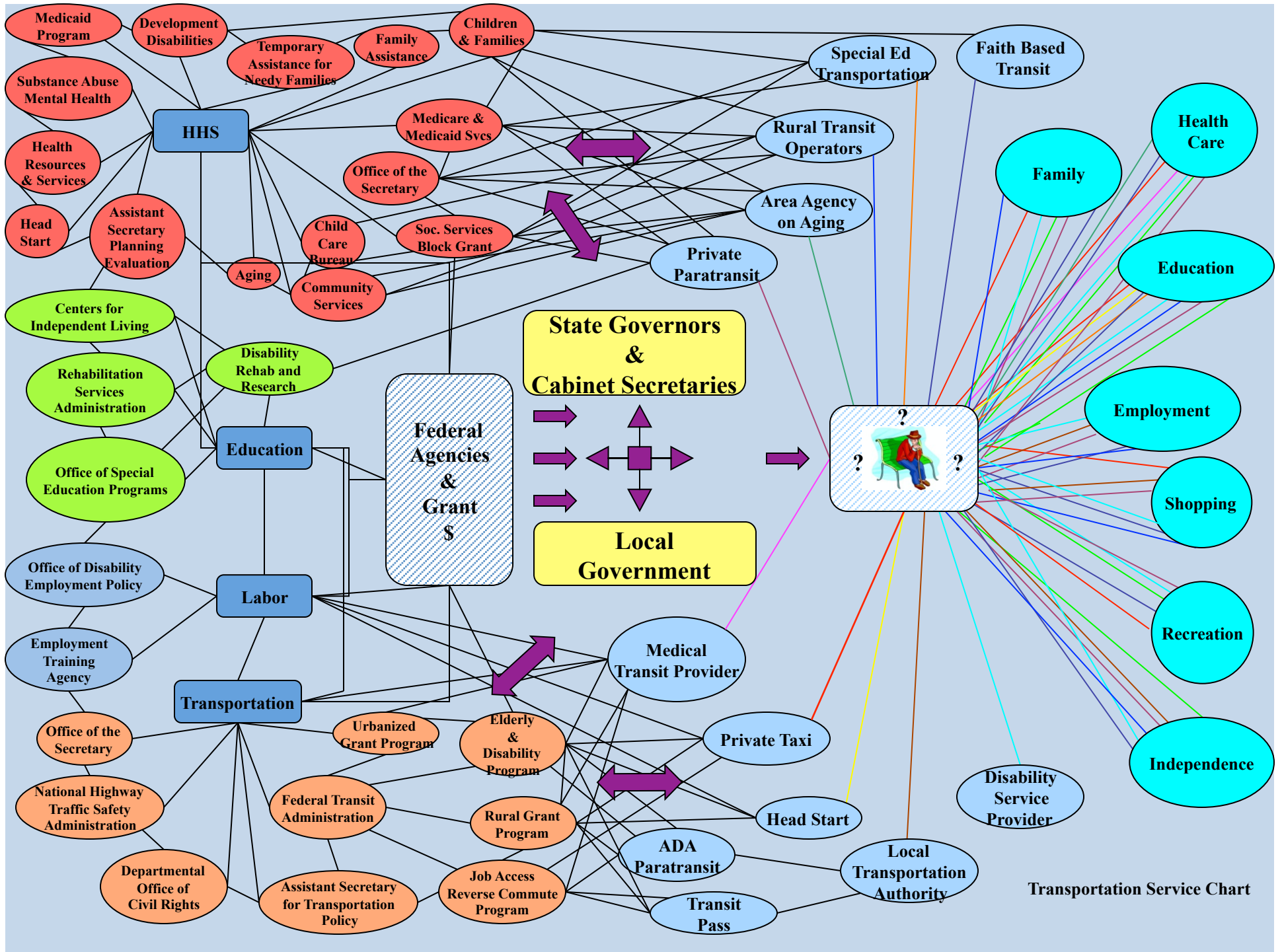
Minnesota Council on
Transportation Access

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.



Transportation Service Chart

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



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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 ...

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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

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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
- 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:
 - coordinatemntransit.org/MCOTA/index.html
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