

Minnesota Council on Transportation Access

April 28, 2011

Mn/DOT Aeronautics Building

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Committee Chair – Tim Henkel, Mn/DOT
Kelley Wosika, MN Department of Education
Doug Benson, MN Department of Health
Mary Koep, MN Board on Aging
Joan Willshire, MN State Council on Disabilities
Tina Armstrong, MN Department of Commerce
Britta Reitan, OMB

Members Absent

Tony Kellen, MPTA
Gerri Sutton, MET Council
Julian Plamann, Governor's Office
Chuk Hamilton, DEED
Scott Leitz, MN Department of Human Services

Guests

Arlene Mathison, University of Minnesota
Sarah Mullins, ISAIAH
Pastor Grant Stevens, ISAIAH

Others

Bob Ries, MN Department of Human Services
Lucas Beckman, MN Veterans Administration
Jennifer Beilke, DEED
Jackie Peichel, MN Board on Aging
Mike Schadauer, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Judy Ellison, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Noel Shughart, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit
Fay Cleaveland, Mn/DOT, Office of Transit

Welcome

Tim Henkel welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to today's meeting.

Review and Approval of Minutes

It was noted that there was no quorum at the February meeting. The February minutes were tabled and should reflect that the CTS Plan was not approved.

State Agency Transportation Series: Mn/DOT

To help educate member agencies about the roles each serves when dealing with transportation issues, members are asked to make a presentation about their respective organization at upcoming Council meetings. Mike Schadauer from Mn/DOT made a presentation on the Office of Transit. (Please see attached Powerpoint.)

Coordination Best Practice Examples

Noel compiled a list of Minnesota transportation coordination best practices for the Planning and Coordination Committee to review. The Committee met, reviewed and discussed the list.

Noel reviewed the best practices and explained how they will be used in the local planning process and project identification for JARC/New Freedom and 5310 funds. These best practices can help generate ideas for similar local projects across the State.

Doug asked that we somehow articulate the informal examples of what coordination is taking place in Minnesota.

It was recommended that the template for the best practices summaries include unit cost.

Communication and Outreach Support

Arlene reported on some scope changes to the CTS Cost Proposal. With a decrease in available funding, the Coordination forums have been eliminated for this fiscal year. We will look at what type of outreach to conduct after the local workshops are completed and bring back a proposal for the 2012 fiscal year.

Recent School Transportation Obstacle

Kelly reported that the Department of Public Safety has been citing school districts for transporting students on public transit. For Charter Schools and rural districts it is not economical to bus children, so in some instances they are using public transit. Long Prairie school district was using Rainbow Rider public transit to transport children, some with disabilities. Kelly explained that the transport is allowable according to the regulations she is aware of. Also, the FTA says the service is allowable. (See the attached FTA handout on School Transportation.) The next step is to for Mn/DOT to communicate with Public Safety to make sure they are referencing the same Statute and there is a common understanding of the issues.

Set Preliminary Agenda for May 24th Meeting

Potential agenda items: Legislative update, electronic voting amendment to the By Laws, and a report on the status fo the school bus issue.

Committee Updates:

No updates.

Member Agency Comments:

Bob reported on potential legislative cuts and the OLA report. A committee is being formed to look at the ATS and STS system moving into one single tier system in 2012.

Open Forum

Mike introduced Sarah Mullins and Pastor Grant Stevens from ISAIAH. ISAIAH is a faith based organization working with transportation and creating access for MN. It is an organization of 98 congregations from St. Cloud to Dakota County and will likely expand to Rochester. It has a strong interest in creating healthy communities, of which transportation is a critical piece. They are very interested in getting involved in transit coordination, particularly from the perspective of connecting low income people and people of color to jobs. It has been very active in encouraging Mn/DOT to hire employees and contractors whose demographics match those of the State of Minnesota. See <http://www.isaiah-mn.org/> .

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Tina Armstrong and seconded by Bob Ries.

Next Meeting Date

June 7, 2011
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Elmer Anderson Building
540 Cedar Street – Room 2223