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Minnesota Council on Transportation Access

This e-mail update is an effort by the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) to provide periodic updates about its initiatives to the public and to interested stakeholders. Please let us know what you think by contacting Arlene Mathison at mathi032@umn.edu or Noel Shughart at Noel.Shughart@state.mn.us.

Volunteer Driver Program Forum summary available

A summary of highlights from the daylong event, convened by the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access, is now available.

Read the summary and download presentations from the [MCOTA Volunteer Driver Program Forum event page](#).

Youth employment research study report published

An MCOTA-sponsored study of youth employment transportation issues was just published. Researchers from the State and Local Policy Program at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs conducted a survey of youth in employment and training programs throughout Minnesota. Frank Douma and graduate research assistant Charles Noble found that youth throughout the state are likely to face employment transportation issues. Fewer youth in urban areas reported transportation barriers than youth in suburban and rural areas of the state. Unemployed youth with disabilities, particularly in suburban and rural areas, were most likely to report transportation barriers to their employment.

Some recommendations from the study:

- Maintain and support transit, walking, and biking in urban areas.
- Develop innovative programs for the way transit and other single-occupant vehicle alternatives are offered in suburban and rural areas so youth no longer feel that they must rely on their own cars.
- Provide individualized ride options (e.g., carpooling, ride-shares, car-shares, Lyft, and Uber) or vehicles to youth in rural and suburban areas.
- Expand and invest in Transportation Coordinating Councils.

Read the full study:

- [Best Practices in Youth Employment Transportation \(PDF\)](#)
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Greater Minnesota RTCC Organizational Planning Grants awarded

By Sue Siemers, Greater Minnesota Mobility Management Program Coordinator, MnDOT Office of Transit and Active Transportation

Congratulations to the following organizations that were awarded transportation planning funds from MnDOT Office of Transit and Active Transportation to begin the Phase 1: Organizational Planning efforts to create a Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) within their regions.

- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc.
(Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine & St. Louis - MACSSA Region 3)
- East Central Regional Development Commission
(Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, & Pine - MACSSA Region 7)
- Headwaters Regional Development Commission
(Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen - MACSSA Region 2)
- Mid-Minnesota Development Commission
(Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville & Sibley - MACSSA Region 6)
- Northwestern Regional Development Commission
(Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk & Roseau - MACSSA Region 1)
- Region Five Development Commission
(Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd & Wadena - MACSSA Region 5)
- St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO)
(Benton, Sherburne, Stearns & Wright - MACSSA Region 7)
- Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.
(Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha & Winona - MACSSA Region 10)
- West Central Community Action, Inc.
(Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse & Wilken - MACSSA Region 4)

RTCCs consist of stakeholders interested in improving mobility for "transportation disadvantaged" – older adults, persons with disabilities, individuals with low incomes, and/or military veterans. The creation of an RTCC will provide coordinated transportation services amongst the stakeholders involved to create more transportation options and hopefully more cost effective service for those needing transportation throughout Greater Minnesota.

More information:

- [Greater Minnesota RTCC Organizational Planning Grant Application \(Phase 1—2018\)](#)

Dakota County Lyft pilot in the news

Dakota County's Lyft pilot program for residents with disabilities is featured in the news this month.

[Dakota County's pilot program is aiming to fill Metro Mobility gaps.](#)

Star Tribune, June 16, 2018

Go Dakota is the County's RTCC. For more information, see Heidi Corcoran's [presentation on Go Dakota \(PDF\)](#) from the May 9 Volunteer Driver Program Forum.

Upcoming MCOTA meetings

MCOTA usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the MnDOT Central Office, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. The meetings are open, and members of the public are welcome to attend in person or to call in; each meeting includes time for public comments. See the [MCOTA website](#) for more details.

- July 25, 2018, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
 - August 22, 2018, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
 - September 26, 2018, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
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About MCOTA

The Minnesota Council on Transportation Access was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2010 to "study, evaluate, oversee, and make recommendations to improve the coordination, availability, accessibility, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety of transportation services provided to the transit public."

www.CoordinateMNTransit.org



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