

Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2018
MnDOT Central Office Transportation Building
395 John Ireland Blvd, Saint Paul, Conference Room 461
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Members present:

Chair – Tim Henkel, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Vice-Chair – Joan Willshire, Minnesota State Council on Disability
At-Large Representative – Victoria Nill, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Tiffany Collins, Minnesota Public Transit Association
Jon Kelly, Minnesota Department of Commerce (via phone, proxy for Peter Brickwedde)
Ronald Quade II, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (via phone)
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Harlan Tardy, Minnesota Board on Aging (via phone)

Members absent:

Susan Bishop, Minnesota Department of Health
Peter Brickwedde, Minnesota Department of Commerce (Jon Kelly served as proxy)
Kelly Garvey, Minnesota Department of Education
Laura Logsdon, Minnesota Management and Budget
Thant Pearson, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Claire Wilson, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Others present:

Minnesota Department of Transportation:

Kristie Billiar, ADA Program and Policy
Jake Rueter, Office of Transit and Active Transportation
Noel Shughart, Office of Transit and Active Transportation
Sue Siemers, Office of Transit and Active Transportation (via phone)

University of Minnesota:

Frank Douma, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
Kaydee Kirk, Center for Transportation Studies
Arlene Mathison, Center for Transportation Studies

Anoka County Transit:

Mark Schermerhorn
Ann Walter

Jacqueline Peichel, Minnesota Department of Human Services and Minnesota Board on Aging
Leah Hegg, American Cancer Society (via phone)
Kim Pettman, Transit Advocate
Darlene Zangara, Olmstead Implementation Office
Alan Herrmann, Scott County
Abby Fraiser, American Cancer Society (via phone)
Noah McCourt, Governor's Council on Developmental Disability and Move Minnesota Board Member

Call to order & introductions: Henkel called to order the July meeting of the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access at **1:03 PM** on July 25, 2018 at the MnDOT Central Office, St. Paul, MN.

Review and approve agenda: Kelly moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Sutton. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Public comments: Pettman shared the following comments:

- She shared about her use of St. Cloud Metro Bus, metro bus, and Metro Transit and how the bus systems are difficult for her to use given her lipodema. She noted that some people are coming from greater Minnesota to go into St. Paul to go to the Capitol Building to advocate on various issues, including transportation access in greater Minnesota; however, getting to St. Paul is a challenge with the current systems. Having transit available to people with disabilities and the voice in greater MN will be lost with not good access good transit.
- St. Cloud got a grant for commuter link buses. Seat belts remain an issue for Pettman since the buses are not equipped with seatbelts for persons using a greater amount of seat room. She has concerns about ensuring that seat belt extensions in transit vehicles and STS carriers since extensions are not very common, but necessary for various physical needs. Pettman has discussed this concern with legislators. She asked who we should be working with to change this.
- Metro Mobility cars work relatively well for Pettman.
- RTCCs: In the St. Cloud area where Pettman lives it is not easy to hear all voices of those who wish to be represented. Her experience is that in her own community the voice of members of the public are not valued. Her recommendation is for those in leadership to understand the particulars of all people including persons with disabilities and that their voices have value. She especially noted that it is important to be open to the public and let them know they are welcome to the RTCC process.
- Pettman offered that anyone is welcome to shadow her while using a transportation vehicle to better understand her experience traveling as a person with a disability.

5/23/18 meeting minutes: Sutton moved to approve the May 2018 minutes, seconded by Kelly. The minutes were unanimously **approved**.

Review summary of MCOTA Volunteer Driver Program Forum: Tardy moved to approve the forum summary, seconded by Collins. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Final Draft of MCOTA research study Best Practices for Addressing Youth Employment and Training Transportation: Sutton moved to approve the report, seconded by Nill. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Quarterly stakeholder communication: Mathison reviewed all the content of the proposed communication. Shughart would like to have the waiver transportation study in the communication including purpose, status, and schedule of events. Mathison will ensure this is included. Sutton moved to approve the stakeholder communication seconded by Nill. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Waiver transportation study:

Shughart shared that the waiver transportation study will provide recommendations to improve access. Douma and Jerry Zhao from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the U of MN are involved as researchers on this study. The research is focused around the topic of rates and also on the topic of access – there are advisory groups on these subjects. In mid June the advisory groups had kick off meetings. Each group will meet four times before the end of the year and they will develop recommendations that will go to the legislature. Douma noted that a survey on the study on waiver trips and how they are provided will be distributed this summer. Shughart shared that one other component of the study is to look at what other states are doing around the topic of waiver transportation. In response to a member question, it was clarified that waiver dollars are federal and state dollars, a 50/50 match. Shughart suggested including the waiver study as a link on the MCOTA website to help disseminate this information.

Pettman asked if the access group has had good disability sensitivity training. She felt there is not a very good understanding of ADA in the health care industry. It as shared that the team is still connecting with consumers to get their feedback and would likely be open to other public comments. Shughart suggested talking to Matt on this.

Olmstead Implementation Office (OIO) quality-of-life survey:

Zangara gave a presentation on the quality of life survey and provided a handout that was emailed to the MCOTA distribution following the meeting. The survey is designed to track the quality of life for persons with disabilities. Are we better off today vs. yesterday? Want to move people from segregated to more integrated settings. Of those who completed the baseline survey (2,005 people statewide), 100 were selected from a target group for a follow-up survey.

The [baseline report](#) is posted on the website. They meet with the Olmstead subcabinet regularly. There will be much more information available in December on the results of the survey and what the next steps are and how it can be applied.

Rueter asked if the 32 outings include any work trips. Zangara shared that work trips are not included. The questions are very specific that are not related to work (groceries, worship, friends, etc.). They also ask what transportation they use. There are another set of questions that are related to work/employment.

Shughart: Waiver trips are tied to a specific purpose and very siloed. Can there be more flexibility to move beyond government transportation trips? They talked about specific services but didn't hear about specific transportation services. Zangara would like to get more information on this to potentially include in their analysis.

Henkel suggested inviting Zangara to present at either the December or January MCOTA meeting when the full report will be available. Shughart said they have an advisory group that oversees how the survey is designed and how the report is prepared.

Review FY19 MCOTA Budget: All of the line items from FY18 were expended and the budget was in the black. Rueter is overseeing the work plan for the upcoming year. The line item detail will be presented at the next meeting. In short, Rueter shared that MnDOT has worked with CTS on a baseline budget – website, report to legislative, meeting assistance, and stakeholder communications. Amending this contract in the future is generally easier than other programs. The current FY19 budget is \$27,113 as it stands now.

Agency updates

1. Follow up from MCOTA Structure discussion – Rueter shared that a potential restructure is intended to be a collaborative process and information on this structure will be sent out in advance of the meeting.
2. Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils – There are nine RTCC planning grants executed and planning processes have begun. Regions 1-7 are underway. Regions 8 and 9 withdrew their applications since they want to work on their current informal structure to eventually become structured down the line. The planning phase application will be available in September. Simers is working on the RTCC reporting and invoicing processes. Two regions have begun their stakeholder outreach. The planning phase is 12 months before moving into implementation.
3. Olmstead Plan – The group met on Monday. Their quarterly report is being prepared for August. In the next couple months, they will be receiving direction from OIO on the plan components. Thus far all plan elements and targets have been met successfully.
4. Other Updates:
 - a. Shughart provided an update that Heidi Corcoran has left her position at Dakota County.
 - b. Willshire shared that she is serving on the Governor's automated vehicle (AV) task force.

Review draft August agenda: Members can submit agenda items that they have to Rueter.

Adjourn: Sutton made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Nill. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 2:25 p.m.

2018 meetings: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:30pm, MnDOT Central Office: cancelled Aug 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 19 (3rd Wed. of month)