

Stakeholder Cover Letter:

Dear _____:

Thank you for the work you are doing to improve community access for people in Minnesota for the value your organization brings to the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) as a stakeholder.

As part of shaping MCOTA's role, strategies, and tactics for the next 3-5 years, we invite you to participate in an anonymous survey to share your input regarding your view of MCOTA's role, alignment with your agency's priorities, and anything else you think would help MCOTA in its mission and vision.

The Minnesota Legislature established MCOTA in 2010, codified in [MN Statute 2010 174.285](#), 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." The Legislature listed twenty specific duties for MCOTA in [Subdivision 2](#). To date, MCOTA has made progress in nearly all of these duties. Yet, significant transportation gaps persist.

As MCOTA completes nearly 10 years of work, the purpose of this survey is to refine and formalize the role of MCOTA as Minnesota's state-level coordinating council and to identify actions MCOTA can take to improve access to transportation throughout the state, especially for seniors and persons with disabilities.

As a stakeholder in Minnesota, we are especially interested in hearing how you envision MCOTA's role evolving in the future. Survey responses will remain anonymous. Answers will be collected until **March 22nd**.

We greatly appreciate your input and time!

Stakeholder Survey:

Background on MCOTA

The Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2010 under [Minn. Stat. 174.285](#), 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." To improve transit coordination and accessibility, the statute assigns the council 20 duties.

Mission

The mission of the MCOTA is 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

MCOTA's duties as established in Subdivision 2 of [MN Statute 2010 174.285](#)

Subd. 2. Duties of council.

In order to accomplish the purposes in subdivision 1, the council, following consultation with the legislative committees or divisions with jurisdiction over transportation policy and budget, or with appropriate legislative transportation subcommittees, shall adopt a biennial work plan that must incorporate the following activities:

- (1) compile information on existing transportation alternatives for the transit public, and serve as a clearinghouse for information on services, funding sources, innovations, and coordination efforts;
- (2) identify best practices and strategies that have been successful in Minnesota and in other states for coordination of local, regional, state, and federal funding and services;
- (3) recommend statewide objectives for providing public transportation services for the transit public;
- (4) identify barriers prohibiting coordination and accessibility of public transportation services and aggressively pursue the elimination of those barriers;
- (5) recommend policies and procedures for coordinating local, regional, state, and federal funding and services for the transit public;

- (6) identify stakeholders in providing services for the transit public, and seek input from them concerning barriers and appropriate strategies;
- (7) recommend guidelines for developing transportation coordination plans throughout the state;
- (8) encourage all state agencies participating in the council to purchase trips within the coordinated system;
- (9) facilitate the creation and operation of transportation brokerages to match riders to the appropriate service, promote shared dispatching, compile and disseminate information on transportation options, and promote regional communication;
- (10) encourage volunteer driver programs and recommend legislation to address liability and insurance issues;
- (11) recommend minimum performance standards for delivery of services;
- (12) identify methods to eliminate fraud and abuse in special transportation services;
- (13) develop a standard method for addressing liability insurance requirements for transportation services purchased, provided, or coordinated;
- (14) design and develop a contracting template for providing coordinated transportation services;
- (15) recommend an interagency uniform contracting and billing and accounting system for providing coordinated transportation services;
- (16) encourage the design and development of training programs for coordinated transportation services;
- (17) encourage the use of public school transportation vehicles for the transit public;
- (18) develop an allocation methodology that equitably distributes transportation funds to compensate units of government and all entities that provide coordinated transportation services;
- (19) identify policies and necessary legislation to facilitate vehicle sharing; and
- (20) advocate aggressively for eliminating barriers to coordination, implementing coordination strategies, enacting necessary legislation, and appropriating resources to achieve the council's objectives.

Questions:

1. What is the most important issue or barrier for transportation for your organization's clients and community?
2. As you have engaged with the public (customers/riders), what priorities have they indicated they'd like to see?
3. Please rate your familiarity with MCOTA (1-5)
4. How closely do the MCOTA legislative duties align with those of your organization (rank 1-5, very closely to not at all)?
5. What idea or issue related to coordination should a statewide organization like MCOTA pay most attention to?
 - a. Improved access to health care
 - i. Comment here to provide suggestions for how to accomplish this
 - b. Improved access to community resources and events
 - i. Comment here to provide suggestions for how to accomplish this
 - c. Rural access
 - i. Comment here to provide suggestions for how to accomplish this
 - d. Improved coordination of services (ie. sharing vehicles)
 - i. Comment here to provide suggestions for how to accomplish this
 - e. Development of future transportation policies (ie. autonomous vehicles)
 - i. Comment here to provide suggestions for how to accomplish this
 - f. Other
6. Are there other strategic priorities that you would like MCOTA to address instead or additionally? What would be helpful in the future to meet your organizational goals?
7. What authority and responsibility should MCOTA have as the statewide coordinating council?
8. Who needs to be involved in a successful statewide coordinating council? What role would you like to have in supporting the implementation of these strategies?
9. What mechanisms would you like MCOTA to use to learn about your organization's successes, challenges, and priorities?
 - a. Participation during MCOTA meetings
 - b. Online surveys
 - c. Quarterly newsletter entries
 - d. Other
10. What mechanisms would you like to use in order to learn about MCOTA's activities and plans?
 - a. Website
 - b. Attendance during MCOTA meetings
 - c. Quarterly newsletter
 - d. Quarterly email updates
 - e. Other
11. Anything else?