

**Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) Meeting Minutes**  
**February 27, 2019**  
**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 (via phone)  
At-Large Representative – Victoria Nill, Minnesota Department of Transportation  
Tiffany Collins, Minnesota Public Transit Association  
Kelly Garvey, Minnesota Department of Education (via phone)  
Thant Pearson, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (via phone)  
Diogo Reis, Minnesota Department of Human Services

**Members absent:**

Susan Bishop, Minnesota Department of Health  
Peter Brickwedde, Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Laura Logsdon, Minnesota Management and Budget  
Ronald Quade II, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs  
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council

**Others present:**

Minnesota Department of Transportation:

Kristie Billiar, ADA Program and Policy  
Tom Gottfried, Office of Transit and Active Transportation  
Jake Rueter, Office of Transit and Active Transportation  
Erik Rudeen, Office of Government Affairs

University of Minnesota:

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

Courtney Whited, Minnesota Board on Aging

Robyn Bernardy, Dakota County

Mike Greenbaum, NewTrax

Alan Herrmann, Scott County (via phone)

Scott Olson, New Trax

Kim Pettman, Transit Advocate (via phone)

Mark Schermerhorn, Anoka County Transit (via phone)

Sheila Holbrook-White, Washington County

LouAnn Bleiler, Minnesota Public Transit Association

**Call to order & introductions:** Henkel called to order the February meeting of the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access at 1:04 PM on February 27, 2019 at the MnDOT Central Office, St. Paul, MN. Everyone present and on the phone introduced themselves.

**Review and approve agenda:** Reis moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Collins. The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Public comments:** Pettman recommended members to review the Olmstead public comments since she felt this will help a lot with transportation coordination.

**1/23/19 meeting minutes:** Nill moved to approve the February minutes, seconded by Willshire. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Legislative update**

Rudeen shared the following:

- The Governor's budget proposal includes a 20% increase in trunk highway funding. The budget also proposes increasing the tax credit for lower income households. Additionally, it includes an eighth of an increase in region for sales tax for transit projects.
- There is discussion about ensuring appropriate funding for greater MN. The motor vehicle lease sales taxes proposal would involve a slight decrease for greater MN in the next three years, but then increase beyond that through ten years out. MnDOT's Office of Governmental Affairs and other agencies are together discussing with the Governor's staff a plan to modify the current proposal. The February forecast will be released February 28 and it is anticipated the Governor will reprice the current proposal for the near term which will hopefully adjust greater MN funds.
- There are two bills coming from the Governor's Advisory Council on Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV): 1) truck platooning 2) testing of CAV in Minnesota. This group is working to prepare state law for CAVs. The overall focus is on testing right now to lay the groundwork for future rollout.
- Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Lyft and Uber are regulated at the city level but there is a desire for statewide regulation. The League of Minnesota Cities has met this year to work on this issue.

Reis shared that there are a few proposed human service bills related to transportation: 1) non-emergency medical transportation program integrity 2) non-emergency medical transportation rate increases for certain modes. Reis shared he believed a bill related to the transportation rate waiver study has been introduced and the focus on this proposed legislation is to implement the recommendations in the study.

### **Review background and history of MCOTA and request members complete MCOTA member survey**

Mathison provided an overview of the history and background of MCOTA with PPT slides. Members shared that the slides and presentation were a great overview of MCOTA and identify areas where there may be gaps. The week of March 11 is the target date to send out the survey.

Bishop shared she would like to see equity issues in transportation called out in the questions – Bishop will follow up with Mathison on specific ideas for questions. Corcoran said that equity would be helpful to incorporate into the stakeholder engagement survey.

Henkel shared that MCOTA has created an opportunity to create and maintain relationships across agencies, learn from each other, and understand how the various agencies operate. This results in opportunities to better coordinate. The human relationships developed and fostered are an important foundation and a key component of how MCOTA works together.

**Share survey questions of RTCC representatives and survey questions for other stakeholders groups:** Corcoran provided an overview of the purpose, cover letter, and survey itself. Questions are based on the 2015 MCOTA strategic plan. The survey will be distributed via email and will be sent to the RTCC recipients and groups who have expressed interest in being an RTCC. Gottfried shared that equity in terms of public involvement is a concern of some folks who have been involved with the RTCCs. Bishop would like to weave in more equity-related language into the stakeholder engagement and will follow up with Corcoran. It was also shared that people can share/forward the survey to other relevant people – this can also help address equity.

**Share plans for upcoming Strategic Planning Workshop:** Mathison shared the date will likely be April 23. The morning will be the RTCC meeting and the afternoon from approximately 12:00-4:30 is for the Strategic Planning Workshop. There is a planning team meeting to prepare for this event.

**Quarterly Stakeholder communication:** Mathison shared an overview of the proposed communication content. Reis will ask DHS staff when the waiver study will be posted online and will also send Mathison the bill number for this legislation. The communication will be sent once it the study is posted. Nill moved to approve the communication, seconded by Reis. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

**Presentation by NewTrax Ramsey County:** Greenbaum and Olson from New Trax presented on the organization's origins, initial goals, successes, community transportation growth, community transportation associate members, future, concept, and funding. Regarding a MCOTA member question, it was clarified that paid and volunteer drivers go through the same on-boarding to be drivers. The future of Olmstead and getting people from the community to work was discussed. The cost of on-demand single rider transportation is expensive, and meanwhile funding is going down. There needs to be enough demand in rides in a consolidated area, otherwise it is not a financially sustainable model and it maintains congestion.

**FY19 MCOTA budget update:** Rueter shared the budget is on schedule. One highlight is that the task for the annual report has been completed. The contract amendment for the strategic planning has been executed and is moving forward.

**Agency updates:**

- **Ex-officio members:** Nill shared that she and other MnDOT staff met recently with Senator Dibble, a supporter of MCOTA. He mentioned that there was to be two legislative representatives designated as part of this group who would not be voting members but just attend. Members decided that this request will be part of the upcoming strategic planning conversation.
- **Age and Disabilities Odyssey Conference:** Shughart shared that registration will be open in March for this conference that will be held this summer. Mathison will put the conference announcement in the communication and on the MCOTA website events list. MnDOT will give a presentation on the RTCCs at the conference.
- **Olmstead Plan:** Billiar shared that the second meeting of the new administration was Monday. The executive order is being worked and the membership will be expanded to include the Metropolitan Council, Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Veterans Affairs - this should be effective in March. The quarterly report on infrastructure was meeting or exceeding their goals. Next quarterly reporting, in May, will be for service hours and geographic coverage. The group meets every third Monday of the month.
- **Other member updates:** Henkel shared that the volunteer driver resolution has been shared with Senator Dibble and he is aware of the work of MCOTA, including the position of MCOTA on this subject.

**Review draft agenda for next meeting:** CAV will a main item for March.

**Adjourn:** Bishop made a motion to adjourn; Collins seconded. All **approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.