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m MINNESOTA
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 Jake Rueter at jacob.rueter@state.mn.us.

MCOTA annual report for 2018

Every January, MCOTA publishes a summary of activities for the previous year. In 2018, MCOTA continued to focus on the urgent issues and opportunities for volunteer driver programs, which provide a significant number of trips and cost savings for communities in rural Minnesota. Specific activities this year included supporting changes to federal rates of volunteer driver mileage reimbursement and holding a [statewide forum for volunteer driver programs](#).

Regional coordination projects made progress in 2018. In July, the MnDOT Office of Transit and Active Transportation awarded the first round of planning grants for Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils (RTCCs) in Greater Minnesota to nine regional organizations that cover most counties in Greater Minnesota ([see regional coordination on the MCOTA website](#)). And five coordination initiatives in the Twin Cities metro region continue to develop and mature with support from the Metropolitan Council and MnDOT. Finally, MCOTA published a [study of the current state of youth employment transportation issues](#) in Minnesota along with recommendations for improvement.

View full annual report

- [2018 Report on the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access \(PDF\)](#)



2018 Report on
Minnesota Council on Transportation
Access

January 2019

Department of Human Services Waiver Transportation Study

At the January MCOTA meeting, DHS staff representatives provided an overview on the legislatively-mandated study of waiver transportation, including recommendations for coordinating and increasing transportation accessibility across the state, creating a rate framework for waiver transportation, and other recommendations to improve access. The final study is expected to be published soon, and will be available on the [study web page](#).

Summary of study recommendations:

- Identify changes to policies, regulations, and/or state law needed to support recommendations and secure enhanced federal Medicaid matching funds (90/10) for implementation of program administration changes.
- Develop and establish centralized, uniform statewide provider requirements and corresponding rates for a new waiver transportation service (includes program definitions and reporting requirements).
- Develop and implement centralized infrastructure to support a waiver transportation-specific provider network and payment management, which would include an online provider database for lead agency use and the ability for provider invoices to be automatically converted into claims for State Medicaid reporting purposes.
- Develop and implement centralized infrastructure to support lead agency service authorization and coordination function, based on further study after implementing the previous recommendation. This function could include, for example, DHS contracting with transportation coordination service organizations and the use of a mobile app for individuals and lead agencies, similar to the apps used by Uber and Lyft.
- Develop and implement a new rate methodology for waiver transportation that considers provider costs for doing business and the variation in provider and service types.

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.

- March 27, 2019, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- The regular April meeting will most likely be cancelled.
- May 22, 2019, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

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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