



Origins

- In 2010 Merrick and PAI started talking about partnering to create operational efficiencies in a rate reduction environment
- Due to similar geographic footprints, transportation soon became the initial focus



Initial Goals

- Ensure safe, accessible, and reliable transportation for clients of Merrick and PAI;
- Maximize operational efficiencies to reduce non-mission expenses and stabilize services in anticipation of less government reimbursement;
- Develop strategic collaborations that increase the potential of each organization to deliver services to their respective clients; and
- Contribute to the overall health and well being of our communities by reducing the number of vehicles congesting roads and vehicle emissions.



Successes

- Provided over 150,000 one way rides in FY 2018 with only 1 minor client injury, four employee injuries, and eight reportable accidents (two of which were our fault)
- Saved significant \$ on onset and have kept transportation cost increases to a minimum
- Eliminated risks and challenges associated with transportation from day to day operations for founding organizations
- Semifinalist for National innovation award
- Hired bus mechanics team to increase safety, reliability, and decrease costs of vehicle maintenance



Successes (cont.)

- Decreased number of vehicles on the road
- Have begun the process of providing transportation for additional DT&H programs
- Meeting additional transportation needs in our communities through scheduled group rides primarily for senior and disabled populations
- Creating senior circulars in our community (Greater White Bear area, Roseville, Forest Lake)
- Upgraded fleet to newer, more comfortable buses from 15 passenger vans and contracted school buses



Community Transportation Growth

- 2017 over 7,500 trips
- 2018 over 21,000 trips
- 2019 anticipating 37,000 trips



Community Transportation Associate Members

- Providing daily transportation for 3 additional Day programs for people with I/DD
- Providing regular group outing transportation for 23 Senior residential facilities and being the sole transportation provider for 6 of them
- Providing Senior Grocery outings for 35 facilities
- Providing transportation partnerships (for-hire) for various businesses and nonprofit organizations
- Operating four separate senior community circulars and in discussions with two others serving Eastside and West Central St. Paul communities
- Providing weekend shuttle service for 3 Faith communities serving multiple senior facilities



Future

- Continue to expand on non-founding partner transportation for day programs
- Continue to build on Community Transportation
- Working to assist our targeted populations in finding single rider, on-demand options
- Build vehicle maintenance business for partner organizations/5310 providers
- Transitioning to paperless attendance system that will provide better operational reporting to partner organizations



South Loop

Concept

- Initiated through the White Bear Area School District Forum on Seniors' Transportation Sub-committee
- Newtrax in conjunction with the White Bear Senior Center conducted focus groups to hear priorities
- Met with DARTS to hear about their community circulars and learn best practices
- Made first run of pilot on Oct. 5, 2017



North Loop

New in 2018

- North loop focused on Downtown White Bear Lake & Hwy 96 corridor which includes 8 Senior Facilities
- White Bear Senior Center as a connection point for both the North and South Loops
- Provide access to those living independently in their homes on a pre-scheduled basis
- Began service in September 2018



South & North area Loops

Funding

- Public support (White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, Mahtomedi, and Gem Lake all contributing)
- Assistance from senior residential partners – subsidized facilities within routes will be included at no cost
- Voluntary contributions from riders
- Additional private funding (ie. Local community foundation grants and area corporate sponsorship)
- Costs held in check by keeping loops during Newtrax mid-days so vehicle costs held to a minimum



Other Communities

Additional Circulars

- Operating a once a week loop in Roseville
- Operating a once a week loop in Forest Lake
- Developing plans for two St. Paul neighborhood circulars



Questions