

Planning Process for a Regional Transportation Coordinating Council Project Update Webinar



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: March 26, 2020

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting – PowerPoint Presentation

Attendees

There were 29 participants in the Zoom Meeting

Joe Kapper, SRF Consulting	Ron Decker, True Transit (VINE Faith in Action)
Menno Schukking, SRF Consulting	Kyle Hoffman, Region Nine Development Commission
Charles Androsky, Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization	Nichell Shannon, community representative (Lake Crystal?)
Tom Gottfried, MnDOT	Allison Karau, Watonwan County
Ruth Lee, Minnesota Prairie County Alliance	Haanderson, Beces
Erin Simmons	Helget Shelby, Mayo
Holland Peterson	Leah Hanson, MNSU
Megan Kauffmann, MNVAC	Sara Junker, Nicollet County
Veronica Marquez, CCSOMN	Estt
Landon Bode, Mankato Transit System	Angie Piltaver, MnDOT District 7
Melinda Etsey, MnDOT Office of Transit & Active Transportation	Kelly McDonough, Minnesota River Agency on Aging (MNRAA)
Sadie Rezac, MAC-V	Connie Ireland, Habitats
Paige, Vine Volunteers	Vicki Apel, SMILES Center for Independent Living
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Welcome

Joe provided an overview of the agenda for the webinar, which provided a project update on the Regional Transportation Council Planning Process for Southern Minnesota. The webinar covered a short introduction to the background of the project, status of current outreach activities, and covered the draft goals, objectives and work plan tasks. Due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the April open house in Mankato is postponed and a next in-person PMT has not been scheduled.

Draft Goals and Objectives

Joe presented the draft goals and objectives of the RTCC. By Charles Androsky's request, Tom Gottfried provided thoughts on the goals and objectives. He asked the participants to think about whether the goals fit their vision for the RTCC and align with the needs in the region.

Draft Workplan

Joe presented on the draft work plan tasks. Tom asked the participants whether the work plan makes sense and what participants would like to see prioritized. The One Call/One Click center resource was mentioned by multiple people on the call as the top priority, which would allow customers to only call a single number to book a ride, even across multiple providers. Angie Piltaver asked how it would function, Joe responded that it would start with a website with maps and resources, followed by a phone system and reservation system. Nichell Shannon thought a centralized location would be very helpful for the community she serves.

Tom asked Ron Decker how dispatch works, who responded that dispatch asks customers where they are located, where they need to go, and when they would need to go. Tom mentioned this would take it to a larger, regional scale. Eventually, the RTCC will find gaps as it won't be able to find requested rides in certain areas or at certain times, which can then be areas to work on for the RTCC.

Angie asked whether this could be scaled up to the statewide level, so people could be provided help traveling to the Twin Cities who then need help navigating the transit system within the metro. Joe mentioned that the TMCC is fulfilling a statewide priority but that it would be implemented regionally. Tom mentioned that he is working on removing boundaries on the statewide level.

Erin Simmons hoped measurements of success would go beyond ridership and financial data, instead it should look at how many people would get to work, schools and the Y. People would be more supportive of the service and providing local funding. Tom mentioned it could be an issue to provide service to protected classes. Some people break parole as they are not able to make their court dates due to a lack of transportation. Nichell mentioned that people in some small towns have access to only a single small grocery store, if any at all, and better transportation would give them access to shopping and jobs.

Next Steps

The webinar presentation was sent out to the stakeholder email list after the presentation.

The project consultants will continue individual follow-up and develop a membership and organizational structure for the PMT to review.

The COVID-19 situation will be monitored, and project timeline changes will be made as necessary.