



Regional Transportation Coordination Council

Minutes

Tri-Valley Heartland Express

524 Barzan Ave. N Thief River Falls, MN 56701

August 7, 2019

Steering Committee Members Present:

Marcia Haglund, Leon Olson, Sharon Bring, Lezlie Grubich, Nancy Ellis, Kristi Nelson, Mark Schmitke, Susan Peterson, Don Jensen, Jerry Jacobson, Tammy Haugen and Kim Johnson.

Staff: Troy Schroeder, NWRDC; Lorna Cantrall, NWRDC; Sue Siemers, MnDOT

Welcome/Introductions:

Jacobson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:07AM. Roll call, a quorum was present. Jacobson asked everyone to introduce themselves and who they represent. A welcome/introduction for new employee, Lorna Cantrall. Schroeder and board members discussed with Cantrall how this new position was created and what was hoped to be achieved. The Regional Transit plans for the past 15-years has identified the need of a mobility manager that would keep the momentum of the transit plans moving forward. The intent of the RTCC position will be to implement the work program concepts that have been identified in the planning phase of the RTCC.

Approval of June Minutes:

Jacobson asked for approval of the June minutes as presented in the packet. Motioned by Bring, second by Olson. Motion approved unanimously.

Review goals and objectives identified in the planning phase:

Schroeder discussed the goals and objectives that were brought forward from the planning phase of the RTCC contract. Those items will be focused on during the implementation phase.

Goal 1: Develop coordination between human service agencies, providers and the public to provide efficient movement of passengers

Goal 2: Increase the efficiency of transportation services for public and human service clients

Goal 3: Expand transportation options for underserved populations

Goal 4: Be a central source of public transportation information

Goal 5: Provide planning and strategic expertise to transportation providers

Goal 6: Arrange personalized transportation request that cross multi-jurisdictional boundaries.

These goals will not all be completed in the first year of the planning phase of the RTCC. They will be discussion points and goals working towards over time. The Transportation Management Coordination Center (TMCC), Volunteer Driver Program Committee and Sharing Resources between Transit Providers are the top three items that will be completed in the first-year work plan.

Implementing the easy attainable goals:

Committee members discussed barriers and issues with the volunteer drivers, regarding liability and insurance and how difficult it is getting volunteer drivers. Kristi suggested contacting MCIT (Insurance Group for MN Counties) regarding liability issues. MnDOT verified those barriers will need to be discussed with our local legislative representatives first to give them a better understanding of what can be done to help with transit services. Schroeder suggested forming a sub-committee to identify the barriers and how to retrieve more volunteer drivers. Haglund suggested respectively 1 person to represent each county should be included in this sub-committee. Board members that have volunteered to be on the sub-committee are Marcia Haglund, Jerry Jacobson, and Kristi Nelson. Bring suggested inviting Darcy Hestekind from Tri-Community LAH. Cantrall will contact representatives from each county to serve on this sub-committee.

Transit Providers Group Workshop:

Board members discussed this item and suggested this workshop should take place after all the providers have been identified in the region. The workshop will be scheduled at a future meeting.

Who/What are the Volunteer Programs:

Board members discussed the volunteer driver program and noted the differences in volunteer driving where some drivers get .14/mile and some get .58/mile. There was discussion on getting an IRS Form 1099 when earning over \$599. The board discussed sending a letter to our legislative representatives with an explanation that more drivers may be interested in volunteering if this federal stipulation was removed.

MnDOT Comments:

Siemers mentioned the RTCC is invited to the MnDOT National Transit Institute (NTI) Advancing Mobility Management Training hosted by MnDOT RTAP in St. Cloud, MN on September 25th and 26th.

Coordination First Steps:

RTCC members discussed inviting all the transportation providers for each county for a meet and greet, share resources and possibly offer additional provider information in the region. Haglund suggested the existing provider list can be sent to all of the members so additions and changes can be made for each county and an updated provider list can then be created and shared with all members.

Adjournment: Nelson motioned to adjourn at 12:50 pm. Jensen second the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: October 2nd, 11-1pm NOTE: Meeting will be held at the Pennington Joint Use Facility 250 125th Ave. NE Thief River Falls.

