

Region 1 Northwest RTCC Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2022

Call to Order – Vice Chair Sharon Bring

Attending: Sharon Bring, Seth Nelson, Helen Phalen, Marcia Haglund, Jennifer Olson, Ashley Eckdahl, Tom Gottfried, Lynnell Simonson Popowski, Judy DeValle, Stephanie Aness, Connie Trenseth

Approval of the March meeting minutes: Moved by Seth Nelson, Seconded by Jerry Jacobson, motion carried.

MCOTA Updates by Tom Gottfried

Program Updates by Lynnell Simonson Popowski

Presentation by Liz Morice regarding East Grand Forks / Grand Forks City Area Transit 10 year coordination plan. They invited the group to attend their focus group meeting on the 24th of May.

List of Priorities for 2022 Local Coordination Plan – our plan for the next 5 yrs

16 people responded to the Survey – RESULTS

1. Improve Communications to increase awareness and ridership. This is our RTCC meetings, the work team meetings, travel training, marketing, public outreach and social media. Currently Task 1 in our logic model. Our current task 1 includes travel training and mapping tasks associated with #5 and #9 in this survey).
2. Develop and support Volunteer Driver Programs (goal 4 in logic model). This includes our volunteer driver work team, the MCOTA volunteer driver work team, the Volunteer Driver Coalition and efforts to recruit volunteer drivers for current programs. It also involves legislative advocacy for volunteer driver reimbursement changes, developing new volunteer driver programs, and exploring new models that may replace volunteer driver programs.
3. More efficient use of vehicles (goal 2 vehicle sharing) This goal is a struggle for us and we will need a work team to make progress...any volunteers? Using VANS instead of busses. Sharing between organizations.
4. Expand the number of transportation options available in the region. This involves exploring Lyft, WINGZ and other models of transportation on demand. Again – we will need a work team to make progress...volunteers?
5. Travel Training (goal 1) I think we can combine this with choice #1
6. Increased access to public transportation evenings and weekends, research zero fare options. This will require legislative advocacy to increase funding and replace vehicles. We will need to get creative for local matching funds and other financial support for the changes we are asking for. Should we move this to Legislative Advocacy or do we subsume Legislative Advocacy under this one and Volunteer Driver?

7. Legislative Advoacy for increase funding and changes in regulations – advocacy efforts related to volunteer drivers, public transit, and specialized transportation services. Include # 6
8. Publc Private Partnerships (goal 3) This involves partnering with employers, health care providers, day training and habilitation centers, non-profits and volunteer associations to increase access to transportation. Include #6
9. Expand Centralized communications – long range radios, maps of safe routes to school, hiking trails and electric charging stations. All the mapping could be included under #1 and the long range radios included in expanding public transportation/or/infrastructure improvements?
10. Infrastructure improvements – Destination or Transfer Stations (DOTS), mapping electric charging stations, long range radios
11. Emergency management (goal 7)

Next Meeting rescheduled for July 28 Northeast Regional Development Commission Warren, MN and via zoom 11am-1pm.