

# MCOTA Work Teams: Removing Barriers

## 1:30 MCOTA Work Teams

- **Removing Barriers: Work Plan –**  
Dylan Galos, Department of Health  
*Action: Information*

### Activities

1. Assure that people with behavioral and accessibility challenges have meaningful access through ongoing engagement, accurate rates, and to build in a financial add-on to providers who 1) are equipped to serve a population requiring additional support (e.g., lift vehicles, specially trained drivers, rider support, etc.) and 2) actually serve individuals requiring pre-defined additional supports.
2. Reduce barriers to sharing vehicles identified in 2013 Vehicle Sharing study, including providing incentives to these providers to both share their vehicles with others and provide more individualized transportation services in their region to non-client populations.
3. Set accurate market rates for reimbursements (in negotiating with counties/funders); need to account for increased costs (include a fuel escalator in contract as well as different mode rates); one blended rate creates incentive for providing rides to ambulatory customers and disincentive for those with additional mobility needs
4. De-mystify current confusion and lack of consistent information regarding waived services reimbursement; lack of communication between DHS and providers (e.g., could be missing out on federal funding); difference between state and county DHS waiver dollars and how they can be spent
5. Identify ways of improving cost effectiveness of rural transportation, as well as researching different types of modeling to create sustainable efficiencies are important to improving and reforming in how rural transportation is delivered.

# MCOTA Work Teams: Accessibility

## MCOTA Work Team: Accessibility

- Work Plan – David Fenley, MN Council on Disability  
*Action: Information*
- Request to Proactively Standardize Accessibility for Regular MCOTA Meetings (live closed captioning, ASL sign language interpretation) – David Fenley
  - Options and costs – Tom Gottfried  
*Action: Information, Discussion and Recommendation*

### Activities

1. Develop a single phone number and website for individuals who need a wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) can call to find one (taxis, TNCs, buses). Chicago has done this.
2. Integrate transportation planning into all state-supported housing plans – universal and walkability planning
3. Many people who are eligible for NEMT aren't aware of it. MCOTA should conduct outreach to inform individuals who are eligible for NEMT, either directly or by working with counties to increase their outreach.
4. Work with transportation providers to discuss their challenges with providing accessible and usable transportation.

# Request to Proactively Standardize Accessibility for Regular MCOTA Meetings

## Current Situation

- MCOTA currently meets ADA minimum requirements
- MCOTA will provide ASL and/or CART services upon requests for accessibility accommodations; in the past two years there have been no requests
- Accommodation requests must be submitted two weeks in advance of each meeting. Agendas are posted one week in advance of the meeting.
- The website gives notice of all the MCOTA meetings dates and times and the request for ADA accommodations is a part of that notice.
- In 2020, 2021 and 2022 there have been no requests for accessibility accommodations nor added costs.

# Request to Proactively Standardize Accessibility for Regular MCOTA Meetings

## **Request: Provide ASL interpretation and CART services for MCOTA Meetings**

- The MCOTA Accessibility & Olmstead Work Team requests that MCOTA offers ASL interpretation and CART services for MCOTA Regular and Senior Leadership Meetings. Providing ASL interpretation and CART services as a rule rather than only following accommodation requests sends a message to the disability community that they are included.
- Providing ASL and CART services is about \$900 for a two-hour meeting.
- The approximate annual cost for both ASL and CART is: \$6,300.00 (\$900 \* 7 meetings)

# Request to Proactively Standardize Accessibility for Regular MCOTA Meetings

## Other Options

### Option 1: Provide ASL Interpretation with Automated Captioning

- MCOTA could continue with Zoom's automated captioning, as it performs at 80-90% accuracy compared with 90-95% accuracy for CART. The cost for automated captioning is included in the subscription cost.
- This option eliminates the cost of CART by depending on Zoom's Auto Caption and ASL.
- This option will still have to provide CART upon request and the two-week advance notice is required.
- The approximate annual cost for just ASL is: \$2,800.00 (\$400 \* 7 meetings)

# Request to Proactively Standardize Accessibility for Regular MCOTA Meetings

## Other Options

### Option 2: Only Provide CART Services

- This option eliminates the cost of ASL by depending on CART.
- This option will still have to provide ASL upon request and two-week advance notice is required.
- The approximate annual cost for CART Services is: \$3,500.00 ( $\$500 * 7$  meetings)

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

## Volunteer Driver Work Team

- Work Plan - Tiffany Collins, MN Public Transit Association and Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver, Arrowhead RTCC  
*Action: Information*
- Federal mileage reimbursement legislation – Dawn Simonson, President and CEO, Trellis  
*Action: Review and endorse*
- Volunteer Driver Fact Sheet – Tiffany Collins  
*Action: Information, Review and Endorsement*

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

- **Volunteer Driver Work Plan - Tiffany Collins, MN Public Transit Association and Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver, Arrowhead RTCC**  
*Action: Information*

Activities	Date
1. Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet	May 2022
2. Volunteer Driver Brochure	TBD
3. 1st Volunteer Driver Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tools to build and sustain your volunteer driver services</li><li>• Innovative programs</li></ul>	October 2022
4. 2nd Volunteer Driver Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guidance on recent legislative changes</li><li>• Marketing 101 to expand volunteer driver pool</li></ul>	February 2023
5. Update 2017 volunteer driver program research, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternatives &amp; solutions for future, especially since COVID-19</li><li>• Cost-benefit analysis for volunteers</li><li>• Benefits and barriers for volunteers</li></ul>	Potentially July 2022 – December 2023



# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

- **Federal mileage reimbursement legislation** – Dawn Simonson,  
President and CEO, Trellis  
*Action: Review and endorse*

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

## Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet – Tiffany Collins

### *Action: Information, Review and Endorsement*

See draft at: [https://coordinatemntransit.org/sites/coordinatemntransit.org/files/2022-05/Volunteer\\_Mileage\\_Reimbursement\\_FactSheet\\_May2022.pdf](https://coordinatemntransit.org/sites/coordinatemntransit.org/files/2022-05/Volunteer_Mileage_Reimbursement_FactSheet_May2022.pdf)

#### **Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet**

Volunteer drivers may exclude mileage reimbursement payments from their income only to the extent they would be able to deduct the expense as a charitable contribution.

They may exclude one of these amounts for each mile driven, including unreimbursed miles:

- Optional, standard mileage rate for charitable activities of 14 cents per mile.
- Actual vehicle expenses, such as gas and oil, directly related to the charitable purpose

**Note:** Beginning with tax year 2021, you may be able to subtract reimbursements exceeding 14 cents per mile on your Minnesota income tax return.

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

## **Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet – Tiffany Collins**

*Action: Information, Review and Endorsement*

### **Who Is a Volunteer Driver?**

A volunteer driver transports persons or goods on behalf of a nonprofit entity or governmental unit in a private passenger vehicle and receives no compensation for services provided other than reimbursement of actual expenses.

Employees receiving wage compensation are not considered volunteer drivers if providing the same type of services they are employed to provide.

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

## **Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet – Tiffany Collins**

*Action: Information, Review and Endorsement*

### **If I'm a Volunteer Driver**

If you receive mileage reimbursement for charitable activities, you may need to include the payments on your income tax return.

- Report mileage reimbursements above the exclusion amount as income
- Report any other taxable payments as income

You may not need to include reimbursements under certain volunteer programs. For details, see [IRS Publication 525](#) and consult your tax professional.

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

## **Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet – Tiffany Collins**

*Action: Information, Review and Endorsement*

### **If I Reimburse a Volunteer Driver**

#### **How much can I pay them for mileage?**

You can reimburse for mileage at any amount. The volunteer may owe tax if the reimbursement rate is more than 14 cents per mile.

#### **Do I need to issue them a federal Form 1099-MISC?**

You must issue a Form 1099-MISC to a volunteer if both of these apply:

1. You reimbursed the volunteer more than 14 cents per mile
2. You paid the volunteer \$600 or more during the calendar year

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

## **Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet – Tiffany Collins**

### *Action: Information, Review and Endorsement*

#### **State of Minnesota Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement Subtraction**

If you received mileage reimbursement in volunteer service for an organization eligible for a charitable contribution under Internal Revenue Code, section 170(c), you may subtract the amount you received. For details about qualified organizations for deductible contributions, see [IRS Publication 526](#).

You may subtract any amount exceeding the 14-cent-per-mile volunteer mileage rate on your Minnesota return, up to the 2021 cap of 56 cents per mile.

Complete [Schedule M1M, Income Additions and Subtractions](#), to claim this subtraction from Minnesota income.

# MCOTA Work Teams: Volunteer Driver

## **Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet – Tiffany Collins**

*Action: Information, Review and Endorsement*

### **For More Information:**

For more information, visit the [Minnesota Department of Revenue Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement website](#) or contact:

Tom Gottfried

MCOTA Executive Director

651-366-4171

[Tom.gottfried@state.mn.us](mailto:Tom.gottfried@state.mn.us)

# MCOTA Work Teams: Communications

## Communications Work Team –

Jodi Yanda, Department of Employment and Economic Development and  
Michelle Lichtig, MnDOT

- Work Plan - Jodi Yanda  
*Action: Information*

Activities	Date
1. Annual legislative report	May-December 2022 May-December 2023
2. Quarterly newsletter	December, February, March, June each year
3. Website maintenance	Ongoing
4. MCOTA member guide/manual – annual review and update	May-June 2022 May-June 2023
5. Resource Library for RTCCs and TCAPs	June 2022 and ongoing
6. Communications & Outreach support for other Work Teams	TBD: June 2022 and ongoing