

Senior Leadership Meeting

Date: 10/01/2021

Top Challenges and Opportunities from Members

Theme #1: Driver shortages

1. We need more **volunteer drivers** due to fewer available people and increasing demand for senior transportation. (Bd on Aging)
2. **Limited/costly insurance** is a barrier for **volunteer drivers**. (Bd on Aging)
3. **Low mileage reimbursement rate** and tax liabilities are barriers for **volunteer drivers**. (Bd on Aging, MPTA)
4. **School bus driver shortage** (Education)
5. **Driver shortages** for public transit and other transportation (MnDOT, Met Council)

Theme #2: Insurance

1. **Limited/costly insurance** is a barrier for **volunteer drivers**. (Bd on Aging)
2. Opportunities and challenges with automobile **insurance** in an **evolving personal transportation environment** (Commerce)

Theme #3: Public transit

1. Rebuild **passenger confidence in safety** of transit service in the pandemic environment. (MnDOT)
2. Change in recipient use (5310) and its impact on capital (vehicles): **Right-size vehicles** to serve more community-based jobs and bring services to customers. (MnDOT)
3. **Additional funding options for rural transportation** (MPTA)
4. **Diversify funding options** for transit operations. (MPTA)

Theme #4: Transportation accessibility and availability

1. Transportation barriers for people to access health care and other essential needs (social, groceries) that contribute to well-being (DHS, MDH)
2. Ease of connecting to rides for **“just-in-time service”** (MDH)
3. **Sufficient and affordable transportation** throughout the state (DHS)
4. Remove barriers to enable **safe and accessible pedestrian facilities** for all users (MDH)

5. **Buy-in at all levels of government** that **ADA compliance AND accessibility and usability** are **essential** for all projects, programs & services (MCD)
6. **Waiver Transportation Pilot** (Met Council)
7. **Equity initiative**: potential state-wide adoption of TAP program modeled after the Council's program. (Met Council)

Theme #5: Legal, regulatory or policy barriers

1. Challenge with **long-term resource capacity** to support MCOTA, RTCC and TCAP programs (MnDOT)
2. Transportation providers serve Minnesotans in multiple programs and must meet **duplicative standards**. (DHS)
3. Service collaborations face **legal, regulatory or policy barriers** that make it very complex and difficult to coordinate. (MnDOT)
4. **Inability to share data** between state agencies is a barrier to collaboration and coordination. (Met Council)
5. In partnering with multiple state agencies and counties to help people with employment, **each has distinctions in eligibility and methods**. (DEED)

Theme #6: Climate change

1. **Climate resiliency and adaptation** will impact transportation and transit choices and options such as electric vehicles. (Commerce)