

Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) Meeting Minutes January 26, 2022, 1:00–3:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom.

Members present:

Chair – Tim Henkel, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Vice Chair – Diogo Reis, Minnesota Department of Human Services
At-Large Representative – Victoria Nill, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Tiffany Collins, Minnesota Public Transit Association
Kelly Garvey, Minnesota Department of Education
Dylan Galos, Minnesota Department of Health
David Fenley, Minnesota State Council on Disability
Nick Lardinois, Minnesota Management and Budget
Maureen Schneider, Minnesota Board on Aging
Rolando Sotolongo, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council
Jodi Yanda, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Members absent:

Peter Brickwedde, Minnesota Department of Commerce
Rachel Dame, Office of the Governor

Others present:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation: Kristie Billiar, Nancy Daubenberger, John Dukich, Tom Gottfried, Michelle Lichtig, Ben Lowndes, Mark Nelson, Alexandra O'Reilly, Sue Siemers
- Center for Transportation Studies: Kaydee Kirk, Arlene Mathison
- Robyn Bernardy, Dakota County
- Tammy Buttweiler, ConnectAbility of MN
- Heidi Corcoran, Milligan Partners
- Eric Day, MMRTCC
- Mike Greenbaum, Newtrax
- Alan Hermann, Scott County
- Matt Kallroos
- Anne Larkin Walter
- Nick Leske
- Shelley Madore, Olmstead Office
- Sherry Munyon, MPTA
- Scott Olson, Newtrax
- Karen Onan, East Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council
- Lynnell Popowski, NWRTPCC
- Mark Schermerhorn, Anoka County Transit
- Troy Schroder, NWRDC
- Terry Smith, MMRTCC
- Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver, Arrowhead RTCC
- Courtney Whited, Board on Aging

Call to Order + Member Roll Call

Henkel called to order the January meeting of the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access at 1:01 PM on January 26, 2022. There was a quorum of MCOTA members. MCOTA welcomed two new members, Galos (MDH) and Schneider (MN Board on Aging). Each MCOTA member introduced themselves and welcomed Galos and Schneider.

Review and Approve Agenda

Reis moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Yanda. The agenda was unanimously **approved**.

Meeting Minutes

Collins moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Fenley. The minutes were unanimously **approved**.

Legislative Updates

Dukich shared that the session will begin on January 31 and will end by the third week in May. There will be a big focus on the bonding bill. He also noted the \$7.7 million surplus and also the redistricting that will happen (takes place every 10 years). This is also an election year. MnDOT has a relatively small technical bill this year. Dukich provided an overview of the 2022 MnDOT proposal and the transportation bonding proposal.

Fenley shared, although not specifically related to transportation, that the MN Council on Disability submitted a supplemental budget which will be included in the Governor's budget. This will provide funds to address other things, including transportation. The Councils has also been working over a number of years to support employment and retention of persons with disabilities in state government.

MCOTA Work Teams

- The two new work teams - **Removing Barriers and Accessibility and Olmstead** - will have a 3-meeting process to develop their work plans based on the October and November MCOTA meetings. At the March meeting members will see a draft of each work team's plan.
- **Driver Shortage:** This work team is currently on pause and Gottfried is working with agency leadership and the Governor's office MCOTA representative, Rachel Dame, on these issues. Garvey and Yanda have expressed interested in being on this team once it is formed.
- **Communications Work Team:**
 - **Newsletter:** Yanda provided an overview of the topics for the February and March newsletter issues. Members didn't have any changes. The communications group meets on a bi-monthly basis and the next meeting is in March.
 - **Annual Report:** Mathison shared that the report is now complete and posted on the web.
- **Volunteer Driver Work Team:** Collins shared that this team recently met and discussing next steps on the fact sheet/brochure. The language for the brochure will soon be run by the Dept. of Revenue office for feedback. The virtual forum series was also discussed. There will be one forum in the May/June timeframe and one in the fall. More information on the forum plan will be shared at the March MCOTA meeting. At the March meeting members will see a draft of this work team's plan too.
- **Operations:** Gottfried shared that this team has not met recently but did significant work earlier on the performance measures and logic model. These efforts are being implemented into the existing RTCC and TCAP agreements in 2022. It is anticipated that this work team would have a report out at the September MCOTA meeting.

Greater MN Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils (RTCCs) & Twin Cities Transit Coordination Assistance Projects (TCAPs) Program/Grants Update

Lichtig presented on the significant work that the RTCCs and TCAPs have done this year as detailed in the annual report including: work on the logic model, leveraging partnerships to transport meals for those in need, critical role of volunteer drivers to legislators, promoting solutions and offering best practices in part through the volunteer driver virtual forum series.

Agency Updates

Olmstead Plan: This group is finalizing changes to the Olmstead goals (which is an annual process) which includes revising the targets for the coming year.

Member Round Robin: Schroeder shared that they had a good meeting with local legislative representatives and a meeting with Sen. Klobuchar around the transit issues in northwest MN.

Review Draft Agenda for March Meeting

- Gottfried provided an overview of the March meeting.
- Members will soon be contacted to confirm by 3/1/22 who their agency leadership will be to attend the 6/22/22 meeting. Members should start contacting their leadership to see who that person will be. MnDOT will then send out formal invitations and calendar appointments.
- Calendar appointments for all future MCOTA meeting will be put on members' calendars in the next two weeks (appointment comes from Mary Snyder at UMN CTS who has a state email account).
- Members did not have any changes or questions.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Mid-year Budget Update

Gottfried provided an overview of the tasks in the contract with CTS for MCOTA administration support including meeting support, newsletter/website/communications, and event planning (like the forums). MCOTA is on budget and on target for this year. Members are welcome to ask Gottfried questions at any time about the budget offline as well.

Adjourn

Sutton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Yanda. The motion was unanimously **approved**. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.