# SmartLink

**Hop Scott** 



- Discovery of needs in rural areas in 2018-2019 using "needs groups" in geographic areas- engaging community leaders, nonprofits, users of transportation resources
- Message was similar for rural areas- NO OPTIONS or FEW OPTIONS
- Volunteer number going down- For hire?, 1099
- Discovered Live Well at Home Grant- Asked Coordinators about use of funds for building transportation options
- Applied for grant for ADA mini vans in rural areas driven by volunteer drivers in April/2020. Scott County Board Approval
- COVID hits in early 2020



- Grant awarded in July/2020, contract approved in Dec/2020 through June/2022
- Outreach Coordinator based on City/Cities involved
- Volunteer Van program/ Hop Scott
- Volunteer driver recruitment
- Van Purchase- Handicapped accessible minivan
- Funded in part 50/50 from a Department of Human Services
  Live Well at Home grant
- Scott County using Transportation Sales Tax dollars to fund
- Carver County looking at options to copy

### Partners Engaged

- Scott County Human services-needs in rural areas
- Rural Cities-Belle Plaine, Jordan, Elko New Market, New Prague,
  City Councils, Public Works, (park vans)
- Libraries- access for key boxes
- Local food shelves and food deliveries- Elko/New Market, Belle Plaine, Jordan- Needs, days, process
- Senior Buildings- needs for transportation
- Scott County Fleet- Key boxes and maintenance software
- MNDOT rules, regulations, trainings necessary
- Other volunteer organizations- Anything missing?
- Volunteer recruitment- Service groups, senior groups,

### Marketing/Recruitment

#### Outreach Coordinator

- 1) Engage Community/Partners
- 2) Market to discovered Needs- Veterans, Seniors, Disabled,
- 3) Volunteer driver recruitment
- 4) Discover local partners- Where to begin?
- 5) Purposes? Employment, medical, grocery, library, parks, vets, seniors,
- 6) Put out RFP for Coordinator- no responses Dec/2020
- 7) Changed perspective and asked part time marketing position if interested in adding hours for Hop Scott. Mar/2020
- 8) Flexes hours based on what is happening up to 20 hrs/week.
- 9) COVID impacts- when to recruit if you have no vans.
- 10) Marketing background was great- Facebook, Nextdoor,

# SmartLink Hop Scott

#### Hop Scott Van

- 1) Logo/ Marketing design- RFP
- 2) Purchase used vans received Aug-Nov/2021
- 3) County Owned
- 4) County insured
- 5) Handicap accessible
- 6) County Maintained-Driven by volunteers
- 7) Localized transportation
- 8) Access van at local Library- County software, Van assignment
- 9) COVID impacts- new vans delayed until August/2021, then order cancelled- pivoted to used vans, purchased vans in October/2021- 2 used rear ramp vehicles. 1 in March/2022

### Hop Scott Volunteers

#### Volunteer Driver

- 1) Drives the County Van <u>or</u> their own vehicle
- 2) Vetted and trained by SmartLink
- 3) SmartLink does trip intake/schedules drivers
- 4) Van is parked locally with easy access for drivers
- 5) Weekend/evening service based on availability of drivers
- 6) New kind of volunteer we have not had before.
- 7) Training includes wheelchair handling for those interested –few are.
- 8) Covid- 10-12 New volunteers mostly interested in driving the van located in their areas.
- 9) Many newly retired, many weekend and evening, many younger than we have ever seen.
- 10) Donations are mailed or funders are billed-volunteers do not handle money.

### Hop Scott

#### Current State

- First run Dec/2021- food delivery
- Van check out software installed- allows van placement in rural cities
- Volunteer drivers still being recruited, trained, vetted 9 done 3 in process
- Current uses- 3 food shelves, 1 mental health center, 2 senior buildings, 1 family resource center, NEMT, Random medical requests.
- Purposeful roll-out- <u>not</u> broad because of volunteer inventory.
- Understanding specific users and specific needs
- Software for tracking and reporting.
- Software has potential to book requests with no call in.

### **Hop Scott Deliveries**



## Hop Scott Van



### HOP SCOTT

