

MCOTA Work Teams 2022 - 2024 Work Plan

Updated 10/4/2022

Introduction

Program Intent

- Staff support that coordinate and engages
- Work Teams that are focused and have clear directives
- Clear communication and direction with local partners
- Consistency in engaging with Minnesotans

What We Do: Our Core Strategies

- We will utilize the following strategies to improve transportation coordination in Minnesota.
- Provide support and technical assistance to local partners
- Share best practices and build coalitions
- Identify and respond to research needs
- Engage in responsible education, communication, and advocacy activities

2022 - 2024 Work Plan:

Over the next two years, we will define its structure and organization, identify work products that are tangible and valuable, and contribute towards meaningful improvement in Minnesota's transportation ecosystem with the focus on accessibility, equity, and efficiency. The following outlines plan.

Accessibility and Olmstead Work Team

Chair: David Fenley, MN Council on Disability

- **Priority #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, managed care/insurance providers). Chicago has done this.
- **Priority #2:** Integrate transportation planning into all state-supported [or all] housing plans – universal and walkability planning AND **Priority #3:** Incorporate transportation planning for the future through the Olmstead Plan by creating a goal of at least bi-annually (every other year) investigating the usage of non-regular route transportation for people with disabilities and addressing new growth opportunities to build regular route service.
- **Priority #4:** 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. AND **RB Priority #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. AND **RB Priority #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

Removing Barriers Work Team

Chair: Dylan Galos, MN Department of Health, New Chair Effective May, 2023: Brandon Nurmi, MPTA

- **Priority #1:** Ensure that people with behavioral and accessibility challenges have meaningful access and are involved in planning
- **Priority #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.
- **Priority #5:** Identify ways of improving the effectiveness, accessibility and reach of rural transportation as well as researching different types of modeling are important to improving and reforming in how rural transportation is delivered.

Volunteer Driver Work Team

Chair: Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver, Arrowhead RTCC

Activities	Date
1. Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement Fact Sheet	May, 2022
2. Volunteer Driver Brochure	October, 2022
3. 1st Volunteer Driver Forum	October, 2022
4. 2nd Volunteer Driver Forum	February, 2023
5. Update 2017 volunteer driver program research, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternatives & solutions for future, especially since COVID-19• Cost-benefit analysis for volunteers• Benefits and barriers for volunteers• Driver training for volunteers - related to insurance, rider needs, reimbursements, Medicaid	Potentially September 2022 – December 2023

Communications Work Team

Chair: Jodi Yanda, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

Activities	Date
1. Annual legislative report	May-December 2022 May-December 2023
2. Quarterly newsletter	March, June, September, December each year
3. Website maintenance	Ongoing
4. MCOTA member guide – 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