

East Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council

May 11th, 2023

ECRTCC Advisory Board Meeting 9:am – 11am

9:00 **Call to order:**

9:05 **Introductions:**

Robert Voss – East Central Regional Development Commission Executive Director
 Natalie Matthewson- Central MN Council on Aging
 Denise Stewart – Lakes and Pines CAC, Executive Director
 Lori Schultz – Tri-CAP Transit, Tri-CAP Executive Director
 Helen Pieper, Kanabec County - Timber Trails Transportation Manager
 Tammi Seelen – Tri-CAP Volunteer Driver Program Manager
 Lynnell Simonsen-Popowski – NW RTCC Coordinator
 Mike Moilanen, Planning and Project Management Mille Lacs Band
 Tim Schmutzer with PHASE-Industries Executive Director
 Michelle Lichtig – MnDOT Program Manager
 Jill Brown – NLX Alliance Public Relations
 Rebecca Perrotti, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services
 Brandon Nurmi – Arrowhead Transit
 Tom Gottfried – MnDOT OTAT, MCOTA
 Melissa Marengo – MTM Program Director
 Michelle Thomas – ECRTCC Coordinator
 Karen Onan – ECRTCC Coordinator
 Rebecca Perrotti – Central MN Jobs and Training
 Jessica Peterson – Light House Child and Family Services
 Angela – Attaboy Taxi Service *Please let me know if I've missed anyone!*

9:15 **Announcements:**

Thank you for your Letters of Support! ❤️

🚩 2023-2024 / 2024-2025 Grant Applications were awarded to the ECRTCC on Friday, May 5th.
 Revisions to be done by June 1st.

🚩 Volunteer Driver Forum Series Lunch and Learns – one hour sessions from noon to 1pm.

- Upcoming Topics:

May 25th – Panel discussions on scheduling software – what works and what doesn't. Our Helen will be on the panel.

July 27th – Transit focused MaaS – Elliot McFadden
 All hosted by MCOTA.

Links: <https://coordinatemntransit.org/events/volunteerdriverforum/2022-23>

9:25 **Northern Lights Express Rail Update:**

Jill Brown, NLX Alliance Update on NLX. House passed bill for full funding. Coon Rapids Station would service the connection for 2 tracks, one going to Duluth and one going to St. Cloud. Conference Committee happening – negotiation. Asking you all to help share your desire for the NLX.

[How can I help NLX? \(northernlightsexpress.org\)](http://northernlightsexpress.org)

Cambridge rail crossing Hwy. 95 – will the NLX be considered? New construction – all the offices in MnDOT are working together.

Regional Transportation Plan for 3 counties in EC MN. ECRDC working on this.

Thank you, Jill for the update!

9:35 **Service Provider Updates:**

(please include information about current volunteer driver program services)

Brandon Nurmi – Arrowhead Transit

Internal processes going on, efficiency stressed, comprehensive review from OTAT recommendations being implemented. Consistent work to hire more drivers. Volunteer Driver program services are going well. New volunteer driver software development project is almost completed, should be live in June. Main tactic change in recruitment is face-to-face direct communication personalized at events, local senior dining, churches, college students – opening the doors to places to find volunteers. Let's get an update in six months – talk with Collette!

Lori Schultz and Tami Seelen (volunteer driver coordinator) – Tri-CAP Public Transit

Volunteer Driver Program, Princeton expansion update. Mille Lacs County transportation program new Flexible Route from Milaca, Princeton, Zimmerman, Elk River weekdays 6am – 6pm and Saturdays 8 – 5. Doing very well and growing. Ridership is way up, marketing has been expanded. Looking for patterns of ridership to make route more efficient over time. Dispatching service for Mille Lacs and Little Falls changing to something a bit more closer to those areas.

Bus fares will be increasing. Karen will pull information about the new routes and the need for dispatchers in Mille Lacs county to put onto website.

Tami is the new recruiter for volunteer drivers. Currently they have 10 new drivers and growing. Rides have been increasing, denied rides are going down. New drivers needed. 2 new drivers in Mille Lacs county. Karen will push from website. NEMT/county funded rides along with self-pay rides at .89 mile.

Helen Pieper – Timber Trails

Comprehensive review is a lot of work, but a lot is learned. Strengthens footing. Working on 2024 budget. Kevin (supervisor) retired, hiring soon. Volunteer driver program is not going to move forward because of the county structure. 3 volunteer drivers currently. Someone else will need to take the lead on this, suggested the possibility of Lakes and Pines?

County Fair – prepping discussions, other transit providers, NLX, buses to roam around in – we will be in the Boy Scout building again this year which we call the “Transportation Building”.

Updates from other Advisory Board Members – concerns, comments.

Melissa Merengo from MTM – United Health Care contract in St. Louis County going well. She is very interested in the NLX and wishes to work to assist in legislative letters to help move it forward. Invited to county fair – Karen will send information to Melissa about the fair.

Provider maps (attached):

Michelle and I are asking for assistance from the Public Providers to update this, as we are building a new sign/banner for our outreach materials.

9:55 **MnDOT – RTCCs and MCOTA updates:**

Tom Gottfried

MCOTA meeting May 24th. Updates on work teams -

Limitations of public transportation – barriers, issues, circumstances. Recommendations from work teams will be taken to Sr. Leadership of MCOTA, this is where recommendations to legislation begin. By the end of August the “ASKS” have to be in to the Governor.

Michelle Lichtig

June of 2022 – reflection of RTCCs. Congressman Stauber brought into conversation about the volunteer driver reimbursement. All RTCCs are working on these issues together. Cooperative spirit because of RTCCs and TCAPs networking. See Michelle's slide.

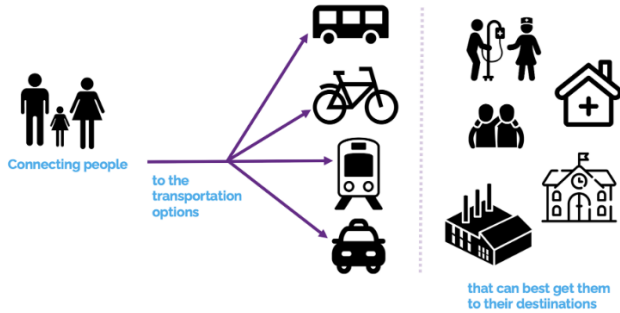
NCMM National Center for Mobility Management – why we are all coming here today ~

1. Connecting people to transportation options
2. Working across sectors with partners
3. Create new services that respond to those needs.

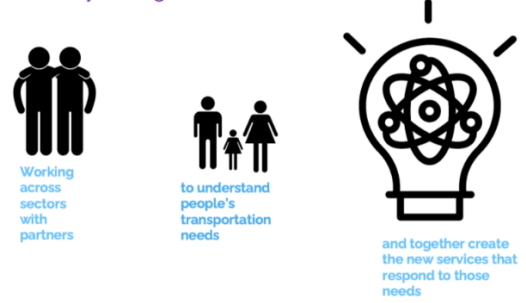
What is Mobility Management?

Mobility management is a two-part endeavor:

What is Mobility Management? Part 1



What is Mobility Management? Part 2



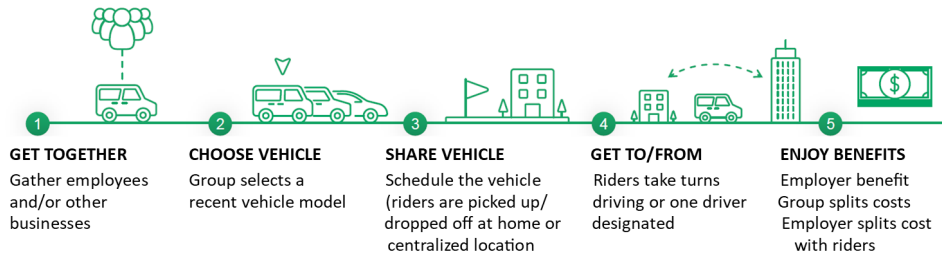
10:15 **ECRTCC Updates:**

Shared Vehicles -

- Enterprise **Commute** concept elicited interest from Ecumen Senior Organization. Walker Methodist has little interest as they have vehicles available.
Would you provide any input for others who you feel may wish to utilize and share cost?
- Meeting with Kirsten Faurie, City of Mora
Commercial Plastics employee transportation issues, Enterprise Commute concept. See visual below.

Would a vanpool work for your organization?

*Shared vehicle transport systems **WORK** to combat employee transportation barriers being faced by businesses in East Central Minnesota*



WHAT IS INCLUDED:

✓ RECENT-MODEL SUV, CROSSOVER OR VAN WITH OPTIONAL AMENITIES

✓ 24/7 ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
✓ PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

✓ COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL AND LIABILITY INSURANCE
✓ MONTH-TO-MONTH FLEXIBILITY

Angela from Attaboy Taxi – drives Amish on the side. On the weekends traveling out of state. Karrie Toyota rental. Big groups and smaller daily rental rate with no extra miles included. Need more drivers. Sienna vans, Highlander hybrid (good gas mileage). Travel for work, construction, some out of state for family get-togethers, funerals, weddings, doctors all over the country, charges federal state reimbursement or about 85cents/mile for a larger more expensive vehicles. They contact her when they need a ride. Flyers are put up around. Invited to fair even to have some information at the fair. Jessica from LightHouse day treatment for kids - has really nice things to say about their new provider, Attaboys.

✚ Promotion/Outreach –

- Michelle participated in the **Cambridge Senior Fair** on April 27th at the Cambridge City Center Mall. 250 people came through, light screening for mental health, health. 40 booths that day. Transportation directories handed out and a lot of great of great questions. Volunteer driver information was given out as well. Smaller Sr. facilities there – to discuss the sharing vehicles idea – with maybe a smaller ask from them. Twice/month vs once a week.
- Radio Broadcast on Emergency Preparedness with Helen Pieper aired April 21st. Podcast on eastcentraltransit.com website, East Central Transportation Facebook page and KBK.com.
- Upcoming radio interviews:
 - May 19th with Lori Schultz of Tri-CAP (airing on May 26) and
 - June 2nd with Michelle Lichtig (airing on June 9)
- Upcoming County Fair – Kanabec County
 - July 26 – 30, 2023
 - retained transportation building to promote all public providers & NLX. Have asked private providers but no responses yet.
- Annual events throughout the region – Expos, Senior Fairs – directly to our targeted audiences

✚ DOTS (Destination or Transfer Station) –

- Survey – Dashboard - presented results - lots of comments. Please distribute this out to your people for us? If you need hard copies, please let us know! We would like to do a pilot program to get the transfer stations in place. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TSHS9NK>
A printable document is at the bottom of this post: <http://eastcentraltransit.com/you-can-make-a-difference/>

✚ Volunteer Driver –

- Legislation
 - Stauber and Craig reintroduced non-sunset Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2023 <https://stauber.house.gov/media/press-releases/stauber-craig-reintroduce-legislation-support-volunteer-drivers>
 - See Supporter’s List at the end of this document. Please let me know if you’re interested in adding your agency’s name to this list.

✚ ECRTCC Logic Model overview approved for 2023/2024 –

- Explanation of Logic Model (PowerPoint as PDF attached)

10:50 **Group Discussion:**

11:00 **Adjourn:**

Upcoming 2023 ECRTCC Advisory Board Meeting: 9am to 11am - July 13th

Virtual via Zoom.

2023 – 2024 Upcoming ECRTCC Advisory Board Meetings:

September 14, 2023

November 9, 2023

January 11, 2024

March 14, 2024

May 9, 2024

<https://mnsharedmobility.org/about>

Name changed from Twin Cities Shared Mobility

Hubs are a great focus

https://sharedusemobilitycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SUMC_TWINCITIES_Web_Final.pdf

The Minnesota Shared Mobility Collaborative is a group of transportation leaders, public agencies, private companies, city officials, and nonprofit organizations working together to increase shared mobility options across the state.

Originally formed to implement the Twin Cities Shared Mobility Action Plan, which was developed to increase the transportation options in the Minneapolis–Saint Paul metropolitan area, the group expanded to a statewide focus in 2023.

List of supporters for the volunteer driver appreciation act... scroll down... Please note agencies from out of MN – key to this federal issue ~

List of Supporters for the Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2023

National Organizations

American Red Cross
 Association of Fundraising Professionals
 Community Transportation Association of America
 Girl Scouts of the USA
 Independent Sector
 Meals on Wheels America
 Mental Health America
 National Association of Towns and Townships
 National Council of Nonprofits
 USAging
 YMCA of the USA

Minnesota Organizations

Age Well Arrowhead
 Anoka County Community Action Program
 Anoka County RSVP
 Anoka County Transit
 Argyle Hope Program
 Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging
 Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
 Arrowhead Transit
 Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)
 Assumption Community Faith in Action
 Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
 Brown County Heartland Express
 CARE - Community Action Respecting Elders
 Care Partners of Cook County
 Catholic Charities of the St. Cloud Diocese
 Center for Victims of Torture
 Central Community Transit
 Central MN Council on Aging
 Community Partners
 Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging
 East Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council
 East Side Elders
 ElderCircle
 Faith in Action for Cass County
 GAPP Services Inc.
 GoDakota
 GoWashington
 Help At Your Door
 Highland Block Nurse Program

Horizon Health
 Isanti County Health and Human Services
 Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
 Keystone Community Services
 Living at Home Network
 Mid-Minnesota Development Commission
 Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging
 Minnesota Association of Townships
 Minnesota Community Action Partnership
 Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
 Minnesota Council on Transportation Access
 Minnesota Public Transit Association
 Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging
 Minnesota Social Service Association
 Neighborhood Network for Seniors
 North End -South Como Block Nurse Program
 North Shore Area Partners
 Northwest Regional Development Commission
 Paynesville ROSE Center
 PHASE-Industries
 Prairie Five C.A.C., Inc.
 Productive Alternatives Volunteer Driver Program
 Rainbow Rider
 Roseville Area Senior Program
 Semcac
 Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey County
 Southeast Seniors
 Southeastern Minnesota Area Agency on Aging
 Southwest Regional Transportation Coordinating Council
 St. Anthony Park Area Seniors
 Stephen Living at Home/Block Nurse Program
 Three Rivers Community Action Inc.
 Trellis
 Tri-County Action Program, Inc.
 Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.
 United Community Action Partnership
 VINE Faith in Action
 Volunteer Services of Carlton County, Inc.
 Warren S.O.S.

Waseca Area Caregiver Services
 WeCAB

West Central MN
 Communities Action, Inc.

Other Organizations

Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits + Arizona Grantmakers Forum
 Apra Maryland
 California Association of Nonprofits
 Colorado Nonprofit Association
 Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance
 Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement
 Florida Nonprofit Alliance
 Forefront
 Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources
 Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations
 Idaho Nonprofit Center
 Iowa Nonprofit Alliance
 Kentucky Nonprofit Network
 Maine Association of Nonprofits
 Maryland Nonprofits
 Michigan Nonprofit Association
 Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy
 Montana Nonprofit Association
 NetworkPeninsula
 New Jersey Center for Nonprofits
 New Mexico Thrives
 New York Council of Nonprofits
 Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
 Nonprofit Association of Washington
 North Carolina Center for Nonprofits
 North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations
 Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations
 Providers' Council
 Senior Access (TX)
 The Foraker Group
 The Kansas Nonprofit Chamber
 The Nonprofit Association of Oregon
 Wyoming Nonprofit Network
 Together SC
 Utah Nonprofits Association
 West Virginia Nonprofit Association