

**November 13, 2025**

## **East Central RTCC Advisory Board Meeting**

### **Meeting summary**

#### **Quick recap**

The Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council meeting included introductions from various attendees and focused on updates regarding the Greater Minnesota Transit Plan, including discussions about the Mobility as a Service (MaaS) platform and Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plans. The group reviewed progress on various transit programs and initiatives, including updates on new dispatch software, the Volunteer Driver Program, and potential new rideshare programs. The conversation ended with discussions about transit apps and the Transit APPs - their implementation across different transit systems, emphasizing the importance of data interoperability and tool options for transportation services.

#### **Next steps**

- [Michelle: Send Karen an email to remind her to resend recurring Zoom meeting invitation](#)
- [Karen: Resend recurring Zoom meeting invitation to meeting participants](#)
- [Michelle: Send information about transfer locations to the group via email](#)
- [Kathy Schultz: Circle back with Elliott today to get additional information about MTM/MCO changes and pass to Karen](#)
- [Karen: Put Jessica in touch with the new Mille Lacs County rideshare couple once they get their feet on the ground](#)
- [Michelle: Send updated directory version to Karen](#)
- [Kathy Schultz: Follow up with Lynnell about procurement process for the directory guides](#)
- [Kathy Schultz: Ask who is maintaining the MnDOT transit provider map and report the Heartland Express logo error for Arrowhead Transit](#)
- [RTCCs : Review the MnDOT transit provider map for their regions to check accuracy](#)
- [Kathy Schultz: Push out draft Greater Minnesota Transit Plan to mobility managers when available for distribution through their channels](#)

- [Karen: Check that Kevin Stobb from Mille Lacs Band is on the RTCC meeting list](#)
- [Karen: Send new Zoom invitation for future meetings to populate calendars](#)

## **Summary**

### **Greater Minnesota Transit Plan Updates**

The East Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council meeting included introductions from various attendees, including Holly Bachschneider from Arrowhead Transit, Sandra Wheelecor from Arrowhead Transit, Chris Fourness from Timber Trails, Kathy Burski from Timber Trails, Jessica Peterson from Lighthouse Child and Family Services, Kathy Schultz from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Amanda Stevenson from Region 70 Adult Mental Health Initiative, Sara Treiber from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Tim Schmutzer from PHASE/Industries, Michelle Thomas and Karen Onan from the East Central Regional Development Commission. The meeting focused on updates regarding the Greater Minnesota Transit Plan, which Kathy Schultz discussed, and the presentation materials were shared via email and chat for those interested.

### **Transit Plan Development and Expansion**

The group discussed the ongoing development of the Greater MN Transit Plan, with Kathy explaining that the draft plan will be available through winter for public comment, with a final round of comments expected in summer 2026. Nathan Abney has been leading efforts to gather feedback through surveys and direct engagement with transit users, particularly regarding cross-county connections. The team reviewed progress on implementing the Mobility as a Service (MaaS) platform, which will expand to include 15 additional transit agencies, with full state coverage expected by next summer. Karen and Michelle will be working on Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plans in the upcoming year, which will be due in 2027. RTCC funding applications will come out in February due in April and a new cycle will start in July.

### **Transit Programs and Initiatives Update**

The meeting covered updates on various transit programs and initiatives. Sandy reported on recent transfers and the implementation of new dispatch software with The Routing Company, expected to be fully deployed by March 2026. Holly discussed the Volunteer Driver Program's growth and ongoing recruitment efforts. Chris provided updates on Timber Trails' operations and potential new volunteer drivers. The group discussed concerns about upcoming changes to MA rides brokerage, with Kathy promising to provide more information as it becomes available. Michelle and Karen reported progress on updating the

transit directory and mentioned a potential new rideshare program in Mille Lacs County. The next meeting was scheduled for January 8th, 2024.

### **Transit App Guide Updates**

Kathy, Michelle and Karen discussed the inclusion of transit apps and systems in their guides, emphasizing the need to update information and correct outdated logos. They highlighted the importance of the QR code linking to the transit app and mentioned that some transit systems, such as Arrowhead and GoMarti, are expected to be added by spring or summer. Kathy also suggested adding a disclaimer about the limited availability of some transit systems on the MnDOT trip planner and recommended using the MnDOT map for more comprehensive transit information.

### **Transit App Implementation Discussion**

The group discussed the Transit app and its implementation across different transit systems. Kathy explained that while the app is available in multiple systems, some transit providers are developing their own apps for greater control and customization. Karen raised concerns about the proliferation of similar apps, but Kathy clarified that the Transit app offers a unified statewide platform that could potentially reduce the need for multiple apps. The group also touched on the marketing efforts for the Transit app and the need to better engage communities and transit providers in the process.

### **Data Interoperability for Transportation Services**

The group discussed the importance of data interoperability and tool options for transportation services, emphasizing the value of consistent data across multiple platforms for small businesses. They agreed on the need to ensure quality data and involve smaller transportation companies, such as Stark Transport and Brad's Cab, in these efforts.