

ECRTCC March 2026 Advisory Board Meeting

Quick recap

The meeting focused on updates and discussions among transportation service providers and stakeholders in Minnesota. Karen shared details about an upcoming MCOTA summit at the State Capitol on June 2nd, which will include sessions on transportation coordination, NEMT brokerage systems, and developing partnerships. Service providers including Arrowhead Transit, Tri-CAP, Trusted Transportation, Attaboys, Timber Trails, and others discussed challenges with deadhead mileage, wait times, and driver recruitment. Tim Schmutzer highlighted trends in waiver transportation and concerns about DHS leadership changes affecting transportation services. The group also discussed a new grant application focused on connecting disconnected communities through transfer stations (DoTS) and improving regional transportation coordination. The conversation ended with plans for a future in-person meeting on May 14th.

Next steps

- [Karen: Email the MCOTA summit agenda to meeting participants after the meeting.](#)
See below.**
- [Jocelyne Walberg: Send insurance company information to the chat \(and/or to Terry Lovegren as requested\).](#)
- [Jocelyne: Complete and send medical form to Tami Seelen by Tuesday to enable volunteering for Mille County rides.](#)
- [Tony: Send RECCIA Auto Sales website link to Karen when back in the office.](#)
This is regarding a possible vehicle for St. Clare Living Community of Mora.
- [Natalie Matthewson: Put Live Well at Home grant RFP information and link in the chat.](#)
- [Sara Treiber: Forward Natalie's email to Jayden \(MLCV brand department\) for potential presentations to elders.](#)
- [Jocelyne: Contact Tim \(PHASE Industries\) to meet and discuss waiver transportation.](#)
- [Karen: Submit the current grant application by tomorrow \(with team: Natalie Koerber, Michelle Thomal, Darcy Rylander, Trish Rydlund\).](#)
- [Karen: Plan for next meeting on May 14th \(considering in-person or hybrid format\).](#)

Summary

MCOTA Summit Agenda Discussion

Karen mentioned that Lynnell from MnDOT was unable to attend the meeting due to personal issues, but she shared updates about an upcoming MCOTA summit at the state capitol. Sue, who was present, clarified that she was not involved with MCOTA and could not provide an update on the summit. Karen decided to share the initial draft agenda for the MCOTA summit with the group and offered to bring up any concerns or questions on their behalf if needed.

****Initial Draft Agenda for MCOTA Summit - June 2, 2026**

- Morning Sessions
- Welcome and opening Ice Breaker Activity: What was the top development and challenge for transportation accessibility in the last year? What's the top challenge you would like to address?
- Transportation coordination case study: Innovative pilots developed by the RTCCs (MnDOT)
- Morning Small Group Breakout: Identifying transportation access need
- Breakout Report Out: Prioritizing Need
- LUNCH Presentation: Legislative and Federal updates
- Afternoon Sessions
- Changes in NEMT brokerage systems in Minnesota (DHS)
- Afternoon Small Group Breakout: Developing partnerships and solutions to meet need
- Breakout Report Out: Solutions round up and next steps
- MCOTA Business Meeting (officer elections, new council members, policy recommendations)
- *Optional celebratory social after official close*

June Transportation Events Planning Update

Karen provided an update on two upcoming events in June: a transportation coordination conference at the State Capitol on June 2nd, and a Shared Mobility Collaborative summit in Minneapolis the following day. She outlined the agenda for both events, which will include discussions on transportation accessibility challenges and NEMT brokerage systems. Karen requested input from the advisory board on key issues to address at the conference and mentioned that the ECRTCC's grant application would be submitted to MnDOT the next day.

Sue Siemers noted that attendance might be low today, due to a concurrent TAC meeting in St. Cloud.

Transportation Service Providers Updates Meeting

The meeting focused on updates from various transportation service providers and discussions on challenges and opportunities in the industry. Holly Bachschneider (Arrowhead Transit) reported on the progress of dispatch software and the need for volunteer drivers in specific counties. Jocelyn Walberg (Trusted Transportation) shared her experience with insurance savings and potential collaboration with Tami Seelen (Tri-CAP Volunteer Driver program) for rides in Mille County. Terry Lovegren (Attaboys Transportation) highlighted issues with deadhead and wait time, while Natalie Matthewson (CMCOA) discussed the Live Well at Home grant RFP for older adults. Tim Schmutzer (PHASE/Industries) provided insights on trends in waiver transportation and concerns about administrative oversight. The group also discussed the new grant application being submitted to MnDOT by the ECRTCC aimed at improving regional connectivity through transfer stations and collaboration between public and private providers.