

MINUTES

COORDINATED TRANSIT COMMITTEE



Wednesday, June 21, 2023 | 10:30a

Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

Attendees

Voting Members

Amanda Parker - City of Bellevue
Natasha Wilks - Black Hills Works
Jane Bird - Black Hills Works
Tami Jenson - City of Council Bluffs
Wilson Rivas - ENCAP
Randy Stonys - ENHSA
Tammy Bradley-Larson - Florence Home
John Owens - Metro Transit
Kailey Stanley - City of La Vista
Rich McFall - Nebraska VR
Donna Montelegre - Papillion
Vicki Quaites-Ferris - Empowerment Network
Melanie Davis - UNMC Munroe Meyer Institute

Non-Voting Members

Rich Surber - Lutheran Family Services
Brandon Smith - Omaha Public Schools

MAPA Staff

Travis Halm
Lindsey Button
Court Barber
Carlos Morales
Laura Heilman*

*Attended virtually

Action Items

For CTC Approval

Called to order at 10:34am

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the May 17, 2023 CTC Meeting
MOTION to approve the minutes was made by.
SECOND by.

Tami Jenson of Council Bluffs requested one correction.

Motion approved unanimously with one correction.

Discussion Items

2. Mobility Resource Guide
Travis Halm led a discussion on creating and regularly updating a Mobility Resource Guide. Halm added that a guide has been previously created for the region, but was not regularly updated. Halm noted that the Communication and Outreach team would create this document and it would be regularly updated, as laid out in the 2022 Coordinated Transit Plan.

Components include communities providing transit, transit providers, nonprofit providers, in addition to other health providers and other relevant agencies.

Rich McFall asked for a reminder of which counties were included. Halm noted that the MAPA MPO Boundary includes Douglas, Sarpy and urban Pottawattamie County, but noted that this could and would also include Washington and Cass in Nebraska, in addition to SWITA counties which includes many counties in Southwest Iowa.

Melanie Davis suggested resources in the resource guide on training and learning how to utilize services. Rich McFall suggested QR codes for additional information, including potentially a youtube channel with training resources.

Rich Surber suggested Nebraska Vanpool and employment services, in addition to bikeshare.

Melanie Davis suggested merging with the NDOT transportation resources list.

Halm also noted that many of these resources are already on a resource guide website page at mapacog.org. Halm also noted that no strategy has been developed on distribution and that direction will be determined by the committee.

Laura Heilman, Community and Outreach Director, MAPA, noted that some other ideas that have been had include handouts with QR codes and large-sized posters in addition to the resource guide.

3. 5310 Program

Court Barber, MAPA, led a discussion on the 5310 Program and the July CTC Meeting with Nebraska DOT on the state of the program.

Halm noted that a few questions had been received for NDOT:

- Can we put out a new call for projects for operational expenses and use money saved from those expenses to order our own vehicles?
- When will small buses be available?
- Is NDOT willing to change the manufacturer of buses?
- What is the projected approval and availability date?

Barber noted that neither Iowa or Nebraska DOT have been able to provide dates on bus availability. Barber stated that some other vehicle types are available as an option. Barber noted that Ford Transit vehicles are smaller, but not necessarily cheaper. All vehicles from different manufacturers must comply with "Buy America" requirements.

Randy Stonys noted that it was a 9-month process to acquire and equip a Ford Transit vehicle that he had acquired for \$75,000.

Natasha Wilks stated that some vehicles have been able to be acquired quickly, but each addition can increase the time taken and cost. These include ramps, cameras, and lifts, and some additions can increase time between 10-15 months extra before receiving the vehicle.

Carlos Morales noted that a certain percentage of vehicle purchases are required by federal law to be American made, per the new infrastructure bill.

Vicki Quaites-Ferris asked if other MPOs are facing these similar issues. Barber advised that very few MPOs run the 5310 program. However, nationally, these issues persist everywhere. Some transit agencies have been able to acquire vehicles earlier based off of previously canceled orders.

4. NADTC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Symposium

Halm announced that a joint application between Metro Transit and MAPA had been approved to hold the NADTC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Symposium, which includes a recorded segment by Tamika Butler (who has spoken at MAPA events in the past) and a targeted discussion on diversity, equity and inclusion. Locally, the goal of the symposium is to create new partnerships out of stakeholder groups to improve transportation access, in particular in areas of disinvestment and in areas lacking service equity.

5. Additional Business & Public Comment

Travis Halm added that the State of Nebraska will be undergoing its Statewide Coordinated Transit Plan update. Halm noted that MAPA will be a stakeholder in the process, and that the MAPA CTP will be used as a framework for projects locally. Additional meetings and announcements will follow.

Tammy Bradley-Larson announced that the Nebraska State Transit Operators Rodeo is in September. Drivers who win will win a trip to Florida to compete there in the National Bus Rodeo. Previously, drivers from the region had gone to Nationals in Oklahoma City.