

MINUTES

COORDINATED TRANSIT COMMITTEE



Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 10:30a

Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

Attendees

Voting Members

Amanda Parker - City of Bellevue
Natasha Wilks - Black Hills Works
Ann Grober - Council Bluffs
Vicki Quaites Ferris - Empowerment Network
Tammy Bradley-Larson - Florence Home
Kailey Stanley - LaVista
Chris Solberg - La Vista
Dan Freshman - Ralston
Rich McFall - Nebraska VR
Nicole Ebat - Metro Transit
Alicia Johnson -
Donna Monteleagre - Papillion

Non-Voting Members

Alex Johnson - City of Omaha
Kevin Carder - City of Omaha
Ken Eichelberger - Easter Seals
Emma Simmons - Iowa DOT
Melanie Davis - UNMC Munroe Meyer Institute

MAPA Staff

Travis Halm
Court Barber
Carlos Morales

Action Items

For CTC Approval

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 19, 2022 CTC Meeting
Minutes from the October 19, 2022 CTC Meeting

Approval of the minutes was postponed until the committee could meet in-person with a quorum.

Discussion Items

2. Discussion of the City of Omaha Active Mobility Master Plan

City of Omaha staff will lead a discussion on the City of Omaha Active Mobility Master Plan and its relation to mobility and transportation access

Kevin Carder with the City of Omaha presented on the progress of the city's Active Mobility Plan.

Vicki asked if Kevin has a list of the community organizations involved in the stakeholder committee. Kevin said he can provide that to Travis and Travis said he can send it to the group. Vicki said there are some community-level plans related to active mobility that the city should be aware of; Kevin said he is aware of them and that it would be good to keep them in mind.

Kevin asked a series of questions:

- What are the strengths of the existing system for people with disabilities and those over the age of 65?
 - Melanie Davis said the fact that we have a system at all is a positive; there are cities with less.
 - Melanie Davis asked if the city reached out to any disability advocate groups like those at UNO; Kevin said no, but would like to.
- What challenges do your clients or constituents face regarding mobility in the region?
 - Jerad Covey asked if the city is looking at the infrastructure, or the mobility devices and other vehicles moving on the infrastructure?
 - Carlos Morales clarified that it is primarily looking at the infrastructure.
- What is the greatest opportunity for improvement in mobility of persons with disabilities and persons over the age of 65, related to active mobility infrastructure?
 - Rich McFall asked how low a bus can drop when picking people up. Carlos Morales said it can come down to the curb, but he can check with transit providers to get a definite answer.
 - Melanie Davis said she thinks one of the biggest obstacles in the city is that many people are utilizing paratransit that might not need to if sidewalks were in better condition; she feels the use of paratransit would decrease significantly if it was easier to get around on sidewalks
 - Jerad Covey said it is his understanding that property owners are in charge of maintaining sidewalks and would like to know how this initiative would help improve compliance. Kevin Carder said there is a lot that can be explored, but that that is a possibility.
 - Melanie Davis said that other cities offer training on compliance but she is not aware of that being done around here.
- What changes would need to be added to pedestrian infrastructure in the region to allow for enhanced mobility of persons with disabilities or persons over the age of 65?
 - Rich McFall said the little bumps meant to prevent slipping can be a tripping hazard. Carlos Morales asked for some clarification about what bumps he is talking about.
 - Melanie Davis said citizens don't know where to go when they have a problem and recommends that education be developed around this.
 - Kevin Carder said ways to report things like this exist and he can share some of that information with the group.
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3. Discussion of MAPA Committee Structure

Court Barber of MAPA led a discussion of the December 2, 2022 joint TTAC/RPAC Meeting on MAPA Funding Selection scenarios.

Barber began the conversation by noting that the combined MAPA Funding Committee Concept was voted down 7-4 by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC). The Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) did not have enough members to reach a quorum to vote on the topic.

Barber presented a few alternate proposals to the proposed Funding Committee, aimed at adding equity to project selection processes. Items that were mentioned were adding more members to the existing TTAC committee, representing marginalized or underrepresented communities, or merging RPAC and TTAC completely.

Barber noted that Ann Grober and Rich McFall were present at the meeting representing the CTC, which would have had three of TTAC's eight votes under the proposal.

Ann Grober added that she was not a proponent of the proposed plan, since each funding source has specific experts in which they make funding decisions.

4. Additional Business

Travis Halm of MAPA updated the committee that the RPA-18 Passenger Transportation Plan was being undergone by staff of RPA-18 and RPA-13, in predominantly rural areas covered by SWITA. Halm noted that while the plan does not directly coincide with the CTC, that there is some overlap between some services, particularly employment routes provided by SWITA to employment centers in Pottawattamie, Harrison and Mills Counties.

Future Meetings & Events

TTAC: Friday, January 20, 2023

MAPA Board of Directors: Thursday, January 26, 2023

Meeting Quorum: The presence of seven (7) members of the CTC at an officially called meeting shall constitute a quorum.