

MINUTES

COORDINATED TRANSIT COMMITTEE



Wednesday, March 19, 2025 | 10:30a

~~Boardroom – Main Level of the Metro Transit Building~~ This meeting was held virtually and livestreamed due to weather conditions.

Virtual Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88690451412?pwd=4KAm95gmpCKdgHNpCqW21VsxdEiCN6.1>

(All voting members must be physically present to vote; virtual attendance counts for maintaining voting status)

Committee members or members of the public seeking accommodations to attend or provide feedback to the meeting should contact Court Barber, Transportation Planner, at 402-444-6866 or cbarber@mapacog.org.

Attendees

Alicia Johnson (Metro Transit), Donna Monteleagre (City of Papillion), Court Barber (MAPA), Lindsey Button (MAPA), Rich McFall (Nebraska VR), Cory Hale (Community Alliance), Amanda Parker (City of Bellevue), Cindy Petrich (New Cassel Foundation), Carlos Morales (MAPA), Brianna Georgeson (Apace), Elle Ward (MAPA), Tammy Bradley (Florence Home), Albert Messan Kate (Lutheran Family Services), Mark Lander (SWITA), Carolina Padilla (Intercultural Senior Center)

Action Items

For CTC Approval

1. Approval of Minutes from the [January 15, 2025 Meeting](#)
Due to extreme weather, this meeting was moved to virtual. Under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, voting is not permitted at virtual meetings. This item will be held over for approval at the next CTC meeting in April.

Discussion Items

2. Microtransit Pilot Project
Alicia Johnson with Metro Transit presented on Metro Transit's Microtransit Pilot Program. Metro is currently finalizing their contractor service agreement, and anticipates micro transit service to begin later in 2025.

The committee discussed potential driver training needs, community education / training sessions, and additional locations for future service. This service is currently limited to set zones within Douglas County, particularly employment centers at 144th and Giles. Expansion to Sarpy County or Council Bluffs would require those municipalities to join the Regional Metropolitan Transit Authority, and modifications to Iowa State law respectively.

All of the information from the public meetings, including a link to the recording, is available on metros website at the link below:
<https://www.ometro.com/metro-news/metro-invites-public-to-comment-on-microtransit-pilot-program/>

3. 5310 Program Status Update - NDOT Transition

Court Barber presented an update on the program with more information about the proposed transition of many functions to NDOT. MAPA has managed 5310 in the region since 2015. In 2018/2019, NDOT asked MAPA about allowing the state to take on the program. In 2021, MAPA raised the topic again and started working with NDOT on a transition plan. In 2023, MAPA developed a plan that both NDOT and Iowa DOT thought was implementable.

MAPA feels strongly that the agency cannot continue to run the 5310 program. After assessing what will be needed to take over the program, NDOT informed MAPA that service contracts would not be allowed. If NDOT takes over the program it will become vehicles only, but NDOT is the only agency willing to take on the program.

MAPA and the CTC Chairs wish to dedicate the April meeting to discuss this transition. Between now and then, MAPA will reach out to existing service contract awardees about what the transition will mean. MAPA would like agencies to submit questions in preparation for the April meeting. NDOT and Iowa DOT will both be invited to the next meeting.

The committee raised concerns regarding staff turn over at NDOT and if they are prepared to take on the program. MAPA cited that NDOT is prepared to take on vehicles, but not service contracts. The vehicle delivery process should be simplified if the program is moved to NDOT oversight, as the region would be going through their application process and there would be direct connection between grant recipients and NDOT. This would remove MAPA as the middle man, which has to date caused inefficiencies and confusion in the process. The committee also requested transparency on what a future application process would look like. NDOT has stated they would be willing to modify the application to bring it in alignment with what MAPA and the region has used for project selection. The committee also requested regular presence from NDOT at CTC meetings, or a project update statement that could be provided at the meetings to assist with communication between the group and the DOT.

Questions should be submitted to Court Barber through Monday April 14th.

4. April 21, 2025 Transit Conference

A group of non-profit agencies is planning a conference around transit needs in Nebraska. The conference development is rooted in regional issues related to refugee housing. Topics include funding, state and local policies, economic development, and planning.

Individuals are encouraged to attend this event may RSVP using the link provided in today's meeting agenda (also provided below):

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E354859&id=75>

This conference is taking place from 9am - 4pm on Monday, April 21, 2025 at the University of Nebraska Omaha's Milo Bail Center.

The conference is free to attend, and lunch will be provided.

5. Additional Business & Public Comment

No additional business or public comment.

Meeting Quorum: The presence of $\frac{1}{3}$ (currently 5) of the members of the CTC at an officially called meeting shall constitute a quorum.