

MINUTES

COORDINATED TRANSIT COMMITTEE



Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 10:30a
Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building
Virtual Option Available

(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 Lindsey Button, Transportation Planner, at 402-444-6866 or lbutton@mapacog.org.

Attendees

Rich McFall - Nebraska VR
Court Barber - MAPA
Lindsey Button - MAPA
Alicia Johnson - Metro Transit
Tami Jenson - City of Council Bluffs
Tammy Bradley-Larsen - Florence Home
Mary Angus - Munroe Meyer Institute
Brandon Smith - OPS
Cory Hale - Community Alliance

Chloe Smith - Community Alliance
Tina Murry - Together Omaha
*Mark Lander - SWITA
*Kaily Stanley - City of La Vista
*Sam Huppert - Chamber of Commerce
*Carolina Padilla, Intercultural Senior Center
*Donna Monteague - City of Papillion
*Gerri Doyle - FTA Region VII

*attended virtually

Action Items

Called to order at 10:33

For CTC Approval

1. Approval of Minutes from the April 16, 2025 Meeting
Several names were misspelled throughout the minutes. (Tammi and Rich). These will be remedied.

Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes pending fixes made to several misspelled names throughout. Angus seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

2. Officer Election for MAPA Fiscal Year 2026 (July 2025 - June 2026)
 - a. Election of Co-Chair Position 1
 - b. Election of Co-Chair Position 2

McFall provided a brief background of the CTC for new attendees in the room.

Barber presented information on the election process and nominations received. There are two co-chair positions available. One nomination was received, but the nominee declined. Barber spoke with the current chairs last week, and neither declined, but neither have formally nominated themselves. Barber opened the floor to the committee for nominations. All in person voting members are able to vote on co-chairs. Hale nominated both previous chairs, Johnson

supported those nominations. McFall wished to hear if there was anyone else interested in serving as co-chair before accepting a nomination. Those attending virtually can nominate, but are not permitted to vote.

Hale requested a brief overview of Chair responsibilities. McFall noted that co-chairs meet roughly once a month (first Tuesday) for about 30 minutes to discuss potential agenda items. If there are no items, a decision is made to cancel the meeting for the next month. The meeting in July, for example, has been cancelled. This allows MAPA sufficient time to distribute formal meeting notices. Co-chairs are also briefed on meeting items ahead of time and may assist in inviting speakers to future meetings.

Angus noted that the committee is also responsible for 5310 funding (federal grants). Project selection is facilitated by MAPA. The Coordination piece of CTC (Coordinated Transit Committee) refers to different organizations that provide transit services working together to enhance services in the region.

Hale reiterated his nomination of McFall for the position of co-chair. McFall noted that both he and Melanie Davis are familiar with the roles and passionate about the work, however, if anyone else wants to take on responsibilities, they want to provide them the opportunity.

Angus noted that there has been more activity in this committee under Melanie Davis and McFall's leadership than there has been in the past. Angus commended both current chairs for their efforts and supported Hale's nomination.

McFall opened up to folks online, and there were no additional nominations. Johnson asked if Melanie Davis had previously accepted her nomination. McFall and Angus assured that she would accept the nomination.

Barber noted that a vocal confirmation of co-chair elections would be sufficient given that they are running unopposed.

Angus motioned to elect Rich McFall and Melanie Davis as co-chairs of the CTC. Bradley-Larsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

3. April Transit Conference Debrief

Barber shared his experience of the statewide transit conference held on April 21st. The conference was developed by non-profit organizations and rooted in regional issues related to refugee housing. Attendees included transit planners, some elected officials, and others with interest in transit. Topics included funding, state and local policies, economic development, and planning. Barber hosted a panel of transit providers, planners, and a state senator on current issues in public transportation. StarTran's assistant director presented some of their work on staffing including employee engagement to determine potential reasons for retention issues. StarTran is now fully staffed. Barber encouraged committee members to reach out with questions. Mark Lander with SWITA presented on rural transportation. Given that the conference

was hosted in Omaha it ends up being a bit more metro focused, and Mark was able to provide a rural perspective.

Barber noted that this was the first time this conference had been run, and while there were a few issues, it was overall beneficial for attendees.

The Committee had no follow up questions.

4. Nebraska Legislative Resolution 251

Angus presented an update on Legislative Resolution 251. She noted that Melanie Davis worked with other organizations to ensure that it covered multiple disabilities, including those who utilize regular transit. Includes the time spent in transit. The Resolution was introduced by Senator Guereca and has not been voted on but will come up in the next session. There is a request that a committee conduct a study and write a report of explainings to present to the legislative council or full legislature next session. The resolution is short (one page).

Barber noted that should the legislature take up this resolution, there will be a study started. Angus doesn't think there will be any problem with getting it passed next year. It was brought up late in the session this year, but has been introduced, and will likely come up again next session that starts in January.

Barber noted that the committee will keep track of this bill and there may be a place for the CTC to fit into this study effort should the bill be passed.

5. New Bus User Experience and Takeaways

Rich McFall shared his experience learning and teaching others about using fixed route transit in Omaha. McFall had himself, a counselor, and a client utilize a transit bus to get to Community Alliance. Travel to the location was great, but on the route back there were miscommunications regarding the correct bus route and stop location that resulted in a drop off at the wrong location and an ultimate pickup by a personal vehicle.

The committee discussed several aspects of navigating metro's fixed route service that can create a barrier to entry and difficulties in effectively utilizing the system. Not all transit users with disabilities use Moby and many used fixed route. Key points included;

- Having route numbers identified on the bus stops themselves
- When working with clients that need to get to medical appointments, transportation is the number one barrier
- Even on the correct bus, it can take several hours to get to a destination. Numerous transfers can make it challenging.
- Rider guides
- Some users do not use the internet, which can be a barrier
- There is a text message service, but it is not clear that this service is available or how to access it
- Metro's MyRide app is available and works well
- Potential need for print based user guides

Nebraska VR is working with Metro Transit to train VR staff on how to use the bus so that this information can be relayed to clients. This “Train the Trainer” course is available to anyone who is interested. There are “how to ride” videos available online, but they need to be updated. There was some discussion of possibly recording the Nebraska VR training in order to share it with other organizations.

Angus requested that if others have ridership stories to please send them to McFall, as they could also be used in support of LB 251 discussed above.

6. Additional Business & Public Comment

Discussion and updates on the Bus Driver’s Road-E-O. Florence Home and Metro Transit have both sent drivers to this event. State competition and national qualifiers take place in the Fall. The Community Transportation Association of America’s National Expo Conference and Road-E-O is taking place in Omaha next year.

Barber noted that we have one provider experiencing funding challenges that is now impacting their service. Are there other agencies experiencing similar issues, and is there anything CTC/MAPA can do to support?

Murray noted that one key funding source is going away at Together Omaha. There is a transportation program that provides bus tickets for those starting jobs etc. but this has to be done with flex funding, which is outside of government grants. If there is no philanthropy funding. McFall noted that if they have a disability and it is work related they can be sent to VR. It is common for the VR to provide a full month of bus tickets. CTC and MAPA can help by spreading information about fare capping with Metro Transit. Murray requested that Metro Transit come talk to Together Omaha staff about how to best utilize Metro services.

McFall noted that 70-80% of their funding comes from federal, and a lot under the US Dept of Education.

Donna asked if MAPA would be able to provide funding for drivers. Barber clarified that this is a general ask regarding ways for CTC members to support each other or something MAPA can facilitate. Barber is not suggesting there is a new funding source that MAPA has become aware of.

Issues regarding driver recruitment were brought up. McFall noted that Nebraska VR has a grant that runs through Sept 2026, if an individual with a disability goes to a CDL training location, the grant could pay for the majority of their schooling to get them ready to drive. This may be helpful in training up new drivers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28

Future Meetings & Events

TTAC: Friday, June 20, 2025

MAPA Board of Directors: Thursday, June 26, 2025

CTC: Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Meeting Quorum: The presence of 1/3 (currently 4) of the members of the CTC at an officially called meeting shall constitute a quorum.