



Meeting Minutes – Transportation Working Group

Date: June 22, 2016

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Marschall Road Transit Station

Work Group Members:

Present: Jim Becker, Bob Crawford, Melissa Jensen, Bonnie Kaye, Josh Johnson, Judy Mack, Beth Matthews, Kathi Mocol, Mark Pahl, Jon Ulrich, Jane Wiley, Jane Victorey, Kyle Sobota, Luther Wynders, and Jim Dellwo

Absent: Joseph Kelly, Tony Phelps, and Jaimie Riddle

Staff Members:

Present: Brad Larson, Lisa Freese, Troy Beam, Alan Herrman, and Angie Stenson

Absent: None

1. New Member Introductions

Staff briefly reviewed the May 11 meeting and what will be discussed at the meeting today. At the May 11 meeting the Transportation Working Group identified that there needed to be perspective from the schools, biking community, and someone with more operational knowledge of the MVTA. Larson stated that staff reached out to people from these interests groups and found volunteers to participate in this process. Members of the group then introduced themselves.

2. Status update from the Housing, Workforce, Education Groups, and Steering Committee.

Larson stated that the Housing, Workforce, and Education Groups were on the same page as the Transportation Working Group. Each has only had one meeting, and norms were established, meeting times, and chairs were nominated. At their next meetings they planned to identify which perspectives they may be missing and begin discussing what is not working well.

Ulrich stated that the Steering Committee was in the same position as the working groups, as it has only had two meetings. He stated that the steering committee was trying to make sure that the groups were sufficiently represented, and they would like the chairs to attend their meetings. He also noted that the Steering Committee gave letters of recommendation to two workforce housing developments being proposed in Shakopee and Prior Lake.

3. Chair/Vice Chair

Mocol nominated Bob Crawford and Josh Johnson as Chair and Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Set a regular meeting time.

The working group members identified the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 as the regular meeting time.

5. Flushout what's not working well

Stenson gave a brief overview of where the group was at in the process. She then asked the group to split up into teams of three to discuss two questions

What local conditions and concerns are most relevant?

The first group stated that communication and knowledge of the transportation networks is a concern. A lot of people do not know of the transit options available to them. The group was interested in seeing a circulator serving the three northern cities with connectors from the rural communities.

The second group agreed that knowledge of what's available is an issue. The second group stated they would like more information from employees businesses and riders to understand their issues. They also suggested a map of the system in Scott County for the Working Group to understand what's available.

The third group noted that safety was a concern, which related to last mile connections. Sometimes the destination is across a highway or in an area that is not pedestrian friendly. Weather conditions compound these issues. Dial-a-ride is not always available. Beam agreed and said if it was advertised more, it would be more, but it is at capacity now. Group three was interested to know how ride sharing apps/services are doing if there is a possibility to use them more.

Group four discussed how density of housing and employment affect transit. Transit is more efficient when there are higher densities. They stated it would be good to know where the job and population densities are in Scott County to understand these issues.

Group five stated that the congested river crossings not only affect commuters, but businesses do not like the congestion with shipping or moving employees. They echoed the thought on density of employment to make transit work.

What conditions are related to the other “pillars”?

Group five stated that there is not enough quality work force housing. This applies to both rental and single family. It was mentioned that land development policies could help bring more density and mix housing with employment centers.

Group three stated that transit needs to be planned for better. Crawford stated that it also needs to be addressed for areas of business/employment. Sobota agreed stating there was a lack of appropriate density in the right areas to improve transit.

Kaye asked how people with odd shifts that need transit manage.

6. Agenda Planning

The Working Group stated that they would like to take stock of what is currently available for transit and other modes of transportation at their next meeting. Adding that visuals like a map would be helpful.

7. The group adjourned at 9:00am.