

ENTF Transportation Sub Committee
July 26, 2016

Present: Adelyn VanTol, Allison Rudi, Cheryl Elahl, Darlene Bentz, Dawn Broene, Emily Schichtel, Jennifer Kalkzuk, Joan Konyndyk, John Mitchell, Mark Evans, Meegen Joyce, Neil Carlson, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Sherrie Gillespie, Steve Hartman, Sue Sefton, Teresa Branson, Tracie Coffman, Kevin Wisselink, Aruna Kamara, Charlotte Reynolds, John Nederlood

Strategic Planning Data Collection:

- T1 - Percent of Kent county residents that can get to destinations within 45 minutes: Neil Carson and workers from the Calvin Center for Social Research are building major destination sets of data and putting them on a GIS map of Kent County with an overlay of *The Rapid* fixed routes. To date they have entered food retailers, medical providers and workforce development sites. They hope to build a comprehensive destination table that will serve to quantify "Success Measures," the first tier of our strategic plan and lead us to supporting what actions we can take to affect the success measures, the second tier of our strategic plan. Eventually this tool will be available to members to log in, create an account and enter appropriate data sets to support their positions, assist in making decisions etc. The data should tell a story about how it relates to the success measures. We should also be able to subset the data so that we can input data that does not belong in the public domain but would be a useful tool.
- What is needed are existing data bases that are updated and will be maintained. Also we should be looking for partners in the county that already have a Google API (Application Program Interface) which costs \$10,000 a year for access.
- Special areas of focus such as dialysis and temp services which represent high needs for specific populations but are not a concern for the general population need to be considered.

Legislative Issues:

- The legislature is not in session right now. The budget passes with an increase in operating funding but is still to be seen how it is allocated. Each eligible system has to submit a budget to MDOT which makes the allocation decisions. The funding allotment depends on the amount of investment other systems have made. The more you invest, the more you receive. Urban systems can receive up to 50% support. Urban systems can receive up to 60% but historically that level of funding has not been given.

Ridelink:

- Denials have gone up again. Last year in June there were 29 denials. This year there were 141. The more services grow and are available, the more people want them

Additional Updates:

- Grand Rapids Township put a flyer in their tax bill that offers rides for citizens through Rockford Ambulance for \$17 one way. This may have been in response to a number of Porter Hills residents attending meetings with township officials and asking for participation in the East Beltline pilot.
- Rockford Ambulance is looking to do similar partnerships with Lowell. Flat River outreach Ministries are still operating and offering transportation services to Lowell area citizens.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

8:30 – 10 am (American Red Cross – 1050 Fuller NE)