



## Transportation Subcommittee

### Meeting Minutes

3/27/18

8:30 – 10:00 AM

Adelyn VanTol (DAKC), Sue Sefton (KCHD), Joan Konyndyk (Hope Network), Debbie Coleman (Hope Network), Wende Randall (ENTF), Kendrick Heinlein (AAAWM), Darlene Bentz (Senior Neighbors), Rich Jones (DAKC), Allison Rudi (Calvin CSR), John Mitchell (211), Tamia McLaughlin (DHHS), Bob McKown (HWMUW)

- I. Introductions –  
Name, Organization, and question of the morning
  
- II. Citizen's Agenda – Getting There Together
  - a. The Rapid – (no representative present)  
Kendrick gave an update: The trial of the Wave Card is going well, hoping to roll out late spring;
  - b. Wheels to Work – Cascade is now a destination employer; beginning discussions with some temp agencies; Wheels to Work website has links to the employer partners, so people who have left Michigan and want to return can apply to known employer partners; Debbie is connecting people to Hello, West Michigan; 66% of riders do not have or do not want a car
  
- III. Strategic Planning
  - a. Feedback from other ENTF Committees –
    - i. Wende distributed a handout of the success measure/indicators from the basic needs work session;
    - ii. Next Steps/Recommendations: Policy: Survey questions were driven by policies we thought were good, so we could research those same policies again to determine a model; provide examples of policy language for municipalities to consider; CSR might have some time to assist an action team with research on policies (in the summer)
    - iii. Advocacy Training will be provided in the future; need to have a groundswell of demand (informing the public about issues that they could influence)
    - iv. Community Listening Session to involve residents in the discussion; pulling together a group may be costly and challenging, but the relationship-building aspect is valuable; could we go to other events where people already gather? Potentially host an event at Central Station or West Michigan Works (attend one of the PATH classes, Becky Fraser is now a Supervisor dealing with PATH participants, John VanElst, GRCC may be another connections), senior centers, DAKC
    - v. Transportation questions on the Census: ACS and SIPP have transportation-related questions; some concern about the upcoming census



- vi. Do you find areas with transportation plans have less transportation need? We could compare the municipal survey responses with the transportation access map; is this something that can be combined; could we pull data from RideLink and map point of origin? Kendrick will work with The Rapid to provide this (especially outside of the cities) and Allison will assist with mapping; many seniors do not know about RideLink, and the more that do, the more get denied, but it is helpful for understanding need (and led to the on-demand service); could also look at usage by population and over a certain age to see usage distribution by area
- vii. Is anyone incentivizing employers to offer or advocate for transportation? Isn't the job market their incentive? Debbie is seeing that employers are changing their mindset from wanting incentives to be provided to them, to seeing the need to be part of the solution (change their business model for need); potentially celebrate the employers who are leaders in solutions like Wheels to Work; could also be a link with the Econ & Workforce Development subcommittee, who is working to have a stronger communication link with employers and with other efforts with the Chamber and other groups (Chamber of Commerce could be another group to work with for input)?
- viii. Equity: could look at the VoiceKent transportation questions and the demographic breakouts within these responses (could CSR explore this over the summer, as well?)
- ix. Are there community resources that could support further work for transportation? Should this group explore foundations that may have an interest in funding this area (and could it be framed more around community/civic engagement)? Bob will look into this; there is a case to be made for transportation in all priority areas, transportation is important to maintain work or school;
- x. Some discussion around GRCC assistance with transportation (more than discounted tickets); DHHS has transportation support for people working and potentially involved in school; Tamia will look into this
- b. Follow up on Municipal Assessment – will follow up with Suzanne Schultz and someone from the Michigan Association of Planners, equity group (Adelyn will ask if they are willing)
- c. Strategies for Transportation in All Policies – see above
- d. Next Steps

#### IV. RideLink

- a. Current Status – ridership is up and denials are down from February this year compared to last year; partners are finding more drivers;

#### V. Additional Updates -

- a. Former Red Cross employees who are now part of Hope Network will be moving to the Hope Network location; Sue will talk with Red Cross about the location

Next meeting is Tuesday April 24th

