

Missouri State Plan on Aging

Transportation Rural Subcommittee Meeting – Meeting #4

Date: Tuesday November 21, 2023

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm.

Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Past Meeting Agenda

- Rural subgroups (approximately 30 minutes)
 - Committee members are asked to complete this survey prior to the meeting:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NGP3K2J>
 - Subgroup goals
 - Connectivity of existing transportation between communities
 - SMTS and OATS – line between Crawford/Franklin County: looking at a Universal system to
 - Expanding the MORides program and what they offer: perhaps statewide coordination host site within the program
 - Jackson gave example of a single app used in Europe (SBB mobile)- allows you to chose two cities or stops and it will connect and book your travel
 - Seamless Bay Area looked at SBB as a model to use due to the variety of systems: <https://www.seamlessbayarea.org/blog/2023/6/5/notes-from-switzerland-the-nation-wide-system-of-coordination-for-9m-people>
 - Partnering with MoRides and using the MODOT carpool model to enhance other types of transportation:
<https://mo.icarpool.com/en/Login.aspx>
 - Universal Mobility in communities (Complete Street) - Accessible Options in Community - <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>
 - Housing locations as an impact to mobility centrally located to essential establishments
 - Subgroup objectives
 - Mobility Management – One stop Shop for coordination: perhaps statewide coordination host site within the Mo Rides program
 - Connect mobility using technology across the Regions w/in state
 - Focus on linking the rural areas (not focusing on within in town and cities)
 - Partnerships with local planning of housing facilities
 - To host a complete accessible system in communities: pathways, transportation stops
- Missouri Statewide Transit Needs Assessment (approximately 15 minutes)
 - a. Issues in rural area since the study has been produced
 - Need for transportation in rural areas for evening and weekends
 - Many systems have cut their services which make for long wait times or temporary suspended services – Major impact on lives from systems: now at a crisis level
 - Crisis level - Driver shortage is a large issue
- Open Discussion (final 15 minutes)
 - Bus service between Jefferson and Columbia
 1. Examples provided from MO-KS <https://ridekc.org/routes/P45>

2. Across the state of IOWA
<https://www.icgov.org/home/showpublisheddocument/1223/638188751359170000>
 3. Example from NJ Transit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NJ_Transit
- COVID-19 Research project – scope has changed for rural vanpool
 - MPTA economic impact study of transit
 - MO Complete Meets Advisory Sept 21st 9-10:30:
<https://www.mocompletestreets.com/missouri-complete-streets/>
- **Recommendations/Case studies for Rural Transportation**
 1. Mobility Coordination-Mobility Management Network: showing individuals how to use the system
 - a. For example: the public does not realize that systems like OATS exist. Perhaps a rebranding and more outreach to inform the public about the change.
 - b. Mobility Management Program Statewide - One mobility manager per county would be ideal to assist with connecting transportation services
 - c. The mobility management services need to be in person not only technology based – Call center. This established trust from people, especially seniors.
 2. Educational - Resources to connect networks and rural neighbors, counties, and local municipalities
 3. Joint communication and coordination efforts between the siloed communities: DHSS, DMH, DESE, MoDOT and more (all spend money on transportation) – Review how they can provide joint funding for connectivity in rural areas
 4. Statewide Transit Plan needed in Missouri: Example from Colorado - <https://www.codot.gov/programs/yourtransportationpriorities/statewide-transit-plan>
 - a. Boonslick RPC proposed a statewide transit plan in 2018/2019 and did not receive the funding
 - b. Recommendation of a plan for the state of Missouri, we are one of seven states that do not have a plan. It would be great to create a plan by the beginning of 2025
 - c. Name of the plan: Statewide Mobility, Connectivity and Accessibility Pan
 - d. The Interstate agency on special transportation committee:
<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=226.805>
<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=226.805>
 - e. Expanding the membership and diversity of the MoDOT Highway commission to be more representative of the state demographics - <https://www.modot.org/current-members>
 - 5. Developing a State Policy on Transportation -
<https://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/181705.aspx>

Example Ohio – policy

6. Review the funding given to entities given from the state and federal in comparison of the actual service being provided, especially after the impact of COVID (Driver shortage and change in ridership). The question has been asked: “Should the same amount of funding be provided?”

- **Midwest Transit Conference – Issues discussed/Solutions found**
- Bus service between Jefferson and Columbia
 1. Examples provided from MO-KS <https://ridekc.org/routes/P45>
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- Explore coordination solutions in each rural regions across the state
 - Jefferson Franklin county rural (Jefferson community action corporation) launched a volunteer driver transportation system, launched son May 15th. How many rides, just about 400? Mentored by Kelly Ast – New Growth in Nevada, MO.
 - Struggling how to communicate with the hospitals and other organizations to help them best understand for referrals for transportation
 - The need to recruit more volunteers – hard to get them to pass all the checks (3)
 - Turning down rides because there are not enough drivers to support the needs – tracking this information and the type
 - Funding – original grant came from new growth supported by RCSPG program. Community service block grant. Also, private donations – local lions club.
- Nancy Gade, Aging matters in cape Girardeau
 - Work with 4 provides, served 86,000 trips 60plus and handicap, smts oats, scott county, dunklin county

- Really rural – many do not have wifi, so apps are not realistic. Did do commercials on local tv stations which increase rides? Marketing in a different way.
 - Funding – mehtap modot, state fuding through older American act
 - Missourians for responsible transportation
 - Looking to partner with Mo complete streets and the MO transportation task force, to help push policy/plan
 - Long range transportation plan will be updates soon in the next few years, how to
 - Active transportation plan on moDOt specific needs list
 - Coordination between MoDOT multimodal and the planning division to coordinate with the master plan on aging and other coalition
 - If there were more opportunities available more senior would be getting out with proper infrastructure – collect data would be helpful
 - Director of Medicaid reimbursement – DMH – Jennifer bax and wrin twenty
 - Provide transport per Medicaid or Mo Healthnet nemt programs
 - Diviosn of developmental disabiliies – DMH – Wanda Crocker
 - Lack of available people to provide the service – some large like oats and smts but they cannot find drivers which means we cannot deliver a service
 - Also, service provider of rehabilitation services. Not sure as a organized effort how transportation providers are increasing awareness to attract employees. For us we did value based payment with apprenticeship program – veterans can join and draw down their benefits for education at the same time
 - Is the transportation industry doing the same? Focus intentional effort to attract employees. How do we career option?
 - Look at doc partnership workforce program like other states
 - Funding as far as payment methodologies and rates. They will barter with others to get better pay or rates to support other programs. How to get equitable payments to stabilize the workforce?

- Love the idea of a NEMT representative – transitioning between bides is nightmare, contract with more than one entity to have options and continuity
 - Peer to peer state talks to learn about other NEMT
- Next steps for statewide coordinated plan and policy
 - Recommendation of a plan for the state of Missouri, we are one of seven states that do not have a plan. It would be great to create a plan by the beginning of 2025
 - Name of the plan: Statewide Mobility, Connectivity and Accessibility Plan
 - SMTS and OATS – line between Crawford/Franklin County: looking at a Universal system to: connected systems
 - Resource site – technical assistance and peer to peer
 - County to county coordination – Jefferson County is under stl transit region has a lot of public transit but there is no connection – rural to urban connection
 - Especially for medical, wash u, Barnes – full-service coordination
- Other items

New Meeting Agenda

- Review past recommendations
- Final recommendations
- Draft document and support data/material

Next meetings:

- December?? 2023, at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This meeting will be recorded.

For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations please see contact information below. Advance notice is appreciated and will allow additional opportunity to provide requested accommodation(s).