



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

TRANSIT COORDINATION PLAN ADVISORY TEAM

29 February 2012

2:00 p.m.

Ozarks Transportation Organization Conference Room
205 Park Central East, Suite 212

ATTENDEES

Sharon Bradford, RSVP
Sheri Davis, SGCPB Northview
Kathleen Featherstone, DMH-SpRO
Howard Fisk, Fisk Limousines
Diane Gallion, City Utilities Transit
Scott Kosky, OATS

Louise Lathrop, NSAB
Leslie McCafferty, Burrell
Linda Starr, Springfield Workshop
Dan Watts, SMOG
Cari Wright, SW Center for Independent Living

STAFF PRESENT

Curtis Owens

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made of everyone in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Diane Gallion made a motion to approve the February 29, 2012 Agenda and February 1, 2012 Minutes. Sheri Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. FINALIZE STRATEGIES

The Advisory Team completed a review of the transit improvement strategies developed in prior meetings and identified four high priority items and five medium priority items. The team discussed these items in depth and decided there were no identifiable low priority items. The high priority items are: sustain current mobility services, increase utilization of services, increase/improve mobility services and infrastructure, and educate the public of services via a single source. The medium priority items are: increase services (other than those items listed in the high priority section), expand service availability beyond Springfield, offer more comprehensive services outside of Springfield, locate additional volunteers (e.g., Transit Ambassador Program) and travel trainers, continue the Local Coordination Board for Transit, and share information about funding programs and benefits available to local organizations.

The team reviewed the actions list and emphasized the need to educate the public on available agency services. Curtis Owens mentioned that he was recently at an Older Drivers Summit for a plan update and two of the three committees included enhancing the 211 system as a statewide priority action item. He also mentioned the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging called the



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Rideshare phone line to verify current information for the Yellow Book. Chairman Fisk also mentioned that he had talked with Cox Hospital staff about how patient releases were handled, specifically when someone needed assistance with transportation. The conclusion was that Cox is working on this issue and some action items are currently under review, hopefully allowing Cox to fully address this issue in the future.

Based on a review of the actions list, the team identified nine high priority action items and seven medium priority items. The high priority action items (not listed in priority order) are: (1) Create a website with a landing page that includes contact information for all local transit agencies and services; (2) Provide instructions on the website for how to solve problems when services aren't available; (3) List other mobility solutions on the website for those with disabilities and list disability-specific options; (4) Publicize 211, which provides human services information updates; (5) Research the feasibility of and create a plan to develop 511 service, which would provide transportation information to the community; (6) Create a media committee and plan to organize and strategize how and when to send information to various media outlets, including the News-Leader; (7) Increase community accessibility to the homebound- Meals on Wheels, mobile books, grocery deliveries, etc.; (8) Education; and (9) Maintain current funding levels in order to sustain existing services.

The medium priority action items (not listed in priority order) are: (1) Determine what service information is collected and available on an ongoing basis and what information should be shared; (2) Maintain and increase transit services - e.g., extend bus service on nights and weekends, provide rides home from the hospital, etc.; (3) Coordinate services with agencies and caregivers; (4) Offer same-day and flexible/urgent-needs ride scheduling; (5) Expand the transit system's daily service hours; (6) Have service agencies provide bus passes to their clients so their clients can save money and gain independence; (7) Create a donation program/fund where people can donate money for bus vouchers (adopt a voucher/bus pass) – people prefer short-term financial commitments; (8) Continue Local Coordinating Board for Transit meetings and project development activities.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The Advisory Team reviewed Chapter 8 - Implementation of the Draft Transit Coordination Plan and recommended two minor changes. First, education should be included as a component of the strategies/actions implementation process as it was determined to be a high priority strategy. Secondly, the sentence "the first step will be to create a Local Coordination Board for Transit" should be removed as this action is not applicable due to the LCBT already currently meeting on a regular schedule.

5. DRAFT SECTION REVIEW

The Advisory Team received a draft of chapters one, two and three. A motion was made by Linda Starr to have OTO staff complete the Draft Transit Coordination Plan with the finalized gaps, strategies and actions; and to make changes to the implementation section to reflect high and medium priority items and actions. The motion was seconded by Scott Kosky and passed unanimously. OTO staff should have the first draft available to email to the Advisory Team by March 8, 2012.



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6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Diane Gallion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon Bradford seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.