

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 27, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2020

Subject: Twin Cities Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: TAB Action

Staff Prepared/Presented: Heidi Schallberg, Senior Planner (651-602-1721)

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Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Twin Cities Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan.

Background

This plan is intended to support coordination of transportation services between transit providers and human service agencies that provide transportation, with a focus on people with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes. The plan identifies barriers and challenges faced by both riders and providers of these services and also identifies strategies and potential work to be done to address these barriers. This plan update was guided by a steering committee with 14 members representing state agencies, counties, MnDOT, transit and medical transportation providers, Metro Mobility, the Minnesota Board on Aging, and nonprofits that serve people with disabilities. A stakeholder workshop was held where participants reviewed mobility barriers and strategies to address those barriers. The Council's Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee, which includes riders and advocates for older adults and people with disabilities, has also participated in the plan development with representatives at the stakeholder workshop and presentations at its regular meetings. The steering committee prioritized strategies to address the identified barriers. The 33 strategies are prioritized as high, medium, or lower priorities and grouped in three categories: Coordinate and Consolidate Transportation Services and Resources; Mobility Strategies; and Communication, Training, and Organizational Support.

Rationale

The TAB recommended the Council adopt this plan. Public input was provided during a 46-day public comment period.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action promotes all five Thrive outcomes, especially Equity and Livability with the plan's focus on strategies to address transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. The plan's role in promoting coordination of services promotes Stewardship.

Funding

The Coordinated Plan is a federal requirement for distributing funding within the region from the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program (also referred to as Section 5310), which is administered by

MnDOT. Applicants for this funding must address strategies included in a local coordinated plan.

Known Support / Opposition

Action supported by TAB. The Council held a public comment period, during which comments were received from 10 sources. The attached memo includes a summary of the comments received, responses to the comments and changes made to the plan, as well as the full text of the comments.