

Minutes

June 2, 2020 5, 2020 | 3:00 -4:30pm

Goal

By September 30, 2021, develop high quality coordinated transportation projects in partnership with regional planning councils, the Missouri Department of Transportation and others that will lead to a statewide mobility management system that improves transportation access, accessibility and affordability for all Missourians.

I. **Call to Order – Ed Thomas and Cory Schmitt, Co- Chairs**

- Introductions

II. **Is a survey of transportation providers needed –**

- Wendy Witcig, Deputy Director DMH/DDD, reported to committee that 2 transportation providers with contracts with DMH have indicated that they will not be able to provide transportation services, in the near future. These providers report that increased costs associated with social distancing and increased cleaning, make providing transportation unprofitable. These are stand alone transportation providers, not residential providers who also provide transportation services.
- Discussed possible solutions including CARES Act funding, temporarily (or permanently) subcontracting with larger transportation providers.

III. **What information should be included –**

- While most programs that support the elderly (such as senior center) and persons with disabilities (sheltered workshops and day programs) are not fully open, some gaps are already being identified. Jake J., from Jackson Co. reported that their organization was only transporting about 20% of their usual riders. Wendy W. mentioned that 108 persons in St. Louis don't have transportation services. The larger transportation providers such as OATS or SMTS are beginning to provide services at a much lower capacity due to social distancing.

IV. **What do we do with the information –**

- There was much discussion on waiver services versus self-directed services. This is an area the Task Force needs to research. Mallory Box, from Missouri Public Transit Association discussed their recent survey and that the information would be shared with policy makers and transportation funders.
- With public providers represented by MPTA Survey, focus of Task Force survey should be on small and medium sized specialized transportation providers.

V. **Moving to zoom**– Chaz Nickolaus reported to the Task Force that in June MO TTF meeting would move to zoom as the webinar platform.

The MO Transportation Task Force was developed in partnership and with ongoing support and funding from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (PL 106-402).”

VI. **What can we do now/Other Updates** -

- Chaz offered to contact some providers in the St. Louis area. Wendy Witcig is also reaching out to providers and getting a more specific list of providers that either are struggling or expect to be struggling in the near future. Ed mentioned that most programs would increase attendance as the month moved on.
- Jerom Theunissen with Easterseals and the National Center for Mobility Management shared the Federal Transit Administration's newly released [Federal Fund Braiding Guide](#) to help agencies and organizations use other federal funds as local match for transit dollars.
- Joni Roeseler with MoDOT shared information about CARES Act funding provisions for transit providers: Focus is on Urban (Section 5307) and Rural (Section 5311) public providers and does not provide any relief or support for specialized transportation providers (Section 5310).
- General sense from transportation providers is that demand is the primary issue and not capacity to serve.

Next steps –

- Subcommittee of Chaz Nicklaus, Ed Thomas, Cory Schmitt, Jerom Theunissen, Mindy Ulstad will meet soon to discuss specifics to specialized transportation providers. Chaz to organize meeting time.

VII. **Next meeting** – 07/07/2020

VIII. Adjournment