

## **AGENDA**

**October 6, 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.*

- Call to Order – Ed Thomas and Cory Schmitt, Co- Chairs
  - **Attendees: Chaz Nickolaus, Cory Schmitt, Laura Mueth, Sandy Keyser, Thomas Epling, Mindy Ulstad, Jack Gamble, Mary Gordon, Pete Breting, Jill Stedem, Marissa Peterson, Jerom Theunissen, Charles (EMT), Jessica Keenoy, Shay Bernard, Jim McGee, Susie Matthews, Mallory Box, Holly Reiff, Jack Husted, Jake Jacobs**
  
- Missouri Public Transit Association Virtual Conference Recap – Mallory Box
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Conference- 2 days
  - Notable Sessions- <https://mopublictransit.org/2020/09/23/dot-increases-request-transit-2021-missouri/>. Link for conference replay- <https://mopublictransit.org/2020/09/14/4435/>.
    - To Charge or Not to Charge
    - Director McKenna- Asking for more \$\$ from State-- 6.7 Million from GR – A lot of providers have received CARES ACT funding- Missouri 1<sup>st</sup> to release funds to transportation providers due to COVID issues
      - Does it seem this is going to be carried through Governor’s Budget?
        - Great question. Probably a better question for Mr. Gamble on the phone. Haven’t heard one way or the other. McKenna had a very passionate plea. Getting to ask was a big deal. Ask is over twice what is normally requested (\$3 Million).
        - Jack Gamble said budget is going to be tight, but doesn’t hurt to ask.

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- Continuing Resolution signed- Extended the FAST Act- <https://mopublictransit.org/2020/10/01/continuing-resolution-signed-today-extends-fast-act-one-year/>
- Status of “Interagency Committee on Special Transportation”
  - Joni from MoDOT not on call to share information. Need to follow up and share efforts.
- Missouri Rural Health Association: HealthTran Expansion Update – Mary Gordon
  - HealthTran around for 6+ year now. Was pilot program- keep building on it
    - Supportive program for communities to build transportation options in rural Missouri.
    - Just completed a technology program- Kaizen Health (<http://kaizenhealth.org/>) - Any transportation provider can be linked to this. Specific program that works for HealthTran in the rural programs. Any provider can be on there. Big or small providers can accept providing a ride. Program gathers patient outcomes, not just ride data. Can put in funding buckets to ensure rides are charged to the correct source (public, private, Uber, volunteer network, etc.).
    - Started a statewide volunteer transportation program
      - Connected to the Kaizen program. Fill gaps that need to be filled
      - Working with non-traditional providers in rural communities. Work mostly through EMS agencies in rural areas. Collaborate with organizations around them. Work after hours or weekends to help with hospital or nursing home transportation. Working to get hospitals and other entities in the program.
    - Expanding volunteer program to try to connect with volunteer stations, those already operating in those areas. Share program so they can have the most up to date technology. Can gather data on volunteer drivers for the state also. Can show where transportation is needed.
    - Univ. of Missouri is helping to build a Mobility Management Program- online 12 week program. 1<sup>st</sup> step in teaching Mobility Management. Received 2<sup>nd</sup> grant- moving to have Missouri do a Mobility Management Certification. To get involved with the MO Mobility Management Certificate reach out to Thomas Panella, University of Mo School of Medicine at [pancellat@health.missouri.edu](mailto:pancellat@health.missouri.edu).

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- What is the fee for the curriculum? No fee until January 2022. Grant will have that fee cover. When do have fee, will be very minimal. Just cover cost of keeping program going.
- Curriculum is not available now, group working on this. Love to have anyone from this group join to help build this. Focused on rural Missouri and focused on community and health.
  - Susan Matthews- provider with Kaizen Health. One of the strongest relationships they have had with providers. People receiving quick turn around on their trips. Wonderful to work with.
- Jerom Theunissen- National updates- Federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) released a report which gave a number of recommendation to increase access. Must read for this group. Maybe future meeting topic. Puts a lot of onus on states to implement these measures. Group can look at how to operationalize this report. <https://www.transit.dot.gov/access/ccam/coordinating-council-access-and-mobility-ccam-report-president>
  - Quarterly networking MM Connections Conversations- Transportation Conversations. Meeting coming up- register at this link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoc-utrDkjH9L7q8E4HoEN8NVxTfbUye4B>. Talking about MM networks and how they built them up. Oct 13 at 1pm. <https://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/for-mobility-managers/communications-and-networking/>
- Transportation Survey results and next steps - Cory Schmitt and group discussion
  - a. 40% response rate (250 Surveys sent out/ 95 responses)
  - b. Highlights
    - i. 40% of providers are providing at 75% or more of services pre-Covid
    - ii. 85% have on-going PPE needs
    - iii. Only 37% are **NOT** concerned about ability to continue providing services due to COVID
    - iv. 58% agencies are receiving COVID relief funds
    - v. 85% made aware of COVID relief funds
    - vi. Only 25% are coordinating services with another provider in any capacity
  - c. Mindy Ulstad spoke to Fusion Cell lead, interested in getting this information on the dashboard to get in front of state leads and the Governor's office. May be good way to get additional funding and PPE down to them. Will need to get with Joni or someone at MODot to help get data for the dashboards. Cory will help in any way he can.

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- d. Chaz- Any specific areas of the state that stand out? Cory- A lot of agencies out of St. Louis, KC, Pike County listed for concerns about ability to continue to provide transportation, but distribution is across the state.
- e. Laura Mueth- Noticed there are several Centers for Independent Living concerned about carrying on in the future- would like to know more information about what concerns are. Are they just concerned about transportation, or all services?
- f. Jack noticed that a lot of the CIL's have backed away from providing transportation. JC stopped and Boone County has expressed concerns of cost prior to pandemic. Laura- a couple of other CIL's have said that doing away with transportation is a possibility.
- g. Laura Mueth- a lot of SB40 Boards on the list also.
- h. Susie Matthews- Things have improved somewhat since they filled out the survey. Didn't have a lot of diversity in the SE region. Mostly Medicaid funded riders. Recently moved into the Columbia market. A lot of need in that market as well. A lot of concerns may be related to insurance costs. That is one of the most expensive considerations for transportation providers. Insurance rates have gone up significantly in the last year or so.
- i. Pete Breting- some agencies listed in Pike County are separate from us. Had forwarded survey to them as give funding to them. Maintaining staff is difficult right now. May have staff that needs to quarantine. Transportation piece is ancillary to providing services. Less to do with funding and more to do with staffing in many cases. Only allow 2 individuals in vehicles due to social distancing.
  - i. Chaz- is staffing issue related to low pay? Pete- Pay is definitely a part. Agencies use own staff to provide transportation in a lot of cases. Low pay= hard to hire staff and provide the services internally.
  - ii. Susie- not much difference in public transit. A lot of the same staffing issues. Staffing issue was here long before COVID. Never ever have all the staff you want. Also a stressful job, some people don't deal with hard to handle behaviors of riders. Pete- Stress level for direct care staff is very high right now. Some staff left agencies because stress was too high. Went into pandemic with low wages, now stress has made retaining staff so much more difficult.
- j. Sandy Keyser- DD sent out CARES Act funding blast for providers. COVID 19 links on page for PPE. <https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/covid-19-information#DDOperationProviderSpecificGuidance>
- k. Holly Reiff- Provider Resources- Providers needing PPE have been directed to the Google Marketplace. One stop shop for COVID related information. A lot of the

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providers on the list in the survey can use the PPE resources. Have tapped into the state stockpile a few times for providers. Last resort, but is still out there.

- l. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/10/1/trump-administration-announces-20-billion-in-new-phase-3-provider-relief-funding.html>
- m. Sandy- <https://dmh.mo.gov/media/pdf/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-updates>
- n. Cory- we may need to develop a roadmap to show steps providers can go to get PPE.
- o. Senior Center Updates- 16% are open. Are providing curb-side pick up or HDMS. Still arranging transportation through the Area Agencies on Aging.
- p. Jake Jacobs- As NEMT for MOHealthNet members comprise about 1/3 of EITAS transportation trips, COVID has really challenged the agency's operating model for transportation.
- q. Mary Gordon- has anyone used a filter in the vehicles to help clean the air? Mallory- working on putting together a vendor response Covid panel. Pretty sure one has an air system that filters out one of those viruses. As soon as find info will pass along. Think it was biotech productions. A lot of options on the market. Some kind of coating they put on the seats that is self-renewing and sanitizing. Fields Mechanical Systems- hvac mechanical lighting and supplies. [www.fieldsmechanicalsystems.com](http://www.fieldsmechanicalsystems.com). Jerom- The American Public Transportation Association has a useful list of vendors.
- r. Cory reached out to Zoe Miller with the Greater Portland Council of Governments who recently helped launch the Moving Maine initiative that closely aligns with the goals and aspirations of the Transportation Task Force. May be able to provide guidance on getting a similar initiative done here in Missouri.

- Next meeting – 11/03/2020
- Adjournment