



Transit Advisory Committee
4th Quarter 2021
 December 15th, 10:00am
 Zoom

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, accessible and courteous public transportation services in response to the needs of our communities.

Committee Members:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| x | Kirk Kuchera – SMART Transit | x | Lenore Fries – Albert Lea (passenger) |
| x | Joanne Brackey – SMART Transit | | Joyce Poshusta – Austin City Council |
| x | Garry Hart – CVS/SMART Transit | | Polly Glynn – Mower County |
| x | Shelly Rockman – SMART Transit | | Haya Hopkins – Mayo Health Systems |
| x | Chris Thompson – SMART Transit | | Waseca County – Commissioner |
| x | John Simonette – SMART Transit | | Kelly Sutlief – Waseca (passenger) |
| x | Greg Krueger – Steele County | | Matti Gurney – MNDOT Office of Transit |
| | Troy Klecker – City of Owatonna | | |

Review of scope and mission for TAC

Purpose: The purpose of a TAC is to provide guidance and advise transit staff in issues related to transit services, funding, marketing, service strategies, developing policy, special projects, and capital investments/projects. This committee/council is not a governing board, so do not have a legal authority to oversee the transit program, however, provide as a valuable resource to the transit program in developing and providing for transit services.

Updates

- Stats

SMART Transit-Cedar Valley Services - 2021 Data													
Data for all counties combined													
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
PASSENGERS													
Albert Lea	2,913	3,599	4,393	4,531	3,997	3,877	3,375	4,056	3,705	4,149	4,423	0	43,018
Austin	8,088	8,633	8,680	9,304	8,571	5,320	4,219	4,559	10,000	8,921	9,680	0	85,975
Owatonna	3,726	3,906	4,071	3,818	3,805	3,091	2,688	2,892	4,297	4,048	3,857	0	40,199
Blooming Prairie													0
Waseca	1,488	1,667	1,860	1,726	1,758	1,410	1,235	903	1,654	1,784	1,868	0	17,353
TOTAL	16,215	17,805	19,004	19,379	18,131	13,698	11,517	12,410	19,656	18,902	19,828	0	186,545
HOURS													
Albert Lea	1,028	1,103	1,367	1,261	1,217	1,093	1,059	1,165	1,240	1,204	1,157	0	12,893
Austin	2,090	2,098	2,347	2,195	2,113	1,814	1,754	1,885	2,156	1,986	1,941	0	22,377
Owatonna	1,236	1,282	1,418	1,358	1,252	1,122	1,155	1,108	1,222	1,193	1,109	0	13,453
Blooming Prairie													0
Waseca	660	656	752	688	660	698	671	718	767	775	728	0	7,773
TOTAL	5,014	5,139	5,883	5,502	5,242	4,727	4,638	4,875	5,384	5,158	4,935	0	56,495
MILES													
Albert Lea	12,068	13,002	16,132	16,135	15,183	15,303	14,160	15,027	15,206	15,900	15,456	0	163,572
Austin	22,306	22,848	24,535	23,795	22,915	21,112	20,455	21,219	23,159	21,350	20,505	0	244,199
Owatonna	13,720	14,840	16,253	15,277	15,425	14,396	13,216	14,605	15,406	14,891	14,038	0	162,067
Blooming Prairie													0
Waseca	5,549	5,393	5,781	5,529	4,854	5,324	4,908	4,517	5,279	5,024	5,076	0	57,234
TOTAL	53,643	56,083	62,701	60,736	58,377	56,135	52,739	55,368	59,050	57,165	55,075	0	627,072

- Review of numbers

- COVID-19
 - Update
 - Not much change since last meeting – still following COVID protocols as an agency/organization
 - Federal mask mandate extended until March 2022
- SMART Functional Updates
 - Training
 - Been working through some new hires and their training (three staff)
 - Big changes coming in February – ELDT requirements (per federal mandate/Federal Motor Carrier)
 - Working with MNDOT/RTAP on training program
 - Trying to get new staff permitted before Feb. deadline
 - Specific training will be required before individual gets permit/license
 - Keeping busy with staff with other trainings (CPR, ongoing training, etc.)
 - Owatonna/Waseca
 - Waseca
 - Going well in Waseca – Fully staffed
 - Owatonna
 - Short staffed
 - New driver starting today
 - Running advertisements everywhere
 - Season of Giving – For the first time Owatonna/Waseca participated in the Santa for a Senior
 - Gifts will be delivered this week
 - Austin/Albert Lea/Dispatch
 - Austin
 - Two full time driving positions open
 - Have made offers but haven't had the luck we would like
 - Have reduced some service due to staffing shortages (Purple/Shuttle)
 - Albert Lea
 - Fully staffed and going well
 - All services are operational (route and demand response)
- Staffing
 - Continues to be our number one challenge in multiple communities
 - Reduced service in Owatonna and Austin due to staffing issues
- MNDOT Grant Update
 - Operating (2022)
 - Approved by MNDOT
 - Full support from MNDOT through 2022 (100%)
 - Operating (2023 and beyond)
 - With federal infrastructure bill more funding coming to transit in future years – MNDOT is working through numbers but good reason for optimism
 - Capital
 - Vehicles
 - Vehicle Replacement
 - Ordered six replacement buses (from 2020 capital grant; two in Austin, two in Albert Lea, one in Owatonna, and one in Waseca)
 - Ordered five replacement buses (from 2021 capital grant; one in Austin, one in Owatonna, and three in Waseca)
 - Completed application for 2022 vehicle replacement
 - Requested five vehicles
 - Submitted application in October
 - Facilities
 - Owatonna facility

- Ground/foundation work has started – Completed for the winter
 - Remaining timeline –
 - April – Building construction
 - August (into the fall) – Move in
 - Austin and Waseca facility approved through MNDOT grant – Future projects
 - Austin scheduled for 2025; Waseca scheduled for 2026
 - Other
 - Vehicle Maintenance Software
 - Requested vehicle maintenance software as part of the 2019 grant and was approved
 - Will be purchased and installed sometime in 2022
- Big Picture – Down the Road
 - Shared Mobility Opportunity
 - Ecosystem in communities where the public would have access to a platform that would help guide them to various mobility services (in some cases it could be multiple services to complete their trip)
 - Waiting for MNDOT to secure vendor contract – will continue to update group as developments take place
 - Staff Meetings
 - Continue to work through annual staff trainings
 - All-staff training held last month – Well attended and successful
 - Cedar Valley Services Update
 - Still working on bringing consumers back to the program
 - Still have some that have not returned
 - Working through staffing problems
 - Will bring more consumers back once staffing levels out
 - Continue to follow COVID protocols as a state-licensed agency
 - Various mandates that are required
 - Monitoring what will be needed and ready if changes are needed
 - Vaccinate or test requirement may be needed

2021 Program Goals (carried over from 2020)

- Continue to keep staff and passengers safe
- Continue to streamline and simplify processes and policies
- Work to grow ridership out of COVID Pandemic
 - Gain rider trust
- Any new goals/ideas?

TAC Members/Community Feedback from Last Meeting to Re-visit:

- Brochure distribution at Northbridge Mall – New Brochures
 - New brochures are ordered – Will place them out when received
- QR code on brochures and in buses

NEW items from TAC Members/Community Feedback?

- Brochure locations – If you know of a place that should have brochures, please contact Chris and/or Shelly (or through dispatch)
 - Chris Thompson (Austin/Albert Lea) – CThompson@cedarvalleyservices.org
 - Shelly Rockman (Owatonna/Waseca) – SRockman@cedarvalleyservices.org

2021 Meeting Dates:

Quarterly on 4th Wednesday ... 10:00 am rotating city (Zoom option available for all meetings)

Q1 – March 24th, 2021 ... 905 E 16th St, Albert Lea, MN

Q2 – June 23rd, 2021 ... 2803 W Oakland Ave, Austin, MN

~~Q3 = September 22nd, 2021 ... 3325 9th St NW, Owatonna, MN~~

Q4 = December 15th, 2021 ... 303 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 *

* Changed to 3rd Wednesday due to Christmas holiday, held at Emergency Services Building

** *In person opportunities subject to change based on current guidelines, etc.*

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**Thank you all so much for your continued support and advocacy on
behalf of public transportation in our region!**