



Division of Finance & Management

Office of Air, Rail & Transit
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
O: 605.773-3574
dot.sd.gov

TO: South Dakota Transportation Commission

FROM: Jack Dokken, Office of Air, Rail & Transit

DATE: July 16, 2024

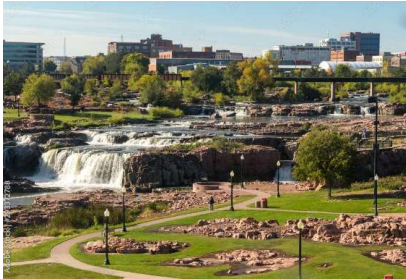
SUBJECT: Statewide Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

In January 2024, the Office of Air, Rail, and Transit hired KFH Group, Inc to complete a Statewide Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan. This coordination plan identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, seniors, and people with low incomes, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation.

Previously, coordinated plans were created by local public transit providers through local public participation, but through working with the transit directors, SDDOT learned that a planned developed through the state would be administratively easier for the transit agencies, while also improving the coordinated plan.

This plan is a federal requirement for the distribution of federal transit funding and was developed through 12 public meetings, with a minimum of one in each SDDOT area. From these public meetings, a list of potential projects was created and prioritized by participants of the meetings.

The KFH Group is presenting this Statewide Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan to the Transportation Commission as an informational item.



South Dakota Statewide Coordinated Public Transit – Human Service Transportation Plan

Transportation Commission
July 25, 2024
KFH Group / Olsson



Presentation Overview

Coordinated Transportation

Coordinated Transportation Planning Process

Transportation Needs

Strategies to Address the Voiced Needs

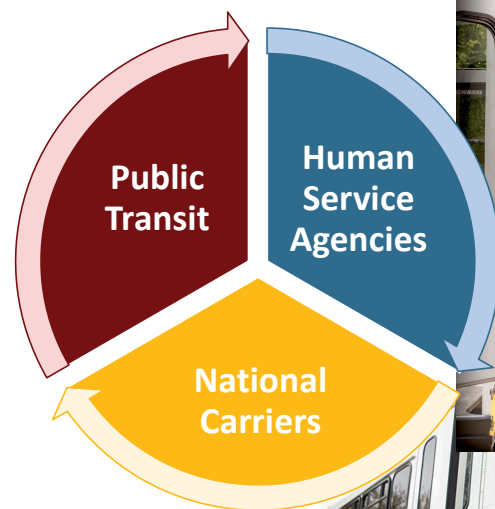
The background image shows the interior of a vehicle, likely a bus, with several people seated. An "EMERGENCY EXIT" sign is visible above a window. The image is slightly blurred and serves as a backdrop for the text.

What is Coordinated Transportation?

- Makes the most efficient use of limited transportation resources
- Avoids duplication caused by overlapping individual programs
- Shares existing community resources:
 - Sharing services and vehicles (increasing capacity)
 - Co-locating facilities, vehicle maintenance, etc.
 - Collaborating on grant applications, planning efforts, etc.

Coordinated Transportation in South Dakota

- **High level of coordination at the local and regional levels**
 - Public transit & local human service agencies work closely together to provide essential transportation for older adults and people with disabilities
 - Public transit & national carriers coordinate services and schedules to provide long distance and out of state trips



Coordinated Transportation Participants

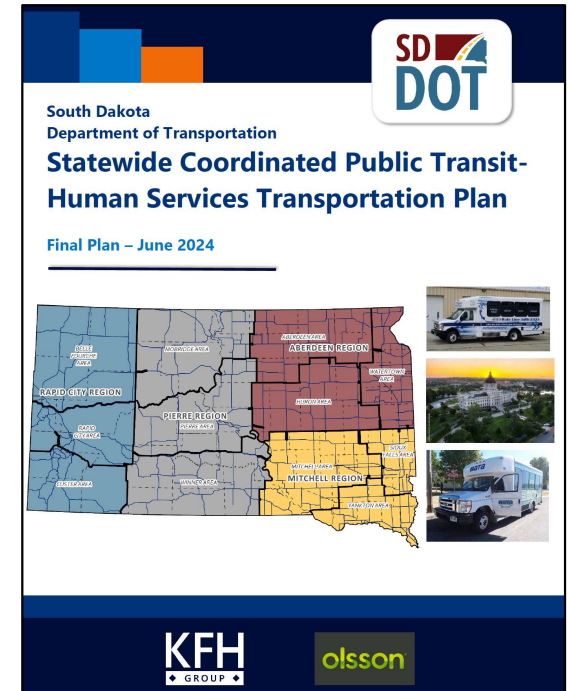
- Aging programs
- Community action agencies
- Counseling services
- Disability service providers
- Emergency shelter programs
- Healthcare facilities
- Human service agencies
- Independent living centers
- Local transit systems
- Mental health providers
- School districts
- Senior independent and assisted living communities
- South Dakota Department of Transportation
- Veteran organizations

Section 5310 Transportation Program

- SDDOT administers the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) **Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program**
- Capital and operating funding to support the provision of transportation services to meet the specific needs of **older adults and people with disabilities**
 - Capital projects to meet needs when public transportation is insufficient, unavailable, or inappropriate
 - Public transportation services that go beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) minimum requirements or decrease reliance on ADA paratransit services

Coordinated Transportation Plan

- Required for Section 5310 Program Funding
- First Statewide Coordinated Plan
- Required Plan Elements:
 1. Assessment of Transportation Providers
 2. Assessment of Transportation Needs
 3. Identification of Strategies/Activities/Projects to address the Unmet Needs
 4. Prioritization for Implementation



Coordinated Transportation Plan Technical Oversight Panel

South Dakota
Department of
Human Services

Statewide
Independent
Living Council

South Dakota
Housing
Development
Authority

Oglala Sioux Tribe

Rapid City Area
Metropolitan
Planning
Organization

South Eastern
Council of
Governments

Sioux Area Metro
Transit System



Community Engagement Efforts

- 12 Coordinated Transportation Planning Workshops:
 - Conducted in each of the 12 SDDOT Areas
 - Engaged with
 - Hybrid (opportunity to participate in-person or virtually)
- Identified priorities through statewide stakeholder survey
- Review of Draft Area Plans *(incorporated into Statewide Plan)*

Assessment of Transportation Needs

Availability

- Maintain Current Services
- Expand Early Morning & Evening Services
- More Frequent Services
- Identify Opportunities for Emerging Tech (Same-Day Service)

Financial Viability

- Deal with Rising Operating Expenses
- Identify New/Greater Funding Sources
- Additional Funding to Expand Services
- More Affordable Fares for Passengers

Awareness

- Expanded Marketing for Current Services
- Education & Travel Training on Current Services

Fleet & Workforce

- Continued Support for Capital Replacement and Expansion (Vehicles & Facilities)
- Driver Recruitment & Retention

Identified Strategies

Use Federal & State Funds More Effectively

- Maintain services that are effectively meeting identified transportation needs
- Identify opportunities for additional funding
- Re-assess the administration of human service transportation funding programs
- Use statewide coordinated plan for ongoing dialogue

Improve Communication & Coordination

- Improve coordination through mobility management efforts
- Re-assess opportunities for state agencies to meet and to discuss coordination efforts
- Expand community engagement and information on services
- Provide greater guidance, support, and technical assistance to local providers

Improve & Expand Mobility Options

- Support efforts to expand local and regional public transit services
- Continue to support capital needs to ensure vehicles are safe and appropriate for the service
- Assess opportunities to improve driver recruitment and retention

Proposed Phased Statewide Strategy

- Short-Term (Years 1-2):
 - Formalize state-level coordination structure
 - Develop statewide marketing program
 - Monitor federal coordination activities and support programs (continuous)
- Mid-Term (Years 3-4):
 - Implement local Mobility Management Pilot Program
 - Plan and implement state-funded programs
- Long-Term (Year 5 and beyond):
 - Update statewide coordinated transportation plan

Recommendations to Enhance Coordination & Expand Services

Capital & Operational Investments

- Support needs identified through local or regional plans
- Enhance statewide transit marketing
- Seek discretionary grants
- Cost estimates for expansion strategies surpass current federal program funding

Business & Financing Models

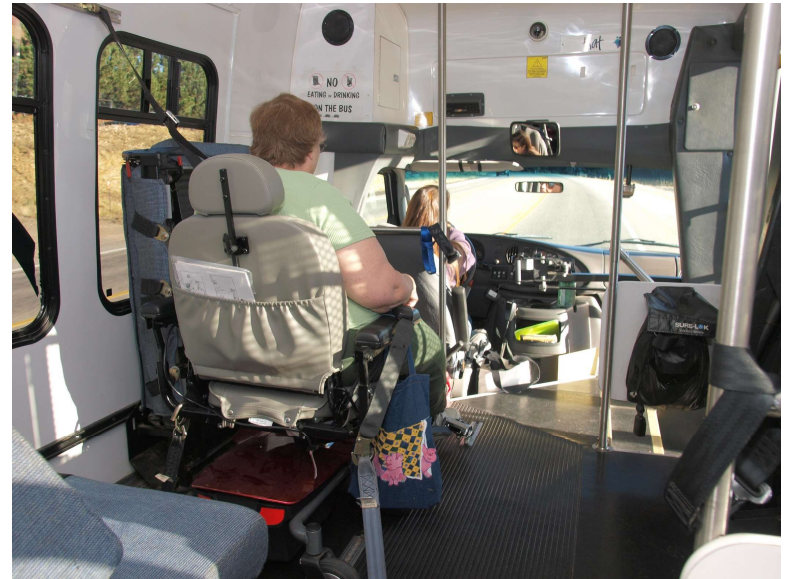
- Use Section 5310 funding for Mobility Management
- Fund vehicles through other FTA funding sources
- Create a state funding program for older adults and people with disabilities
- Create employment transportation funding program

Public Agency Policies, Strategies, & Practices

- Maintain current transportation services & vehicle fleets
- Improve outreach, marketing, & education
- Identify new funding opportunities
- Expand transportation services to meet needs

A Vision for Transportation Coordination

- Increased efficiency through sharing resources – multiple entities working together to increase capacity
- Sharing of passenger trips and vehicles; co-location of facilities, programs or services where feasible
- Collaboration on grants, planning, training, procurement, maintenance
- Supporting innovation by developing and implementing new transportation models



Project Contacts

- South Dakota Department of Transportation
Monte Meier, Transportation Specialist II
Monte.Meier@state.sd.us / 605-773-4169
- KFH Group, Inc.
Will Sutton, Senior Transportation Planner
wsutton@kfhgroup.com / 301-951-8660