volunteer driver
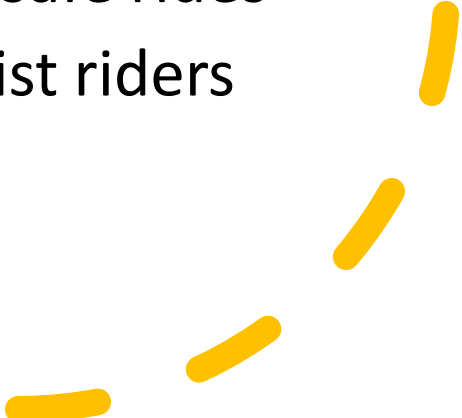## C O A L I T I O N

Minnesota Public Transit Conference

October 7, 2020

Dawn Simonson, Executive Director, Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging

Co-Chair, Volunteer Driver Coalition

volunteerdrivermn.org

Volunteer Driver Programs are Essential

- More than 77,400 Minnesotans count on volunteer provided rides
- Riders are connected to medical care, including ongoing treatment
- Riders conduct business at government offices, banks, stores
- Riders are usually non-drivers due to physical or cognitive issues
- Volunteer drivers provide low cost, safe rides
- Volunteer drivers are trained to assist riders door-through-door

Volunteer Driver Coalition Formed in 2019

- Relationships matter
- Living at Home Network connected Metro AAA to MN Public Transit Association
- Common concerns about the viability of volunteer driver programs
- Knew other leaders and organizations who shared our concerns
- Initial invitations sent to explore a coalition effort to support MPTA's legislative advocacy
- MPTA, Living at Home Network, Metropolitan AAA, and MN Association of Area Agencies on Aging co-founded the Coalition

Coalition Members

AARP Minnesota

Age Well Arrowhead

Aitkin County CARE, Inc.

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

Anoka County Community Action Program

Anoka County Medlink

Anoka County RSVP

ARDC/Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging

Argyle Hope Program

Arrowhead Transit-Volunteer Driving Program

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)

Big Woods Transit/Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

B's Homecare Inc. & B's Adult Day Center

CARE - Community Action Respecting Elders

Care Partners of Cook County

Carver County

Center for Victims of Torture

Central Community Transit

Central MN Council on Aging

City of Sandstone

Community Partners

Como Park/Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program

Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging

DARTS

East Central Regional Development Commission/East Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council

East Side Elders

Faith in Action for Cass County

GoDakota

Hamline Midway Elders

Hastings Family Service

Headwaters RTCC

Help At Your Door

Hennepin County

Highland Block Nurse Program

Horizon Health

Keystone Community Services

Living at Home Network

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors

Metro Meals on Wheels

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission

Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration

Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Minnesota Association of Townships

Minnesota Board on Aging

Minnesota Community Action Partnership

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Minnesota Public Transit Association

Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging

Minnesota Social Service Association

Neighborhood Network for Seniors

Neighbors, Inc.

North End -South Como Block Nurse Program

North Shore Area Partners

Northeast MN Regional Transportation Coordination Council

Northwest Regional Development Commission

Northwoods Caregivers

Paynesville Area LAH/BNP aka R.O.S.E. Center

Prairie Five C.A.C., Inc.

Productive Alternatives Volunteer Driver Program

Rainbow Rider

Region Five RTCC

Roseville Area Senior Program

Scott County - Smartlink

Semcac

Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey County

Seven County Senior Federation

Southeast Seniors

Southeastern Minnesota Area Agency on Aging

The Nokomis Healthy Seniors Group

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors

Stephen Living at Home/Block Nurse Program

Three Rivers Community Action

Tri-County Action Program

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

United Community Action Partnership

Volunteer Services of Carlton County, Inc.

Volunteers of America - MN Our Home

Warren S.O.S.

WeCAB

West Central MN Communities Action, Inc.

Wright County Community Action

Coalition Completes Survey

- 63 organizations responded (2018 data)
- 60 programs serve older adults; 24 adults with disabilities; 16 youth
- 77,474 people served
- 168,398 one-way trips
- 9,588,033 miles driven
- 508,468 hours contributed

Common Issues

- More difficult to recruit and retain drivers
- Pressure from insurance companies on volunteers to pay higher premiums
- Mileage reimbursement over 14 cents per mile is considered income
- Nonprofit organizations are at risk of serious financial consequences
- Issues could be resolved with legislative change but difficult to get adequate support of lawmakers

Call to Action

- Define a volunteer driver in law as not "for-hire."

- Protect volunteer drivers from increased insurance rates.

- Create a state income tax subtraction for volunteer drivers to reduce their tax liability in Minnesota.

- Cap the liability of nonprofit organizations that offer volunteer driver services at $1.5 million.

Join Us – www.volunteerdrivermn.org