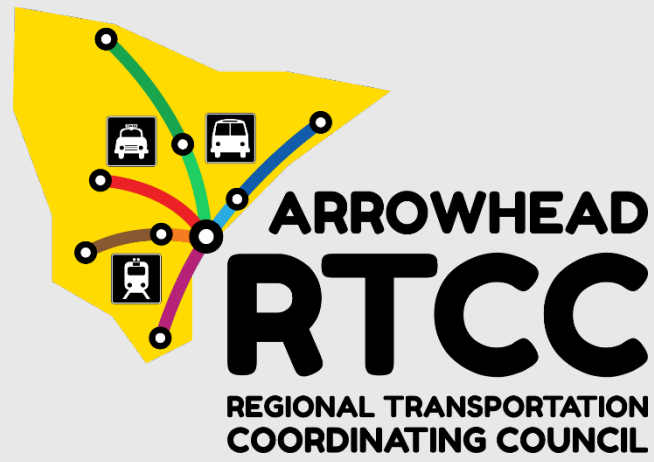# Arrowhead Regional Transportation Coordinating Council

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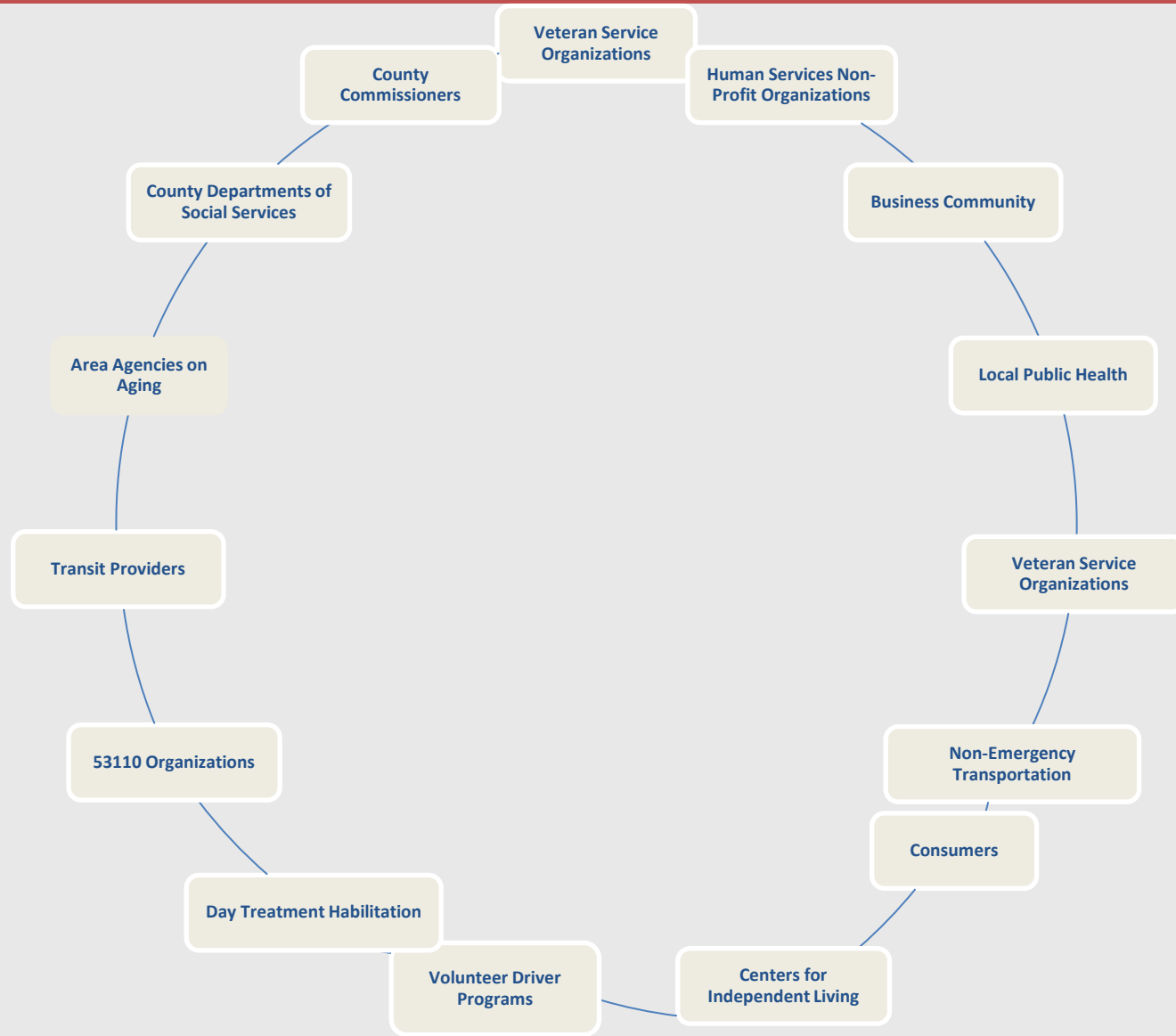
Presentation Overview

- Regional Development Commissions & Community Action Programs

- Mobility Management and Transit

- Local Human Services Transportation Plans

- Arrowhead Region Priorities

Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils (RTCCs)

Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils (RTCCs) in Greater Minnesota:

- RTCCs consist of stakeholders and public members interested in improving mobility for those who have limited transportation options such as older adults, people with disabilities, individuals with low income, and veterans.

- Developed as the entity to implement the priorities in the Local Human Services Transportation Plans.

- With each RTCC there is a formalized coordination plan to engage and work with providers and service agencies implementing an efficient transportation access.

What is an RDO and What is a CAP Agency?

Regional Development Organization

Regional Development Commissions (RDC) that were established by Minnesota statute in 1969 to provide technical assistance to the local units of government in their region. RDCs perform a variety of unique services based on the needs of their region.

Community Action Program

Provide poverty solutions through various programs and services including: homeless prevention and housing assistance, utility bill assistance, healthcare enrollment, food and nutrition services, Head Start early childhood programming, financial asset building, regional transit, and more.

Getting Transit in the Forefront of Planning

- Capacity building and sharing.

- Comprehensive structure of RTCC's.

- A spectrum of solutions to filling a rider's need can reduce the need for transportation.

- Engage with local transportation plans.

- Economic development-sustainability of rural communities.

Addressing Gaps and Needs: Mobility Management

Transportation Guidance/Consultation

- To inform people in the community about existing services

Vehicle Sharing

- To maximize utilization of existing vehicles used by organizations including FTA Section 5310 Providers

Private non-profit and for-profit providers-engagement

- To engage private for profit and non – profit organizations as stakeholders

Volunteer Drivers Programs

- To develop and sustain volunteer driver programs by accessing and/or coordinating supportive resources

Mobility Management Integration

- To use mobility management skills and process for new, emerging local, regional, and statewide issues

- Identifying and addressing interrelated issues impacting transportation access/collaboration such as climate/environmental changes, emergency/disaster preparation, DEI-diversity, equity, inclusion, land use planning, strategic planning initiatives with OTAT and other initiatives

- Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan

- 2022 Local Human Service-Public Transit Coordination Plans | Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (coordinatemntransit.org)

Local Human Services Transportation Plan

Federal transit law, as amended the FAST Act, requires that projects selected for funding under the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities – Section 5310 Program – be **"included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan"** and that the plan be **"developed and approved through a process that included participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and other members of the public."**

These requirements are aimed at improving transportation services for persons with disabilities and older adults, ensuring that communities are coordinating resources provided through multiple federal programs.

Priorities from LCP in Greater Mn

Arrowhead RTCC

Intersection of Transportation and Health Care: Increase communication and collaboration between health care facilities and hospitals with private transportation providers.

Regional Transit Planning: Engage communities and the public to further identify gaps in service, accessibility needs in the existing transit system, and strategies to improve transit in Northeast Minnesota.

Transit Infrastructure Improvements: Improve safety, accessibility, and weather mitigation at transit stop locations.

East Central RTCC

Priority- Establish connectivity of service providers of a variety of modalities.

Researching feasibility of transportation hubs (DoTS)
Awarded a grant through the Moving Greater MN Forward program Phase 1 which provided training from the ILT Academy and subsequently been awarded a Tactical Action study from the Empowering Small MN Communities program.

Next step to apply for funding to develop a pilot program initiating DoTS in a few different designated locations. (Moving Greater Mn Forward Phase 2)

Priorities from LCP in Greater Mn

Headwaters RTCC

Priority- Volunteer Driver program education and reestablishing local RTCC.

Headwaters RDO worked to establish relationships with stakeholder in the region and are currently working on a volunteer driver summit for the spring.

Stakeholders are more engaged now than during the LCP process. Just completed a regional transit summit and have interest in a volunteer summit this next spring.
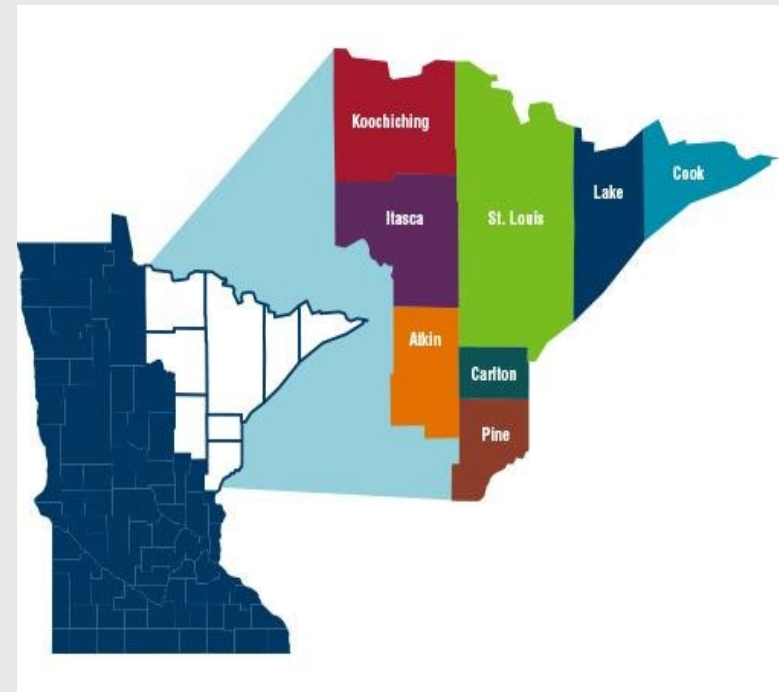
Northwest RTCC

Priority-Need to support private pay individuals who want to use the primary volunteer driver program.

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council applied for funding from the Area Agency on Aging to support private pay riders who use their service. This service is supported by Older American Act dollars.
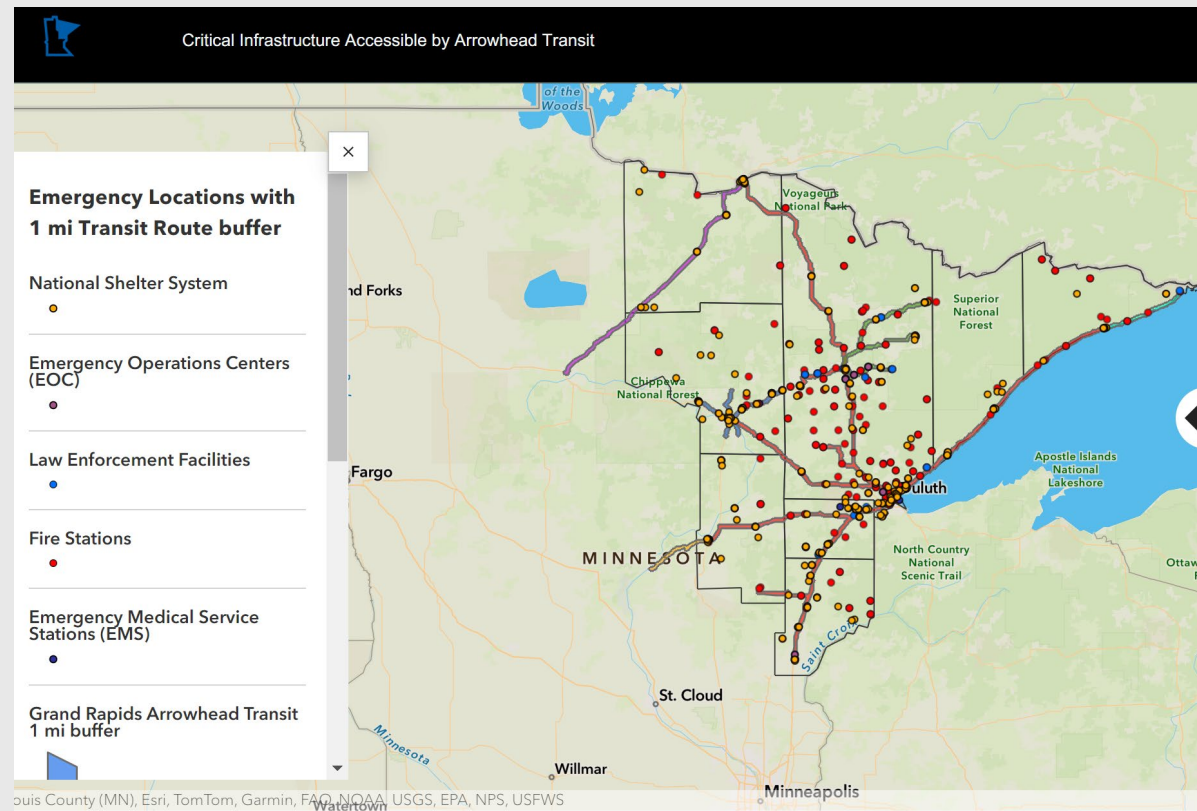
Summary and Mission Statement

- The purpose of the Arrowhead Regional Transportation Coordinating Council is to improve **access, availability, and options** for transportation services in Northeast Minnesota through increased **communication, coordination, and collaboration.**

- Developed as the entity to implement the priorities in the Local Human Services Transportation Plans

- Twenty agencies/organizations on the council
    - **Transit**
    - **Volunteer Drivers**
    - **Tribal Reservations**
    - **Health and Human Services**
    - **Aging Agencies**
    - **Veteran Services**
    - **Employment Services**
    - **Health Care**

Transit Infrastructure Improvements:

Utilization of ARDC's GIS Resources

- The state is implementing Greater Transit Feed Standard/Flex (GTFS) to better organize route data for our statewide system of our rural providers.
  - ARDC GIS Specialist complied existing GTFS and other route data from transportation providers.

- Developed Critical Infrastructure and Transit map.
  - Mapping of emergency and community services located within one mile of regional transit routes

Critical Infrastructure Accessible by Arrowhead Transit

Emergency Locations with 1 mi Transit Route buffer

National Shelter System

Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)

Law Enforcement Facilities

Fire Stations

Emergency Medical Service Stations (EMS)

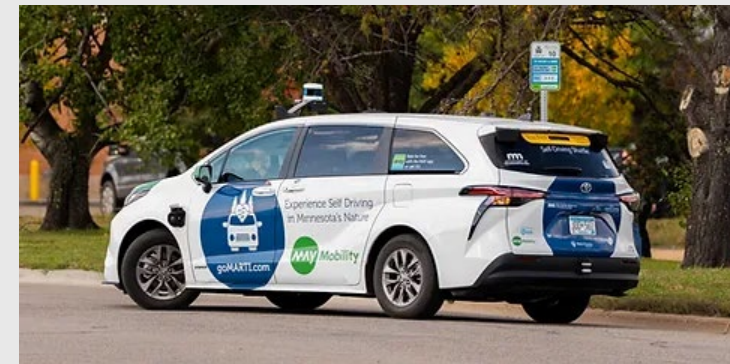Grand Rapids Arrowhead Transit 1 mi buffer

goMarti-Grand Rapids

Autonomous vehicle pilot in Northern Minnesota

- Launched Fall 2022
- An 18-month project funded by Minnesota's Autonomous Rural Transit Initiative grant
- Covers nearly 17 square miles and include approximately 70 pickup and drop off points.
- Fleet of five May Mobility autonomous vehicles, including three wheelchair-accessible vehicles.
- ARDC Planning staff provided technical assistance on route development and accessing ongoing funding sources.

https://www.gomarti.com/

Regional Transit Planning

Travel Training Materials

Updated DTA 'How to Ride a Bus Guide'

The guide was result of feedback from a focus group held with members of The Arc Northland's People First.

Community Transportation Navigators

Community members and organizational staff that provide support and education to others on transportation resources and solutions.

How to Use the Bus
A Guide for First-Time Riders

Website and Transportation Directory

Arrowhead RTCC website was launched including comprehensive transportation provider directory, transportation resources, information on volunteer drivers, park and ride locations, and active transportation resources.
www.arrowheadrtcc.org

Web Transportation Provider Find Tool

Arrowhead Region Transportation Health Care Access Subcommittee

Extension of the work done at the September 2023 National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) facilitated workshop..

- Identify scope of problem when NEMT provider(s) limit or discontinue services in an area. This will be used to inform state leadership and legislators of the problem and guide towards high level solutions.

- Working to review and analyze 'missed appointment due to transportation' data and extrapolate the socio-economic costs to people, health care facilities, and the community and the state.

- Review funding options and agency collaborations to support long-term solutions.

Small Group Discussion-#1

Mobility Management

1.What do you think of when you hear Mobility management?

2. What are some aspects of Mobility management that you would like to explore?

3. What are some ways for you to engage your community about transportation options?

Small Group Discussion-#2

Transportation Services in the Community

1. What do you do with current gaps in service like weekend services? How do you handle the question?

2. What are other transportation options in your area? - taxi, NEMT, medical transport, private companies

3. Do you refer other possible transportation options to citizens that might meet their needs?

Small Group Discussion-#3

Barriers and Solutions

1. Do you coordinate transportation with neighboring options to assist the citizen?

2. Are their any barriers you have to coordinating? What are they?

3. What is your outside of the box idea for addressing service gaps in your community?