DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Greater Minnesota Transit

Victoria Nill

Office Transit and Active Transportation

Victoria.nill@state.mn.us

Greater Minnesota Transit

- 7 Small Urban Systems (pop 50,000+)
- 28 Rural Systems
 - Small Communities (6 towns, 5 providers)
 - Single County (6)
 - Multi County (17)
- 3 Partners who Provide Intercity Bus Service
 - Jefferson Lines Routes
 - Land to Air Express Bus Service
 - Greyhound Bus
- Search for service on new MnDOT web app
 - <u>https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Minimalist/index.</u> <u>html?appid=2e3d00cf13924ce290386f195c0892</u> <u>e1</u>



Investment Categories

Toward a more transparent and predictable investment process

- Operations
- Vehicle Replacement
- Facilities and Large Capital
- New Service
- Marketing/Technology

Establishing And Defining Investment Categories

	Operations	Vehicle Replacement	Facilities/ Large Cap	New Services*	RTCC	Marketing and Technology
2020	82%	7%	4%	3%	0.4%	3%
2021	83%	8%	4%	3%	0.4%	2%
2022	83%	7%	5%	3%	0.4%	2%
2023	83%	7%	5%	3%	0.4%	2%

2022 Operating Contracts

- One-year contracts for 2022 with an option to extend
- 2% Increase in overall funding from 2021 to 2022
- Rural Systems (5311) will have a 0% Local Share requirements and may transfer all revenue (Fare Box and Other) to Transit Reserve Accounts
- No change in local share for Small Urban Systems (5307)

Transit System Plans for Rural Providers

Greater MN Transit System 5-year Plans – 5311 Systems

- Fall 2019 30 systems completed 5-year plans with funding priorities through 2025
- *Early 2021* Reviewed to determine COVID19 impacts and update priorities
- *Early 2022* Annual review will occur and include technology assessments for each system





- Based on 5-Year Plan reviews, there are 8 Systems who have listed a total of 18 smaller, accessible vehicles as a need
- OTAT is assessing options for moving this forward

Greater MN Transit Policy/Investment Plan

- Long Range Transit Strategic and Investment Plan creates a vision for statewide transit and identifies investments needs for the next 20 years
- Sets goals and objectives for the strategic planning and operation of statewide transit systems and shapes transit policy for Greater Minnesota
- Coordination with RDC/RDOs, MPOs, RTCCs, TCCs, Tribal Nations, MPTA, local communities, Transit Advisory Committees, and transit systems statewide
- Scope of work planning underway, RFP in early 2022, completion in late 2024

Clean Transportation Pilot Program

- MnDOT's Clean Transportation Pilot Funding Program provides up to \$2 million annually in grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000 to pilot, test, and increase adoption of clean transportation technologies, especially where cost is a barrier to implementation
- Arrowhead Transit and the City of Morris were awarded grants for the purchase of a Battery Electric Bus and supporting infrastructure
- MNDOT OTAT will continue to support adoption of clean technologies through both state and federal programs

FTA's Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) Initiative

- Partnering with seven public transit systems and area shared mobility providers to launch a Mobility-as-a-Service platform
- Covering 13 counties in Southern Minnesota in and around Rochester and Mankato
- Negotiating with the technology vendor on this project who will provide a trip planning application, e-ticketing, GTFS data feeds based on an open API architecture
- Launching in 2022

Shared Mobility Webinar Series

- Launched a month webinar series in November 2020
 - Mobility technology
 - Microtransit
 - Mobility hubs
- Starting up again this fall

Shared Mobility Collaboration

- Member of the Twin Cities Shared Mobility Collaborative
 - Supporting shared mobility innovation
 - Building a network of industry leaders
 - Sharing knowledge
- Expanding its reach to Greater Minnesota and work statewide in 2022

Statewide Technology Plan

The technology plan includes:

- Interviews with transit industry expert interviews
- Setting goals
- Developing recommendations for priorities and training
- Implementing technology assessments
- Developing growth plans

Rochester automated shuttle pilot



- Project selected through the MnDOT CAV Challenge RFP process.
- Operation of two (2) EasyMile EZ10's:
 - low speed, 12 passenger, level 4 automated shuttles (no steering wheel or pedals).
- Onboard ambassador has ability to take over operation from the shuttle if needed.
- Project proposes an urban route in downtown Rochester.
- Open to the public with a minimum of 12 months of operation.





6TH STREET SE, 3RD AVENUE SW, W CENTER STREET, AND S BROADWAY



COVID Research Project

- Partnering with a research team at the University of Minnesota to investigate strategies that can be implemented to accelerate return ridership
- Completing a statewide resident survey and summary report this year
- FTA funding a second phase in 2022
- Testing different contactless payment systems to see how they may improve safety and rider satisfaction

The Impact of COVID

- Reduction in Local Share, Farebox and System Revenue
- Reduction in Motor Vehicle Sales Tax Receipts
- Addition of Federal emergency relief funds committed to operations



Federal Emergency Relief: CARES/CRSSAA/ARPA

Rural Transit (5311)

- CARES Act: \$54M (\$42M to Rural Transit)
- CRRSAA: \$14M
- American Rescue Plan: \$11M

Small Urban Transit (5307) were direct recipients for these programs.

- CARES Act: \$27M
- CRRSAA: \$6M
- American Rescue Plan: \$23M

The Impact of COVID

Delivered 312,900 meals

- Trailblazer Transit
 - Sibley, McLeod and Wright counties
 - 115,000 meals delivered
- SMART Transit
 - Freeborn, Mower, Steele, and Waseca counties
 - 56,000 meals delivered



The Impact of COVID

- Free rides
- Mobile vaccine units





Partnership with Department of Public Health and Metro Transit



Thank You