Minnesota Public Transit Conference
October 7, 2020
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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
Anoka County CARE, Inc.
Amhert H. Wilder Foundation
Anoka County Community Action Program
Anoka County Medlink
Anoka County RSVP
ARDC/Arohead 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 Communities
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 Services 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
Semac
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