

## 2017 Region 10 Transit Coordination Plan

### What is it?

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It is a plan to coordinate transit and human services that identifies, assesses and provides strategies to meet the current and future needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, persons with low income and others.

### Plan Requirements

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Public Transit Coordination Plans are updated every five years and must include the following:

- An assessment of available services that identifies current transportation providers (public, private and nonprofit)
- An assessment of transportation needs for individuals with disabilities, older adults and people with low incomes
- Strategies, activities and/or projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to improve efficiencies in service delivery
- Priorities for implementation based on resources (from multiple program sources), time and feasibility for implementing specific strategies and/or activities identified

Projects identified in the Public Transit Coordination Plans selected for federal funding must be incorporated into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and also in the Transportation Improvement Program for urban areas.

### Plan Focus and Key Stakeholders

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Federal transit law, as amended by MAP-21 and 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."



## Plan Updates

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The planning team also reviewed and analyzed the 2006 and 2011 plan documents to update transit coordination strategies and projects. The plan was updated via the direction of the Technical Advisory Committee and with public input from across the region/district. New coordination strategies and projects were selected and endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee and are shown in the table on the next page.



## Stakeholder Engagement and Key Themes

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The planning process included broad stakeholder engagement including hosting workshops across the region at Owatonna, Rochester and Winona. Open input was solicited for three weeks as part of an open public comment period. Overall stakeholders were interested in several key themes:

1. Working together and Sharing Resources
2. Physical Improvements
3. Ease of Use/Ease of Access
4. Funding
5. Barriers – physical/political/cost

## Key Strategies and Projects

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The 2017 Plan will utilize three broad categories of strategies for coordination and one new category:

- 1. Coordinate and Consolidate Transportation Services and Resources**
- 2. Mobility Strategies**
- 3. Communication, Training and Organizational Support**
- 4. Other Strategies**

Key Projects that will be worked on moving forward are:

- Share Resources:
  1. Bus Loan Program
  2. Collaborate on joint purchasing
  3. Research transit mobile application for rides
  4. Research universal pass system
- Coordinate Dispatch:
  1. Coordinate adjacent provider dispatch
  2. Study use of public transit for school children for regional trade centers
- Improve Service Convenience
  1. Coordinate Route Schedules
  2. Plan/apply for Safe Routes to Transit program
  3. Maintain and update existing fleet of vehicles
  4. Enhance/Maintain Volunteer Driver programs:
  5. Establish a volunteer driver retention program
  6. Develop an outreach program to attract new volunteers