

# 2017 Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan

## LCMC Members in Attendance

Gary Thomas, Senior Alternatives in Transportation (SAINT)  
Katy Mason, Larimer County Office on Aging  
Michelle Miller, Larimer County Workforce Center  
Garrett Mumma, CO Division of Vocational Rehab  
Danielle Burden, CO Division of Vocational Rehab

## WCMC Members in Attendance

Will Jones, Greeley Evans Transit  
Larry McDonald, ARC of Weld County  
Cassy Westmoreland, United Way of Weld County  
Dori Baker, North Range Behavioral Health/Frontier House of Weld County  
Jeffrey Weimar, North Range Behavioral Health/Frontier House of Weld County

## NFRMPO Staff

Alex Gordon, Transportation Planner/Mobility Coordinator  
Becky Karasko, Regional Transportation Planning Director

Call meeting at 10:10 AM

1. Introductions
  - Attendees went around the room and introduced themselves.
  - Handouts included a presentation, which is attached to the minutes.
2. Overview
  - Gary provided a brief background of the Mobility Committees and their history.
  - Alex explained what a Coordinated Plan is, which is required for agencies receiving Section 5310 funding. Section 5310 funding is meant to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, and then to identify strategies to help meet these needs.
  - The NFRMPO approved its current Coordinated Plan in December 2013, and it identified priorities, goals, strategies, and projects to improve mobility management in the NFRMPO region.
3. Current Inventory
  - Alex identified three current large transit agencies, and asked if there were any current surveys to help identify the human service transportation providers in the region. Thomas suggested using the first Coordinated Plan, which used a consultant to identify existing providers.
  - Larry asked how ARC of Weld County fits into this process, because there is an issue of connecting people in rural portions of the county. How do we consider the needs of people living in places with no transit connections? Gordon stated this is a major part of this plan to figure out how to reach out to the people who need the services. This issue



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can be identified in the goals and strategies.

## 4. Strategies and Goals

- Alex asked stated goals and strategies are an important outcome of the 2017 Coordinated Plan. Alex asked important destinations are not currently being served?
  - i. Katy mentioned the Larimer County Senior Transportation Needs Report will look at best practices around the country and the end result will be a recommendation on what the county should do. Some of the ideas thrown around include mobile apps and enhanced volunteer transportation. The study should be completed in nine months.
  - ii. Will mentioned the Regional Route Study between Fort Collins, Windsor, and Greeley, which is looking at the demographics of those who work at the University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University. Employment centers are an important way to identify where the needs are.
  - iii. Larry stated running additional transit to a lot of these destinations are not financially feasible, so the providers will need to come up with new ideas.
  - iv. Katy stated Connecting Health has stopped running, which ran between medical centers in Fort Collins, Loveland, and Greeley.
  - v. Services should be advertised and marketed to improve the number of people using the system.
  - vi. Garrett stated GET and Transfort have processes in place for community input, which is a mechanism for change and to improve the systems.
  - vii. Will stated connecting Johnstown, Eaton, and other smaller communities within the NFRMPO region to activity centers should be a focus of this plan. Service needs to be adaptable – can city transit services adapt to fit rural needs?
- Alex asked about ensuring communication between transit agencies, human service agencies, and the people being served?
  - i. Will stated there is no one-size-fits-all approach to ensuring participation.
  - ii. Garrett stated information can be funneled through the human service agencies, who can provide additional information about where people go and what they need.
  - iii. Larry stated there is a need for guerilla marketing – go out to events, City Council meetings, community centers, where people are. Send information out through utility bills. The information exists, but how do we get it to the people who need it?
- Information segued to identifying strategies to address the problems identified earlier.
  - i. Region must answer what we have before we can talk about what we need.
  - ii. Will suggested looking at CDOT's Rural Regional Plan, and other current plans, to identify corridors which exist in multiple plans. This can be key in figuring out what the region has identified as a need/priority.
  - iii. Transfort's Dial-a-Taxi service helps to fill in a need for those living in surrounding rural areas and need to go to Fort Collins.

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- iv. Katy asked what training taxi drivers attend. Dory stated she can talk to Smart Taxi to ask about trainings. There was consensus taxi voucher trips should have the same standards for Dial-a-Ride. There was discussion about what trainings Transfort requires for Yellow Cab, and whether there was a need to address this through their RFP process.
  - v. Jeffrey discussed a need for dementia training and training for assisting people with mental illnesses. Drivers should be aware of potential illnesses, including mental health, visual impairments, and mobility issues.
  - vi. Future Mobility Committee meetings should identify more concrete needs for training and awareness.
  - Alex stated he was told there is additional funding for Mobility Management in Weld County. Ideas for ways to spend the funding included mailers, materials, and surveys. Katy and Gary asked if the funding could be used for the Larimer County Senior Transportation Needs Report to help offset some funding for recommendations in the future. Alex stated he will ask and provide additional information.
5. Outreach and Involvement
- Alex stated much of the outreach and involvement question had been discussed throughout the meeting. There should be a range of options and it will be time-intensive.
  - Other suggestions included going to community centers, libraries, and other activity centers to leave information, in addition to having meetings and presentations. Provide information on Facebook and social media.
6. Questions and Concerns
7. Next Steps