



Discussion and Direction on Dakota County Transit Priorities

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Agenda



- Background
- County Transit Vision and Priorities
- Proposed Work Plan
- Discussion

Background



- Fall 2024, County Board Transit Workshops
 - October 29, 2024
 - Information on existing modes and services
 - Transit provider presentations
 - November 12, 2024
 - Discussion on roles and priorities
 - Metro Transit Network Now comments



Background



- Today's Discussion
 - Recap discussion/confirm direction
 - Revised vision statement
 - Work Plan and timeline

Vision



Transit and Transportation Services in Dakota County:

- Are safe, reliable, and accessible
- Provide access to destinations such as jobs, education, daily services, and special events
- Are guided by performance standards that are ~~suitable to community context and~~ applied consistently across the region, **yet recognize differences in service types and modes;**
- Are funded transparently and equitably **between systems, regions, and operators;**
- Meet the needs of residents who cannot or choose not to drive in all areas of the County

Priorities



- Primary:
 - Access to daily needs for those who do not drive
- Secondary:
 - Improve transit access and quality for all

Proposed Work Plan



Quarter 1 Priorities (February – March 2025)

Proposed Action and Outcomes

Rejoin MVTA Board

- Improve coordination and communication with transit providers and communities

Support Eligible Community Services Transportation Programs with Transportation Funds

- Provide stable and ongoing funding for Jail Transportation Program
- Improve/expand transportation services for residents with greatest needs

Proposed Work Plan



Quarter 2 Priorities (April – June 2025)

Proposed Action and Outcomes

Address Transit Needs and Gaps in Hastings and Farmington

- Identify priorities and potential solutions in partnership with cities and providers

Convene Metro Transit and MVTA

- Identify strategies to connect service areas
- Identify priority origins and destinations across service areas

Proposed Work Plan



Quarter 3 Priorities (July – September 2025)

Proposed Action and Outcomes

Develop Strategies and Projects for Regional Solicitation

- Improve success of County federal funding and active transportation applications with new guidelines

Identify Potential Funding Partnerships /Pilot Projects with Transit Providers for Consideration in Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

- Improve transit within the County, fill needed gaps.

Proposed Work Plan



Quarter 4 Priorities (October – December 2025)

Proposed Action and Outcomes

Convene County Stakeholders Around Transit Needs

- Identification of future priorities and needs with input from cities, chambers, businesses, social service providers.

Coordinate with Suburban/Rural Counties

- Identify shared goals and best practices
- Identify opportunities to improve transit through regional sales tax funding

Proposed Work Plan



Quarter 1, 2026 Priorities (January – April 2026)

Proposed Action and Outcomes

Identify Pedestrian Needs at Transit Stops

- Improve pedestrian safety and connections to transit stops within County rights-of-way through County-led study

Coordinate with Cities and Transit Agencies on Growth and Development

- Improve land use and transit coordination and communication between cities and transit providers

Discussion/Questions



- Is anything missing?
- Comments on priorities/timeline