

Attachment: Transit Policies from the Dakota County 2040 Transportation Plan

Policies

T.1 Funding Partnerships: Provide funding for transitway operations in accordance with established regional and interagency agreements and consider providing funding contributions for other services on an individual basis in cooperation with service providers and local municipalities and according to applicable County Cost Participation Policies.

T.2 Improve Operating Conditions: Dakota County will identify and pursue feasible improvements to county highways through the Capital Improvement Program that can improve transit service quality, operating efficiency, and accessibility to provide an integrated multi-modal system that will maximize the movement of people within Dakota County and the region.

T.3 Develop Cost Effective and Efficient Transit Solutions through Mobility Management: Dakota County will assume a lead role, currently through GoDakota, with transit providers and human service agencies and other community stakeholders to identify opportunities for broad collaboration, coordination and integration between all transportation modes that is consistent with mobility management concepts.

T.4 Consider Transit Facility Needs in All Transportation Projects: Provide infrastructure for transit operations and transit service access within county highway right-of-way where practical including signage, pedestrian facilities, bus pull-outs, and bus stop amenities.

F.9 Transit Capital and Operating: Consider participation in transit capital and operating enhancements, or pilot projects, up to 50 percent after application of federal or state funds available for the project as determined by the county.

Strategies

- *Collaborate with transit partners to enhance fixed route transit services:* Pursue planning, development, and implementation of fixed route transit service enhancements and pilot projects in Dakota County through collaborative partnerships with Metro Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, cities, regional partners, the public, and other transit providers to address changing needs and emerging opportunities.
- *Collaborate with the public and stakeholders:* Participate in and create new stakeholder groups to facilitate identification of transit needs and potential enhancements, with an emphasis on the needs of transit dependent populations.
- *Secure funding sources for transit:* Work with transit providers and other local and regional partners to secure funds for transit projects within the county, and cooperate with regional partners to ensure permanent, dedicated, and reliable funding for transit operations through local, regional, state and national sources.
- *Coordinate with providers on needs and potential service improvements:* Work with demand-response providers and the public to identify areas for potential service improvements and consider partnering with providers on pilot projects or service enhancements as opportunities and needs arise.
- *Technical Resource:* Partner with local agencies to evaluate demand for, and potential roles, for microtransit and shared mobility and their integration with existing transit services and facilities.

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- *Pilot Projects:* Aid in the development and operation of microtransit and shared mobility service where they may complement or substitute for existing transit services.
- *Assessment of Transportation Needs:* Continue the county's role in identifying new and ongoing challenges towards providing transit and transportation services for a growing population and range of travel needs.
- *Implementation of Mobility Management Programs:* Assume a lead role in coordinating with public and private agencies to develop and provide information and services responsive to specialized transportation needs.
- *Participate in Transportation Management Organizations or Related Committees:* Participate in transit management organizations or related committees to assist in identification and development of transit services to meet county transit needs.
- *Modal Integration* Consider transit needs for accessibility, right-of-way and operations during the planning and design of county highway and trail projects; involve internal departments and external agencies to assure a comprehensive approach.
- *Multimodal Facilities and Hubs:* Participate in the funding and enhancement of multimodal facilities in partnership with transit providers according to the County's Cost Participation Policy, including transit centers, park-and rides, and mobility hubs. Facilitate cooperation among transit agencies, transportation service providers, and municipalities to consider infrastructure improvements such as vehicle charging stations, ride share drop-off points, bicycle parking, and pedestrian and bicycle connections to improve access and integration of multiple modes and services.
- *Technology:* Leverage existing county fiber network capacity to facilitate service agencies' systems for operations and customer information.