

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

5:00 PM Carnegie Town Hall

Introduction – Debra Gaikowski started the public information meeting by welcoming those in attendance. She then turned the meeting over to URS Corporation, the consultant working with the City and SECOG to prepare the coordinated public transit-human services plan.

Presentation by Consultant – Bill Troe used a PowerPoint presentation as part of the meeting (the presentation has been placed on the city website) to provide information on:

- The results of the unmet needs inventory and division of the unmet needs into Core and Peripheral Needs.
- Development of strategies for addressing the identified unmet needs.
- Screening and prioritization of the range of strategies.
- Recommendations for implementation.

Key points of the presentation are listed below:

- The plan focuses on coordination efforts between Sioux Falls Transit services (both fixed route and paratransit) and transportation services/needs provided by human services agencies/organizations in the MPO area. Many believed the focus of the work was strictly on enhancements for Sioux Falls paratransit services.
- The primary needs in the region are: more service hours/coverage/days of the week/frequency and more information and potential rider training for the services that are being provided.
- The strategies developed through the planning process focus on addressing the identified needs and gaps in service to the constituent groups.
- The types of strategies focus on improving coordination of services that are being provided; enhancing transportation services being provided by Sioux Falls Transit or a human services agency/organization; and expanding services.
- Little additional federal or state funding (relative to current levels) is likely to be available for addressing the local needs. Thus, if the recommendations require additional funding, it would likely need to come from a local source.
- Two federal programs that are not being accessed for funds, but can be, are the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program

and the New Freedom program. JARC is focused on providing employment transportation to low-income residents and facilitating trips from urban and rural areas to suburban employment areas. The New Freedom program is focused on improving mobility of persons with disabilities. The City will be proposing ideas for use of these program funds following completion of the coordinated plan.

- The first recommendation of the plan is to establish an active Transportation Coordination Committee that would continue the efforts established/re-established through preparation of the coordinated plan.
- Additional stakeholder and provider information is required than was collected as part of the plan development. Obtaining the information will be a first step of the coordination committee.
- Training and rider information will be a focus of use of some JARC and New Freedom funds.

Wrap-Up -Comments were collected as part of the meeting. A primary comment was that more needs to be done locally to provide a reasonable level of transportation to the constituent groups.