

**ADDENDUM
TO THE
SIOUX FALLS MPO AREA COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

2022 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction

The Sioux Falls MPO Area Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) was adopted on November 8, 2018, and a progress report is required to be prepared annually. The purpose of the Coordinated Plan is to: 1) identify the unmet transportation needs for seniors and individuals with disabilities; and 2) develop strategies, activities, and/or projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to achieve efficiencies in service delivery.

Based on input from providers and stakeholders, the following strategies for seniors and individuals with disabilities were identified:

- ✓ Work to implement the strategies of the Sioux Falls Transit Development Plan that includes improvements and expansion of the fixed-route system.
- ✓ Develop travel training sessions as a major marketing effort that engages the community and help train new and potential riders.
- ✓ Help create State Regional Transit Systems to help provide options to outlying MPO communities to access transit services within the region.
- ✓ Reimagine a community-wide volunteer driver program that agencies can access as a volunteer driver resource.
- ✓ Keep paratransit services parallel to all fixed-route service levels and within ¾ mile of all fixed-route bus services.
- ✓ Develop an agency rate structure based on the full-cost allocation models to help off-set agency day trip costs on paratransit.
- ✓ Educate state and local policymakers about the specific benefits of human service transportation and public transit and how both play different roles in providing transportation to different rider needs.

2022 FTA Section 5310 Program Funding Recommendations

The Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC) met on February 15th and developed funding recommendations. The Citizens Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meeting on March 9th and March 10th, respectively, recommended approval of the TCC funding recommendations. The Urbanized Development Commission met on March 10th and approved the TCC Section 5310 funding recommendations outlined below.

1. The MPO recommends funding the LifeScape request at \$57,303 in 5310 funds with at least a 20% local match requirement for capital funds. “Lifescape’s mission is to empower children and adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives.” This funding will assist LifeScape with the purchase of a minibus with four (4) wheelchair positions.

How this project advances the Coordination of Human Service Transportation’s goal:

Strategies:

- ✓ Continue and expand a coordinated non-profit transportation system to help provide a safe, efficient, professional and specialized transportation option for human service agencies for non-ambulatory and ambulatory trips.
- ✓ Assist human service providers to provide the safest and most cost-effective transportation option possible based on the needs of the agency.
- ✓ Assist human service providers to secure funding when the agency is required to utilize their own transportation services.
- ✓ Coordinate with human service agencies with options to integrate their clients into the community with the most appropriate transportation option possible.
- ✓ In addition, LifeScape has been actively involved in the coordinated planning process through its participation on the Transportation Coordination Committee, Public Transit Advisory Board, and Sioux Falls City Council Transit Task Force. It has also been a partner in the CCTS project.

Contingencies:

- ✓ A vehicle purchased with these funds must be utilized to provide transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities in the Sioux Falls urbanized area.
- ✓ Efforts to foster a more efficient non-profit community transportation system are a top priority in the Sioux Falls MPO’s Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). As a major non-profit in the Sioux Falls community that provides transportation to its clients, the agency’s active participation in the coordinated efforts complementing the strategies identified and advancing the goals stated in the Coordinated Plan is strongly encouraged. Future funding may be contingent upon the agency's ongoing participation.

2. The MPO recommends funding the Community Coordinated Transportation Systems (CCTS) request at \$148,184 in 5310 funds with at least a 20% local match requirement for capital funds. “River Cities Public Transit (dba CCTS in Sioux Falls) is committed to providing safe, reliable and courteous public transportation to the members of the communities it serves by promoting quality of life, livability, self-sufficiency and freedom through mobility.” The capital funding will enable CCTS to purchase one 4 ambulatory and/or 7 non-ambulatory person capacity Diamond medium bus and one 12 ambulatory & 2 non-ambulatory person capacity Ford Transit used for Medicaid, disabled and seniors. These

vehicles will increase service flexibility and reliability for DakotAbilities, LifeScape, and Pathways To Life and Medicaid riders. It is projected that CCTS will provide up to 66,000 contracted service trips in 2022.

How this project advances the Coordination of Human Service Transportation's and Coordination of Paratransit Transportation's goals:

Strategies:

- ✓ Continue and expand a coordinated non-profit transportation system to help provide a safe, efficient, professional and specialized transportation option for human service agencies for non-ambulatory and ambulatory trips.
- ✓ Assist human service providers to provide the safest and most cost-effective transportation option possible based on the needs of the agency.
- ✓ Continue to identify opportunities to move agency day trips to CCTS.

Contingency:

- ✓ Vehicles purchased with these funds must be utilized to provide transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities in the Sioux Falls urbanized area.
- ✓ Efforts to foster a more efficient non-profit community transportation system are a top priority in the Sioux Falls MPO's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). As a major non-profit transportation provider in the Sioux Falls community, the agency's active participation in the coordinated efforts complementing the strategies identified and advancing the goals stated in the Coordinated Plan is strongly encouraged. Future funding may be contingent upon the agency's ongoing participation.

3. The MPO recommends funding the Glory House request at \$31,288 in 5310 funds with at least a 20% local match requirement for capital funds. The Glory House is a halfway house providing substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and case management for clients of the justice system. Its primary mission is "Helping People Claim their Lives with Christian Compassion, Resources and Support." The capital funding will enable Glory House to purchase a light duty 9-passenger van to transport its clients. Many of the trips this vehicle will provide will make take place in the first two weeks of a client's stay at Glory House helping them to meet legal responsibilities such as mandated reporting and court appointments, and obtaining medical care and identification documents such as a driver's license or tribal ID. After this initial period the clients become responsible for their own transportation, whether by bicycle, public transportation or on foot.

How this project advances the Coordination of Human Service Transportation's and Coordination of Paratransit Transportation's goals:

Strategies:

- ✓ Continue and expand a coordinated non-profit transportation system to help provide a safe, efficient, professional and specialized transportation option for human service agencies for non-ambulatory and ambulatory trips.
- ✓ Assist human service providers to provide the safest and most cost-effective transportation option possible based on the needs of the agency.

Contingency:

- ✓ The vehicle purchased with these funds must be utilized to provide transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities in the Sioux Falls urbanized area.
- ✓ Efforts to foster a more efficient non-profit community transportation system are a top priority in the Sioux Falls MPO's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). As a non-profit transportation provider in the Sioux Falls community, the agency's active participation in the coordinated efforts complementing the strategies identified and advancing the goals stated in the Coordinated Plan is strongly encouraged. Future funding may be contingent upon the agency's ongoing participation.

4. The MPO recommends funding the Project Car request at \$30,725 in 5310 funds with at least a 20% local match requirement for capital funds. Project Car provide rides to seniors, persons with financial or vehicular limitations, and persons with developmental disabilities. These rides are provided at no cost to the rider, subsidized by organizational and individual donors. The rides are given to employment through LifeScape and DakotAbilities, church services to member churches, adult day care through Day Break Adult Day Services, healthcare training for high school students through Avera Academy, and to various kinds of health appointments. Health rides comprise 50% of Project Car's 8,100+ annual rides. The capital funding will enable Project Car to purchase a light duty 9-passenger van, sedan, or crossover vehicle to transport its clients.

How this project advances the Coordination of Human Service Transportation's and Coordination of Paratransit Transportation's goals:

Strategies:

- ✓ Continue and expand a coordinated non-profit transportation system to help provide a safe, efficient, professional and specialized transportation option for human service agencies for non-ambulatory and ambulatory trips.
- ✓ Assist human service providers to provide the safest and most cost-effective transportation option possible based on the needs of the agency.

Contingency:

- ✓ The vehicle purchased with these funds must be utilized to provide transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities in the Sioux Falls urbanized area.
- ✓ Efforts to foster a more efficient non-profit community transportation system are a top priority in the Sioux Falls MPO’s Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). As a non-profit transportation provider in the Sioux Falls community, the agency’s active participation in the coordinated efforts complementing the strategies identified and advancing the goals stated in the Coordinated Plan is strongly encouraged. Future funding may be contingent upon the agency's ongoing participation.

2021-2022 Activities to Implement Coordinated Plan Strategies

Agency Rides

As the below graph shows, City of Sioux Falls supported agency rides have increased significantly since 2017. The one exception was during 2020 and 2021 when human service agencies closed many of their programs due to COVID. The City supported agency rides are being provided by CCTS – River Cities Transit. This has created efficiencies and cost savings compared to SAM Paratransit. However, it is projected that there will be 43,000 rides by the end of 2022 another significant increase in city supported agency rides. This shows the need for additional coordination and discussions concerning appropriate cost allocations for these rides.



Sioux Falls Transit Development Plan

The City of Sioux Falls has been working to remake the Sioux Falls transit system. Ridership has been dropping and the transit service has remained stagnant for generations. An update of the Transit Development Plan has been on-going over the past year. This includes public involvement and surveys to better understand the future needs of the transit system. The plan will include significant changes to the transit system including a focus on providing fewer, but more frequent fixed-route services along with expanding transit services through an on-demand service model. This hybrid model will allow the transit system to provide reliable services to existing customers and to provide the flexibility to reach new customers in an efficient manner.