



Champion Report

Theme Area: Transportation

Champions: Jarrett Leas, Tim Houle, Andy Stone, Staci Headley

REPORTING PERIOD: June 22, 2016-September 12, 2016

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
T7	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning has begun in both Brainerd/Baxter and Staples/Motley. Kick off meetings will be held in September with follow up meetings and information gathering events throughout the fall and winter months.
T1, T5 & T6	Region Five staff will be conducting a Local Human Services Public Transit Coordination Plan – a contract through MnDOT. This plan is updated every five years and is aimed at improving transportation services for persons with disabilities and older adults, ensuring that communities are coordinating resources provided through multiple federal programs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Greater MN Transportation Investment Plan is now in its open comment period before going to the Governor www.minnesotago.org b. The plan calls for an expansion of transit services to meet legislative targets c. Locally, the City of Brainerd Transportation Advisory Committee supported submittal of unmet needs with 2017 grant application. d. The unmet needs requests expansion of service hours in Brainerd from 7:00-4:30 to 6:00-6:00 M-F (trial period of 1 year with 1 bus) e. The grant application was submitted 9/2/16 and my MnDOT project manager will be advocating for the expansion with Office of Transit.
How are you working with any of the other RR Theme areas?	
It is evident that transportation touches most of the other theme areas. Transit will likely be working more closely with the Changing Populations theme area to collaborate on the Human Services Transit Coordination Plan.	
List any Goals or Recommendations within the plan that your team of theme Champions are struggling to address?	
<p>In the very short term, the lack of a bonding bill from the MN Legislature has put the hold on a few projects (we will have to wait to see how this ripples through the economy in the months ahead). This situation highlights the need for a more consistent, predictable funding stream / mechanism for our transportation needs</p> <p>Transit seems to show up in several of our Recommendations and Action Steps. I am not as tuned into this area as Staci and Andy are. I do know ours is a rather rural Region (compared to say, St. Cloud, the Twin Cities, Duluth, or Rochester) – so I have to believe transit can be even more of a challenge than it is in these other areas.</p> <p>Our State Legislature not getting a realistic transportation funding bill is disappointing. Perhaps it is time for the Resilient Region to begin writing letters to our State representatives.</p>	

