Strategies to Address Needs

Priority Strategies to Address Needs

The following strategies and projects in Table 1 have been identified in order to address the recognized transportation and coordination gaps and needs in Dane County. Many of these strategies have been carried over from previous coordinated plans and are of an ongoing nature.

Table 1	Strategies to Address Financial Needs
Funding for Service Providers	Pursue additional funding strategies to support increased service needs
	Establish a regional transit authority with a dedicated funding source
Affordability for Users	Continue to provide financial assistance for low-income families, veterans, homeless individuals, and paratransit eligible clients who also ride fixed-route buses
	Continue to support employee transportation assistance programs
	Continue to provide financial assistance for low-income individuals to purchase or repair a vehicle for employment transportation where public transportation is not available to meet need
Strategies to Address Coordination, Education, and Outreach Needs	
Mobility Management	Continue to support the Dane County One-Call Center
	Continue to support Metro Paratransit in-person assessments
Rider Education	Continue to support travel and mobility training programs
Outreach	Improve information on available resources
	Convene regular meetings to discuss coordination needs
	Seek greater stakeholder involvement in the coordination process, particularly from education and healthcare providers and residential care facilities
Strategies to Address Service Needs	
Service	Expand public transit service area, hours, and frequency
	New regional fixed-route bus service
	Develop Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service
	Additional scheduled group transportation service
	Continue and increase transportation to work options
	Continue to provide mileage reimbursement for RSVP drivers
	Expand and increase shared-ride taxi services
Strategies for Addressing Vehicle Needs	
Vehicles	Replace vehicles as necessary
	Add accessible vehicles for eligible shared-ride taxi systems
	Add accessible vehicles for eligible non-profits without duplicating existing transportation services in Dane County
	Investigate feasibility of creating a vehicle pool to allow a greater availability of affordable, accessible vehicles for non-profit organizations and agencies
	Investigate feasibility of creating county-wide driver training opportunities

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Table 1	Strategies to Address Infrastructure Needs
Amenities	Improve amenities at bus stops, including concrete boarding platforms, shelters, benches, and audible signals where needed
	Improve pedestrian access to bus stops
	Implement Metro Transit Bus Stop Amenities Study
Facilities	Add a satellite bus storage facility
Strategies to Address Technology Needs	
Technology	Develop real-time information for specialized transportation services
	Maintain or add software and applications to assist with scheduling, routing, dispatching, mandatory data collection, and similar tasks.

General Priorities

The coordinated planning process has established two priority tiers for implementing strategies and projects identified in Table 1. Tier 1 represents the highest priority level for implementation.

Tier 1- Maintain existing level of service of viable programs or operations

Tier 1 supports existing transportation services and projects that:

- Have shown to be effective in meeting transportation needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and those with limited income
- Continue to demonstrate effective transportation operations within the county's coordinated network

Tier 2a- Accommodate increasing demand for services within existing programs and operations

Tier 2a supports existing and new services and projects that:

- Require capital and operating assistance to meet growing demand for the service(s) within present boundaries
- Are able to improve efficiency and functionality by building on existing infrastructure
- Allow for growth, but do not automatically extend new service without a careful evaluation of transportation needs across populations and jurisdictions

Tier 2b- Respond to emerging community needs, opportunities, and create new partnerships

Tier 2b supports projects that:

- Are under development and bring new resources
- Address identified transportation needs and gaps and/or focus on an underserved group of individuals
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall system
- Provide an added benefit to the transportation services network and riders
- Are innovative in their approach in reaching out to new riders or geographic areas