Getting around Town: Making Vital Connections, the LOOP Circulator Bus

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Communities for a Lifetime Initiative

Dakota County: an aging County

- In 2010, 39,816 people were age 65 and older
- 2010 to 2020: people age 65 and older in Dakota County is projected to **nearly double**
- 2010 to 2030: people age 65 and older in Dakota County is projected to **more than triple**

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Communities For a Lifetime Initiative

- Age-Friendly Communities
- Good places to grow up and grow older
- CFL is a community planning framework, a philosophy
CFL Objectives and Approach

- Community leaders and residents will have increased awareness of demographic changes and the need for communities to respond
- Communities will engage in active planning and activities to build communities for a lifetime
- Build best practice models, pilots, community projects

CFL: Priority Areas

- Age in Place/in Community: help people stay in their homes; advocate for more affordable housing options; promote Universal/livable design, home modification
- Transportation: promote existing options; create more affordable options
- In-Home Services: access to affordable services and resources (chore, health care, etc.)
- Caregiving: promote support groups, respite care, adult day services
- Health & Wellness: advocate for exercise, improved diet; recreational opportunities

The Loop
West St. Paul Circulator Bus
Living Longer and Stronger (LLS) in West St. Paul

- LLS plans and prepares for the needs of an aging population in our community. It is driven by volunteer members who live and work in the community.
- Mission: Living Longer and Stronger in West St. Paul connects residents with resources to help them remain active and engaged in the community.

Transportation Needs in WSP

- WSP 2nd oldest city demographically in DC
- LLS survey; surveyed buildings (CDA); where? When? How much?
- People, particularly older adults, complain about Robert Street’s turn lane
- Robert St. road construction difficulties needed a possible solution
- Many residential buildings close to Robert Street
- Difficult to access Robert St. in areas; no sidewalks

Public/Private Partnership
the LOOP...

The LOOP, new business stops

### ONE STOP, MANY OPTIONS

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Barriers, Challenges

- #1 barrier: Car Culture!
- Getting people to try something new, modify their schedule
- Finding and maintaining adequate funding
- Some residential buildings did not produce riders
- Overcome language barriers
- Offering a variety of stops, support businesses, and go where people want to go
- Challenges of any partnership
- Are we a few years ahead of the demographic curve?
DC Transportation Coordinating Collaborative

- This past year, Dakota County was a leader in Minnesota in creating a Transportation Coordinating Collaborative.
- The collaborative works with transportation stakeholders to coordinate services and programs to achieve increased efficiencies and support mobility and accessibility for all residents, particularly older adults and those with special transportation needs.

Contact Information

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Communities for a Lifetime Initiative

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