



volunteer driver COALITION

Nonprofit organizations, townships, cities, counties, associations, including Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils, Minnesota Council of Non-Profits, Area Agencies on Aging and others supporting the advocacy initiatives to eliminate barriers for volunteer drivers and protect the viability of volunteer driver programs so they can better support older adults.

(List in your packets)

There is a resource issue – in personnel and in funding to expand on mobility service and coordination for older adults. There is also a need to change the federal reimbursement rate for volunteer drivers to match the business reimbursement rate.

Co-Chairs

Sherry Munyon - Minnesota Public Transit Association – smunyon@capitolaccess.us

Dawn Simonson - Trellis - dsimonson@trellisconnects.org

Jason Swanson - Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging – jswanson@mnraaa.org

Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver – Arrowhead Regional Development Commission/Arrowhead RTCC- Bsidlottolliver@ardc.org

Minnesota volunteer drivers give older adults, people with disabilities, and others access to healthcare, delivered meals, and other key services. Allowing seniors to live in their communities, reduce isolation, avert premature nursing home placement and support local businesses, etc. This important service is at risk.



**168,000+
rides**



**77,000+
people**



**9.5 million+
rides**

Volunteer Drivers are just one component of service options; however when they are not a part of the solution there are increased burdens on the other mobility options and increased costs. The lack of volunteers also can result in no rides being available particularly in more isolated areas.

You will hear about specific mobility services in Ramsey County, Scott County and the Arrowhead Region.

Introduced in House (04/28/2023) - 118TH CONGRESS - 1ST SESSION

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Co-Sponsors include: Rep Ross D-NC, Rep Tokuda D-HI, Rep Fischback R-MN, Rep Kim D-NJ, Rep. Phillips D-MN, Rep. Finstad, R-MN, Rep. Kean R-NJ, Rep. McCollum, D-MN, Rep. Omar D-MN, Rep Van Orden – R-WI, Rep Caraveo D-CO, Rep Magaziner D-RI

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the charitable mileage rate with the business travel rate.

This Act may be cited as the “Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN CHARITABLE MILEAGE RATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (i) of [section 170](#) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “shall be 14 cents per mile” and inserting “shall be—

“(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), 14 cents per mile, and

“(2) in the case of transportation of persons (other than the taxpayer) or property on behalf of an organization described in subsection (c), the rate determined by the Secretary, which rate shall not be less than the standard mileage rate used for purposes of sections 162 and 212.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.

S.3020 - Sen. Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN) Introduced 10/4/2023 - Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2023
CoSponsors: Sen. Budd, Tedd (R.NC); Sen. Smith, Tina (D-MN), Sen. Baldwin, Tammy (D-WI),
referred to committee on Finance



Scott Olson

Community Transportation Coordinator

Newtrax, Inc.

Scotto@newtrax.org

WBL-VH-Maht *area* South Loop

All Buses are
Wheelchair
Accessible

This Bus Loop runs on Thursdays

-Refer to pickup times on back-

Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off.

- Senior Communities
- Local Destinations

Voluntary Donation
Service...Pay what
you wish



- Target
- Fresh Thyme
- Dollar Tree
- Chipotle
- Jersey Mike's Subs

Vadnais Heights

Walmart
KFC

Jimmy's
Red Savoy's

Suite Living of
Vadnais Heights

Cottages of
Vadnais Heights

Gable Pines
The Boulder's

Willow
Woods Apts

Gem Lake
The Waters

YMCA

Festival Foods
Dollar Tree
Caribou Coffee

East Shore
Place

CVS
Subway
Donatelle's
Ace Hardware

ALDI

St Andrew's
Village

Briarcliff
Manor

Piccadilly
Square

Program supported in part by:



WBL-VH-Maht *area* South Loop

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 Refer to pickup times below for your community.

Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off. Your driver will communicate about what time they will return for your ride home.

Senior Community Pick Up Times	
BUS 1	
9:40	The Waters
9:55	St Andrew's Village
10:00	Briarcliff Manor
10:10	Piccadilly Square
11:00	The Boulders
11:05	Willow Woods Apts
BUS 2	
9:40	East Shore Place
9:55	Gable Pines
10:15	Cottages of Vad Hts
11:00	Suite Living-Vad Hts

Local Destinations On The Route

Other stops along the route may be requested

Festival Foods	Jimmy's
Dollar Tree	Red Savoy's
Caribou Coffee	Target
ALDI	Fresh Thyme
CVS	Chipotle
Donatelle's	Jersey Mike's
Ace Hardware	Walmart
YMCA	KFC

Last Revision: Oct 19th 2023



For more information:
 Office: 651-846-9302
 Dispatch: 651-789-6221

Last Revision: Dec 13th 2022

WBL-VH-Maht area

North Loop



Voluntary Donation Service...Pay what you wish



All Buses are Wheelchair Accessible

This Bus Loop runs on **Thursdays**
-Refer to pickup times on back-
Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off.

- Senior Communities
- Local Destinations



To: Target
Walmart
Fresh Thyme

WBL-VH-Maht *area* North Loop

The Bus Loop runs on Thursdays
 Refer to pickup times below for your community.

Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off. Your driver will communicate about what time they will return for your ride home.

Senior Community Pick Up Times	
BUS 1	
9:50	Cerenity Residence
10:10	Lake Square Apts
10:15	Pioneer Manor
10:25	Arbors of WBL
BUS 2	
10:30	Washington Square Apts
10:45	Cottages of WB Township

Local Destinations On The Route

Other stops along the route may be requested

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| McDonald's | Lunds & Byerly's |
| WB Center for Arts | CUB Foods |
| CVS | Walgreens |
| Key's Café | Goodwill |
| Ramsey Co Library | Target |
| Kowalski's | Walmart |
| WB Senior Center | Fresh Thyme |

Last Revision: Dec 13th 2022



For more information:
 Office: 651-846-9302
 Dispatch: 651-789-6221

Last Revision: March 22nd 2023

FOREST LAKE area LOOP



All Buses are Wheelchair Accessible

Voluntary Donation Service...Pay what you wish

Program supported in part by: TRELLIS

This Bus Loop runs on Wednesdays
-Refer to pickup times on back-
Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off.

- Senior Communities
- ▲ Medical Clinic
- Local Destinations



FOREST LAKE *area* LOOP

The Bus Loop runs on Wednesdays
 Refer to pickup times below for your community.

Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off. Your driver will communicate about what time they will return for your ride home.

Senior Community Pick Up Times	
BUS 1	
9:30	Meadows on Fairview
9:35	Meadowview Apts
9:45	Whispering Pines
9:50	Birchwood Arbors
BUS 2	
10:00	Trailside Sr Living
10:10	Kilkenny Court
10:15	John Jergens
10:20	Amira Choice

Local Destinations On The Route

Other stops along the route may be requested

CUB Foods	Town Square
Key's Café	Dollar Tree
Walgreens	Forest Lake Senior Center
Perkins	Forest Lake Medical Supply
Walmart	YMCA
ALDI	Hardwood Creek Library
Target	Forest Lake Service Center

Last Revision: March 22nd 2023



For more information:
 Office: 651-846-9302
 Dispatch: 651-789-6221

Latest Revision: November 1st, 2022

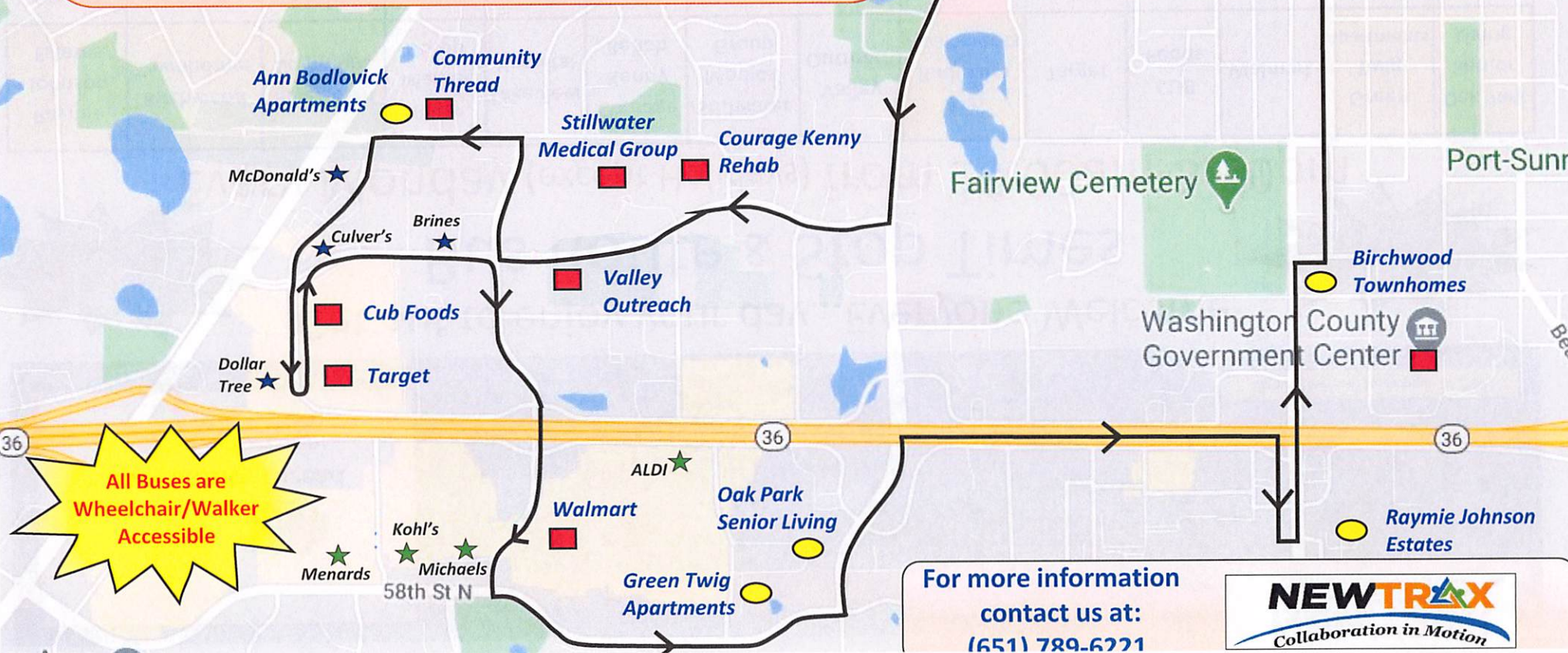
Due to DOT requirements, face masks are appreciated



The bus runs on Mondays 10:00am-3:00pm. Refer to times on back for your Housing Community. Get off at any scheduled stop and our bus will be back in 1 hour for another pickup.

- Retail/Local Destinations
- Housing Community Locations
- Stops by request near Target
- Stops by request near Walmart

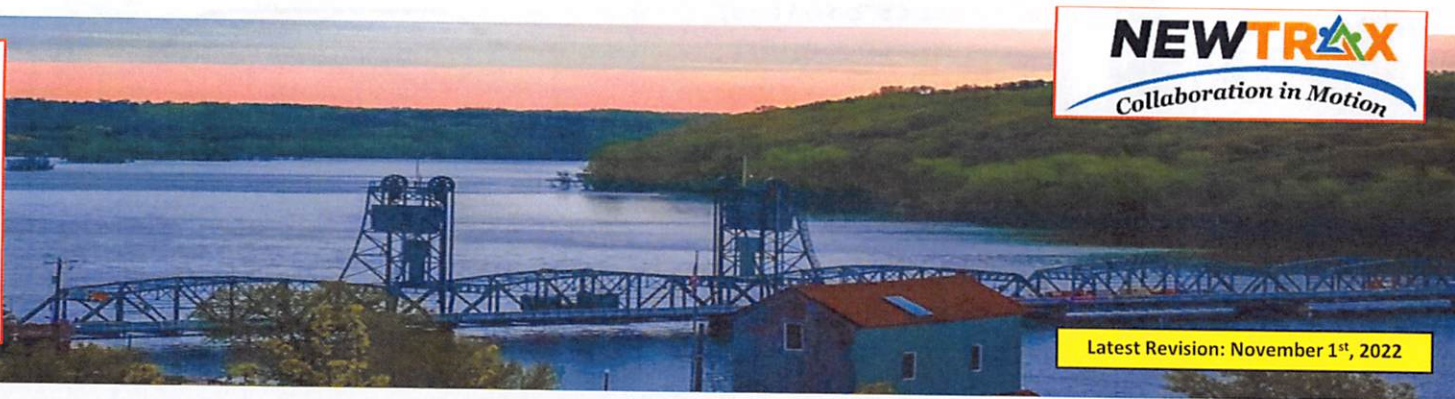
NEW! Voluntary Donation for your ride



All Buses are Wheelchair/Walker Accessible

For more information contact us at: (651) 789-6221





Latest Revision: November 1st, 2022

New!
Voluntary Donation
for your ride

Get out to enjoy your day...Everyone Welcome

Bus Route & Stop Times

New!
Voluntary Donation
for your ride

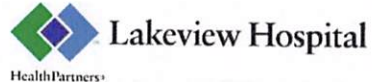
Every Monday (except Holidays) from 10:00am-3:00pm

Raymie Johnson Estates	Birchwood Townhomes	Rivertown Commons	River Market Co-op	Lakeview Hospital	Courage Kenny Rehab	Stillwater Medical Group	Valley Outreach	Ann Bodlovick Apartments	Target	CUB Foods	Walmart	Green Twig Apartments	Oak Park Senior Living
10:00	10:05	10:11	10:13	10:19	10:23	10:25	10:27	10:32	10:36	10:39	10:46	10:50	10:53
11:00	11:05	11:11	11:13	11:19	11:23	11:25	11:27	11:32	11:36	11:39	11:46	11:50	11:53
12:00	12:05	12:11	12:13	12:19	12:23	12:25	12:27	12:32	12:36	12:39	12:46	12:50	12:53
1:00	1:05	1:11	1:13	1:19	1:23	1:25	1:27	1:32	1:36	1:39	1:46	1:50	1:53
2:00	2:05	2:11	2:13	2:19	2:23	2:25	2:27	2:32	2:36	2:39	2:46	2:50	2:53

Housing Communities Final Drop-offs...No Pick-ups

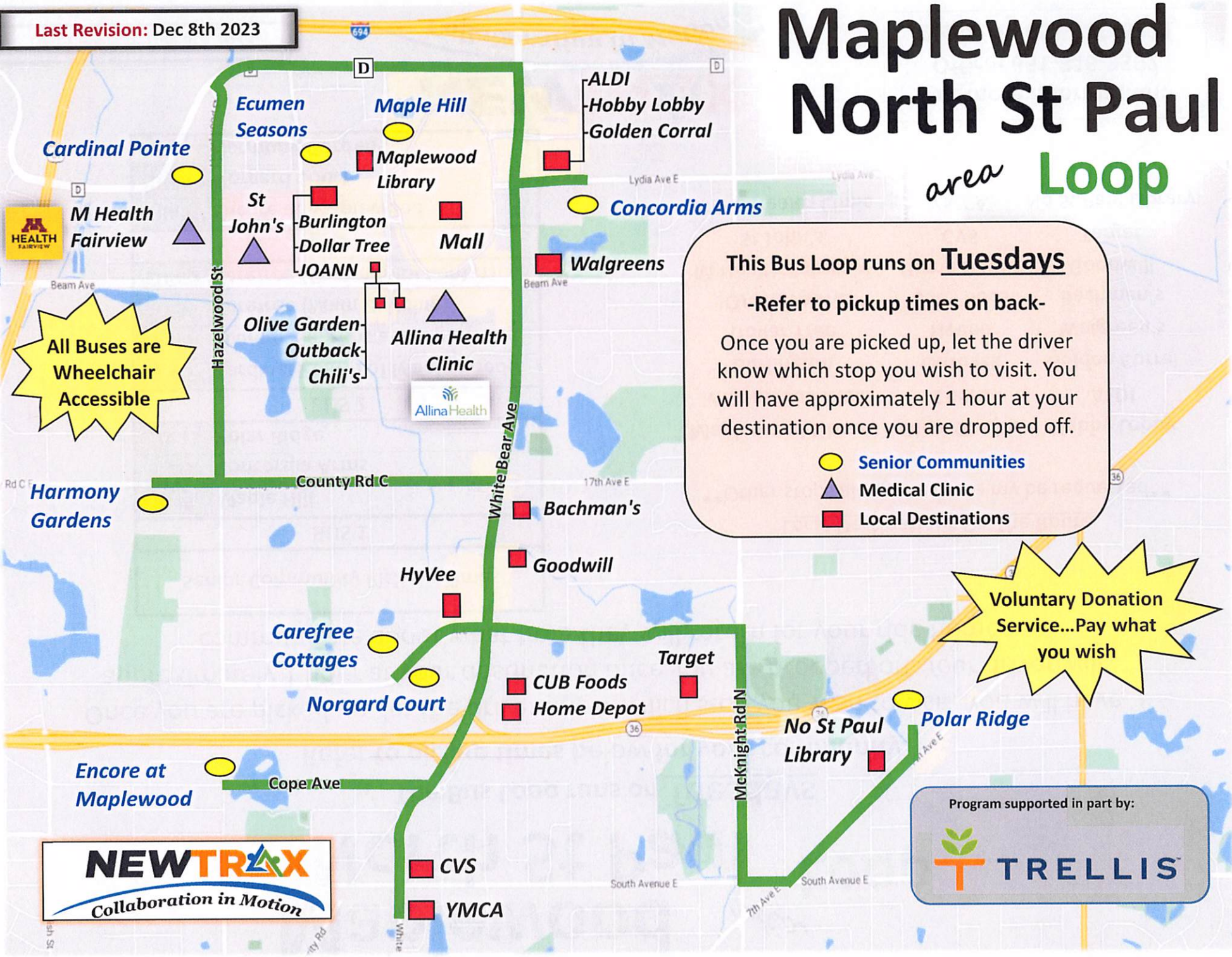
For questions about the LOOP bus route or schedule, please contact NEWTRAX at (651) 789-6221 or (651) 846-9302

Thank You to all of our Community Partners



Last Revision: Dec 8th 2023

Maplewood North St Paul area Loop



All Buses are Wheelchair Accessible

This Bus Loop runs on **Tuesdays**

-Refer to pickup times on back-

Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off.

- Senior Communities
- ▲ Medical Clinic
- Local Destinations

Voluntary Donation Service...Pay what you wish



Maplewood ^{area} North St Paul Loop

The Bus Loop runs on Tuesdays

Refer to pickup times below for your community.

Once you are picked up, let the driver know which stop you wish to visit. You will have approximately 1 hour at your destination once you are dropped off. Your driver will communicate about what time they will return for your ride home.

Senior Community Pick Up Times	
BUS 1	
9:45	Maple Hill
9:55	Concordia Arms
10:35	Polar Ridge
BUS 2	
9:45	Cardinal Pointe of Maplewood
9:55	Ecumen Seasons at Maplewood
10:35	Carefree (Main Building)
10:40	Carefree (Community Center)
BUS 3	
9:45	Encore at Maplewood
9:55	Norgard Court
10:35	Harmony Gardens

Local Destinations On The Route

Other stops along the route may be requested

Maplewood Library	Olive Garden	Hobby Lobby
Maplewood Mall	Chili's	ALDI
Burlington	Outback	Golden Corral
Dollar Tree	HyVee	Walgreen's
JOANN Fabric	Cub Foods	Bachman's
M Health Fairview	Home Depot	Goodwill
St John's	CVS	Target
Allina Health Clinic	YMCA	No St Paul Library

Last Revision: Dec 8th 2023



For more information:
Office: 651-846-9302
Dispatch: 651-789-6221

Shoreview-Arden Hills-North Oaks *area* Loop

Waverly
Gardens

Centerville Rd

Program supported in part by:
mn DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Live Well At Home Grant

All Buses are
Wheelchair
Accessible

SummerHouse
of Shoreview
Kowalski's
Shoreview
Senior Living
Walgreens
Van Hanson's
Taste of Scandinavia

North Oaks
Walgreens
Van Hanson's
Taste of Scandinavia

Voluntary Donation
Service...Pay what
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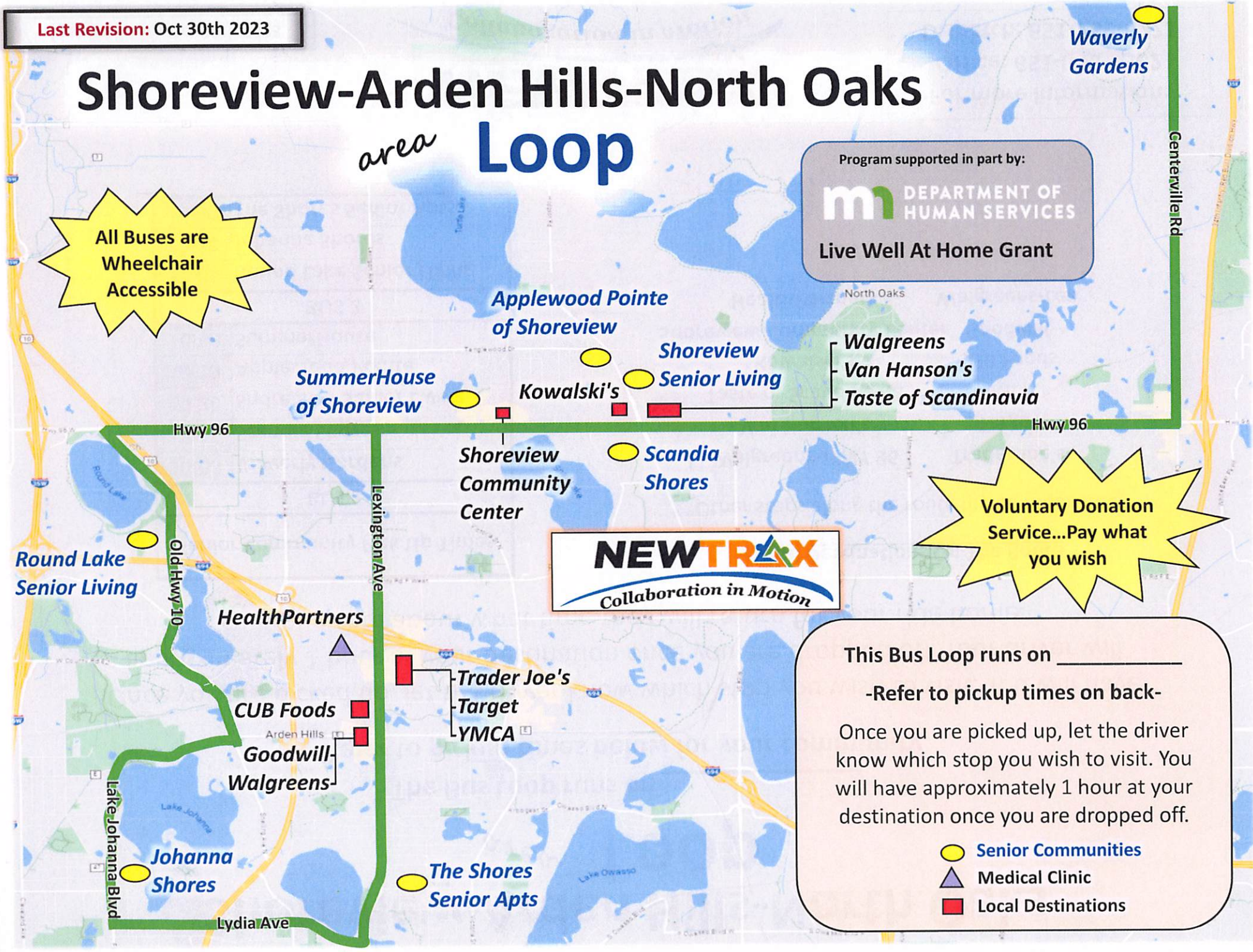


This Bus Loop runs on _____
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- Senior Communities
- ▲ Medical Clinic
- Local Destinations

Round Lake
Senior Living
HealthPartners
CUB Foods
Goodwill
Walgreens
Johanna
Shores
Lydia Ave

Shoreview
Community
Center
Scandia
Shores
Trader Joe's
Target
YMCA
The Shores
Senior Apts



Shoreview-Arden Hills-North Oaks *area* Loop

The Bus Loop runs on _____
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Senior Community Pick Up Times	
BUS 1	
10:00	Waverly Gardens
10:15	Scandia Shores
10:20	Shoreview Senior Living
10:30	Applewood Pointe
10:35	SummerHouse
BUS 2	
10:05	Round Lake Senior Living
10:15	Johanna Shores
10:30	The Shores Senior Apts

Local Destinations On The Route

Other stops along the route may be requested

Walgreens-HWY 96	Trader Joe's
Van Hanson's	Target
Taste of Scandinavia	YMCA
Kowalski's	CUB Foods
Shoreview Community Center	Goodwill
HealthPartners	Walgreens-Lex

Last Revision: Oct 30th 2023



For more information:
Office: 651-846-9302
Dispatch: 651-789-6221



SmartLink

LINKING PEOPLE TO TRANSPORTATION



Alan Herrmann

Smartlink Supervisor at Scott County

Herrmann@co.scott.mn.us



Hop Scott Discovery

- 
- Discovery of needs in rural areas- NO OPTIONS or FEW OPTIONS
 - What kind of Service needed
 - Volunteer service after COVID has changed
 - Concept of rear ramp wheelchair accessible minivans driven by volunteers
 - Department of Human services Live Well at Home Grant- funding is 50/50
 - Volunteer Van program/ Hop Scott- recruit volunteers
 - Van Purchase- availability is getting better
 - Scott County using Transportation Tax dollars to fund
 - 80/20 match funding would be better? - van costs way up since COVID
 - Funding for software maintenance/ incentives to share software?
 - Concept now in Cook County, SW MN, and Big Woods Tribal transit
 - Could MNDOT 5310 program include this size vehicle?
- 



Hop Scott Van/Volunteer

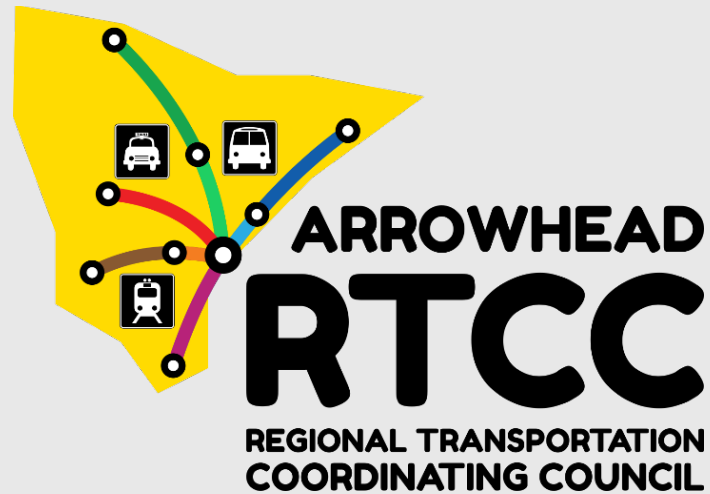
- Drivers can drive the County Van or their own vehicle
- Volunteers insured under County MCIT (Trust Fund)(non-profit trust fund available)
- Volunteers vetted and trained by SmartLink
- SmartLink does trip intake/schedules drivers(Novus Software)
- Van is parked locally with easy access for drivers (trips, drivers and vehicle all matched)
- Weekend/evening service based on availability of drivers
- Training includes wheelchair handling for those interested.
- Many newly retired, many weekend and evening, many younger than we have ever seen.
- Donations are mailed or funders are billed- volunteers do not handle money.
- Logo/ Marketing design- RFP
- Vans County Owned- sustainability
- Vans County insured- risk is with County
- County Maintained-Driven by volunteers
- Localized transportation- cities supply indoor storage/snow removal- partnership

Hop Scott Volunteer



- Delivering food from food shelves to individual homes- 4 food shelves/2 times /month
- Scott County Mental Health Center – clients to facility 3-4 days /week
- Used for Non-emergency medical transportation – scheduled trips unavailable on Transit Link
- Partner with Scott County Veterans program- used as resource for needs
- County family resource centers- families to programs
- Exploring ways vans can be used by families to transport loved ones- birthdays, weddings
- 606 trips in 2022, 807 trips through October/2023

Arrowhead Regional Transportation Coordinating Council



**Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver, Principal Planner, ARDC Planning;
RTCC Coordinator**

Gavin Bukovich, Planner, ARDC Planning; RTCC Coordinator

www.arrowheadrtcc.org

Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils & Transit Coordination Assistance Projects

Developed as the entity to implement the priorities in the Local Human Services Transportation Plans.

Established new relationships across industries with interest in transportation coordination. Council or project engages with comprehensive group of stakeholders and public members interested in improving mobility for the "transportation disadvantaged"

Funded through State (MnDOT), Federal (FTA) and local match

Formalized coordination plan to engage and work with providers and service agencies implementing an efficient transportation access.

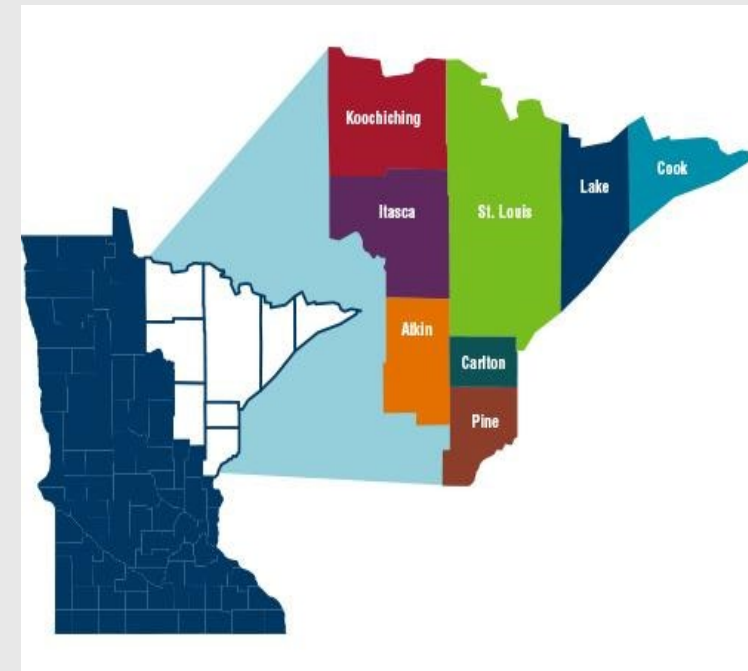
Work to improve mobility for those who have limited transportation options such as older adults, people with disabilities, individuals with low income, and veterans.

Regional Transportation Coordinating Councils & Transit Coordination Assistance Projects

<u>RTCC's</u>	<u>TCAP's</u>
Greater Minnesota-Divided into regions (multi-counties)	Divided into metro counties (1-2 counties)
Facilitated by regional development organizations, community action programs, or other non-profit	Facilitated by transit or transportation provider
Intersects with the challenges in rural areas	Intersects with the challenges in urban/suburban areas

Arrowhead Region and Council

- Facilitated by the Arrowhead Regional Development Organization
- The purpose of the Arrowhead Regional Transportation Coordinating Council is to improve **access, availability, and options** for transportation services in Northeast Minnesota through increased **communication, coordination, and collaboration**.
- List of council member can be found on our [website](#).
- Serve Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, and St. Louis counties
- Geographically roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the state
- Second largest metro in the state



Coordination and Collaboration in the Arrowhead Region

Coordination and Collaboration

- Developed comprehensive transportation provider directory including transportation resources, information on volunteer drivers, park and ride locations, and active transportation resources.
- Work with regional health care: Fresenius Dialysis Clinics, St. Lukes, Cloquet Memorial Hospital, Essentia
- 2023-Collaborated with National Center of Mobility Management to facility issue focused workshop on transportation for dialysis patients
- Wii-doo-kaa-ge (Helping Others) NEMT Bois Forte/Big Woods Transit



Overcoming some transportation gaps in Minnesota

Problem statement: The decline of transportation resources, services, and rural infrastructure is impeding transportation coordination efforts

- Provide sufficient reimbursement rates for non-emergency medical rides, specialized transportation service rides and other state supported transportation services.
 - Develop policy directive on how NEMT providers communicate service area changes or discontinuation of service in an area or region.
 - Expand Medicaid Managed Care transportation service contracts.
 - Change MnDOT procurement guidelines to allow for smaller vehicles/minivans.
 - Reduce local match for the vehicles.
- Increase Capital investment for vehicles.
 - Specify funding for technology needs/software.
 - Support development and operation of transportation services to events and locations outside of health care and after normal business hours.
 - Support sustainability and/or expansion of public transit.
 - Possible dedicated appropriation for mobility managers through Office of Transit for development of local programs such as Hop Scott, NEWTRAX, etc.

Questions?

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Gavin Bukovich, Planner, gbukovich@ardc.org

www.arrowheadrtcc.org

