

VII. Plan Development and Public Outreach Efforts

A major focus of developing a coordinated transportation plan is public input, more specifically stakeholders' input. The primary objective of this plan is to encourage coordination and, thus, encourage agencies with opportunities to coordinate and to work interactively with each other. The approach the Lincoln planning process took was to bring together community-based human services agencies and stakeholders whose focus is on making basic needs like transportation, human services, and medical care more available to members of the community. This process began with the Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition of the Community Services Initiatives (CSI) taking the lead role in sponsoring the development of the *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*.

The Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition consists of 43 participating agencies focused on making basic needs, like food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and medical care available. It also includes agencies providing other critical services like disaster response, education, legal services, and supportive services. A key Coalition vision is to see barriers removed that restrict community members in meeting unmet needs so people and families will be linked to agencies providing assistance. The focus is to identify issues and critical needs in the area of basic needs and self-sufficiency based on accurate data, and to develop and implement plans to address those issues.

Public Outreach

The first public meeting was held on March 2, 2007 with the Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition to discuss their vision for addressing the unmet needs of people and families, and the opportunity of sponsoring the development of the *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan* for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area. The Lincoln MPO Technical Advisory Committee publicly met on April 12, 2007 to address the proposal for the Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition to sponsor the development of the *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*. This was followed by the April 19, 2007 Lincoln MPO Officials Committee (the MPO Policy Board) review and acceptance of the CSI initiative.

The Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition created a Committee (Appendix A) to identify the emerging issues and critical needs in the area of basic needs and self-sufficiency, to review the survey and technical data, and to develop a detailed plan to address these issues. The Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition provided oversight in plan development and were given detailed reports on plan development at their regularly scheduled meetings the first Friday of each month (Appendix D).

Review Process

The first draft of the *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan* was accepted by the Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition on August 3, 2007 and on August 14, 2007, was made available on the City of Lincoln and MPO Web sites, at the Lincoln Urban Development and Lincoln Planning Departments, and at the Bennett Martin Public Library. Comments on the draft were received through September 5, 2007. Within this comment period, a Public Open House was held on August 28, 2007 at the Bennett Martin

Public Library Auditorium which was publicly advertised and open to all interested public service agencies and the general public.

On September 7, 2007, the Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition reviewed the final Plan and public comments, and made recommendations to the Lincoln MPO for their acceptance on the final draft of the *Coordinate Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*.

The Lincoln MPO Technical Advisory Committee has scheduled a Public Hearing and a review of the Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition recommendation for September 27, 2007. The Lincoln MPO Officials Committee is expected to review the MPO Technical Advisory Committee recommendations at their next meeting. A complete list of agencies that have been part of this process is included in Appendix A. Appendix D includes copies of meeting notices, public comments, and a list of attendees and their contact information.

Next Steps

Once the Plan is adopted to serve as a basis for the project selection, the MPO will solicit project proposals to be supported through the three respective funding sources discussed in the report.

A Call for Proposals, to solicit such projects, is expected to be issued by the MPO toward the end of 2007 with applications due in January of 2008. The MPO will transmit these applications to the State, accompanied with a ranked order of projects deemed most important in addressing the identified needs within the Lincoln Metropolitan Area. Responsibility for this task has been delegated to the local MPO Advisory Committee, which will meet in January/February, 2008 to apply the agreed upon criteria (see Section VI) and reach consensus on the overall project ranking to be submitted to the State.

The proposed ranking will be submitted to the Lincoln MPO Officials Committee for approval and adoption. Following adoption by the Officials, the final ranking will be forwarded to the Nebraska State Department of Roads.