



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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STRATEGY	ACTION	YEAR					LEAD
		1	2	3	4	5	
1. COORDINATION: <i>Identify ways that transportation across Kenai Peninsula communities can be better coordinated and made more accessible.</i>	a) Gather existing needs assessments to better understand where limited transport options are impacting access to services.	X					Kenneth
	b) Inventory all types of existing transportation options across the Kenai Peninsula	X					Kenneth
	c) Convene past and current providers of transportation services along with legislators - hosted by Foraker	X					Leslie
	d) Create a centralized database accessible to the public that maps all routes and schedules of available transportation.		X	X			Housing Coordinator
	e) Consider technology as a tool in coordinating and communicating transportation options throughout the Kenai Peninsula.	X					Transportation Coordinator
	f) Locate funding for, and employment of a Transportation Coordinator	X					Tim
2. FUNDING AND RESOURCES: <i>Expand access to transportation through a coordinated funding strategy to address the specific geographic needs of those experiencing homelessness on the Kenai Peninsula.</i>	a) Provide access to resources and education so that stakeholders can better understand which federal, state, and local funding sources support transportation planning.	X					
	b) Leverage partnerships among coalition members, stakeholders, and the community to coordinate funding strategies.	X					
3. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR FACILITIES: <i>Include transportation strategies and partnership options in all facility development planning.</i>	a) Convene key transportation experts on the Kenai Peninsula to assist in individual project transportation plans to increase accessibility.	X					Tim
4. LONG-TERM: <i>Ensure that there are systems</i>	a) Coordinate with already existing transportation planning efforts to	X					Transportation Coordinator



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<i>of transportation for people experiencing homelessness on the Kenai Peninsula that are consistent, reliable, and sustainable over the longer-term.</i>	establish a seat at the table for this transportation need on the Kenai Peninsula.						
	b) Assign a liaison on behalf of the coalition to participate in transportation planning discussions and share information back to the coalition on how to best advocate.	X					Transportation Coordinator

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MEETING NOTES

4.6.22

Attendees:

Karen: Soldotna united Methodist church and food pantry

Jim: oversight to set free - Soldotna / Kenai.

Maggie - rep Kenai Soldotna, central office for ILC, Seward, Homer

Leslie central peninsula, LoveINC serves entire borough

Jennifer - CARTS serves central. Transportation funding prioritization meeting happens in the fall (due first 2 weeks of Dec - schedule

Dana: director of Seward senior citizens in Kenai. Resurrected Seward Intra - Transit.

Currently have not filled driver positions, difficulty providing ample payroll for folks to live here.

Tim: Kenai Pen Foundation, ACF, Seward foundation is affiliate. Homer is partner.

Charlene: Soldotna, MH advocate

Twyla: Christ Lutheran - Soldotna, Kenai

Kenneth: CPH coalition coordinator, Serenity House care transition in Kenai. Shari Connor is supervisor, replacing her

Tech Facilitation by Jack Darling

Yesterday's meeting we didn't have anyone from Seward.

Karen: already needs assessment on transportation? Apparently the services in general though they are tracked, no formal assessment. Thru Serenity House? Simple thing to do, Leslie agreed - noted Shari Connor. "How can transportation be improved for you? How can we remove blocks or resolve issues?"

Serenity House is dealing with transportation issues like everybody is.

A lot of barriers getting to grocery store, appointments, etc. My dream has been that we have some sort of public transportation, some days. Would mean coordinating services for folks who are dependent on the transportation system

Jennifer w CARTS: did do a needs assessment as part of planning process. Also every agency that is providing transportation has a plan of sorts. Would be great to see how to take advantage of those rather than starting from square 1.

Karen: should we have meeting with systems in place to learn about those plans? Yes.

What exists to learn gaps

Tim: Joyanna sent out notices in the past of transportation meetings.



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What's this for? What's expected? Identifying priorities, what can we do in year one.

Begin to prioritize and filter down areas to design workplan for this year

Kenneth lives in Sterling. Neighbor without car needs regular rides into town. Cab rides 30-50. In Mat-Su they have a bus service that drops and picks up at pre-determined locations. May have to stay in location for day if no other transportation it may be better than nothing.

How much cross-conversation is happening between providers about where there are gaps?
JB: some, a lot of the agencies have taken on a certain niche of the marketplace. Also a good idea to look at alternatives. Everybody is so spread out, every planning process shows is that traditional fixed route is not sustainable. Programs could address our needs that aren't a bus. Out in sterling, it would be fairly easy to apply a share-a-van system. Assigned to come into town, stays in area and provides service for people. Anchorage has a robust share a van program that has been going on for many years.

Leslie: Bumps operates like this?

No, BUMPS has a specific route with pre-determined stops and days. In Ninilchik more flexible, when come into Kenai they go to Fred Meyer or Wal-Mart, time stops at those locations. Like a vanpool

Geographic assignments based on people's needs

What other services in immediate area besides CARTs and BUMPs?

A lot of agencies provide transportation such as the senior center,

Important to know which agencies do provide transportation internally

Leeshore center had a database they created every year, all kinds of services people could access. A lot to keep track of and keep updated.

"all types" to include inter-organizational coordination for vans, etc

Liasson person to keep agencies in the loop. A clarified agenda

Can wordsmith these next time as well

Was a committee, could get started again, Joyanna Geisler, Peggy Mullens

Could be coordinator only for transportation

Do we have anyone on the line who could work on gathering existing needs assessments out there? Reaching out to agencies and learning if they have a needs assessment - Kenneth



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Resource list exists of those orgs

PCHS, Nikiski Senior Center, Ninilchik Tribe, Kenaitze Tribe provide services

Funding - federal, state, AMHTA, borough, cities.

Someone gathering needs assessments can also inventory services offered

Tim to organize mass meeting of transportation providers. Friend in cab business, has invested personally in accessible transportation. Tech to track vehicles

Maggie: gathering all available resources. Had a contractor, had a coordination meeting. That information useful? 5 years ago

This was for the CARTS plan

Some orgs won't offer any transportation. Some will have done needs assessment on transportation, not just for their own agency

Reentry coordinator

Dana: down 50% staff over here. Can be more involved when fully staffed. There is a plethora of funding that could cover at least a 1-year temporary coordinator position, assist us in best practices. Community Transportation Association of America provides best practices, focal point is small areas.

Jack to add emails to table document

Meeting ended at 12:20PM

5.24.22 12PM – 1PM

Present:

Charlene Tautfest

Twyla Mundy

Leslie Rohr

Karen Martin Tichenor

Jennifer Beckmann

Jim Hamilton

Dana Paperman

Tim Navarre

Maggie Winston

Tech Facilitation by Jack Darling



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TRUST is having public comment session in Kenai tomorrow. ILC coordinator will be speaking. 4:20PM login information. 3 minutes: Please state what the barriers are, and how TRUST can help.

Public meeting is in-person, can call in.

Any takers who would be willing to speak about transportation issues at the meeting? Tim will, in his role to seek funding for transportation coordinator

Tim: Had partial funding for transportation request, IL makes request. Was fully funded this year for all areas - had to share funding before. Less to do with MH funding - state funding.

Jennifer: It's FTA funds, does include MH funds.

Karen asks Twyla to speak - she agrees, may need some more context/ bigger picture, She personally has a friend affected by transportation barriers.

Karen: By end of meeting hope you will have more to speak on. I will try to attend as well
Many organizations working for transportation access. We don't have a collective plan between all agencies to make sure our citizens can get from point A to point B. Correct?

Tim: Maybe more than A to B but also a fixed route, scheduled trips. Central pen, Soldotna got 90K, Seward and Homer smaller amounts. May be vouchers. Want to get Joyanna Geisler's take and plan with this.

Karen: Not yet seeing - Individual assessments of how the system is working or not working. Do organizations do their own assessments?

Tim: some looking at big picture, like the move to have fixed routes. Nikiski Senior Center got a new transit van.

Karen: Trying to get some other voices - Where from your perspective are the connections and where are the gaps. From my position, we need a mass transit across all areas. Not seeing that. What is your desire for this work?

Maggie: We had a transportation coalition meeting, and looked into what it would take to get a fixed route. Jennifer may know about follow up - there at least would be a report on some barriers. More complication that exists, making the possibility difficult.

Jennifer: A lot of it starts with the terminology. We've had 3-4 different studies. Fixed route was deemed not really sustainable. In addition, must run complimentary paratransit. So, having to run 2 routes at the same time. Complimentary paratransit is only for ADA qualified passes. $\frac{3}{4}$ a mile outside of original route. There has always been alternatives to a fixed route. Can be



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deviated route, which are very complicated and don't always work well, and a time-stamp route where the vehicle comes to a destination point at a certain time, you catch it and get as close to your destination as you can. Not as many stops as a fixed route. Gets someone to major centers - Home Depot, Safeway. Another issue is ongoing funding for it. There is federal money, though that does require a match, usually 50:50 of local dollars. Other monies are used as match, such as DHSS, but can't be DOT or FTA money to match. 5310 and MH Trust fund that Tim is mentioning is very specifically for elderly and disabled people, others who don't qualify can't use. Difficult to mix money and cover the population you want to. With funds, who rides can be limited. Many challenges, in our plan it was set out that things would be done incrementally, 1st would be to reinstate weekend service. Had a program open to the public in Homer, reinstating that was a portion, and doing time stamp route between Kenai and Soldotna, a circular route. Budgeted 1-way, and bi-directional

Karen: Curious about a "road map" that would help with how to use funding to apply to meet needs and serve populations stopped by barriers.

Jennifer: In addition to that, it's the eligibility for funds. We are the only entity on Peninsula eligible for 5311 funds. A few others are eligible for funds that Joyanna goes after, there are typically fewer applicants. What's really needed is the match to leverage the federal dollars.

Karen: Tim have you identified where some of those matching funds could come from?

Tim: Yes, on the same page. Peninsula needs to find a way to get vans, vouchers. Kenaitze and Ninilchik systems all working together. There will be constraints, initial "that's not allowed". My model works with our legislative delegation to change the laws to add flexibility to the funding. In the past, City of Kenai, etc. used to fund CARTS. I believe the cities and borough will come to the table with funding to match as well as other opportunities. Part of this group's role may have to help with this convening. What can we do outside the box to bring this all together. Bringing it back to how transportation barriers directly impact homelessness. Need to convene legislators and their staff to discuss changing laws to funding barriers. This is the kind of outside the box thinking that we need to do.

Twyla: Where is this assessment? If been done, don't want to reinvent the wheel.

Karen: Kenneth on this group described access to this yet we haven't seen that yet.

Leslie: I was a part of those meetings so I can see if I have access to those reports.

Tim: Alaska Community Transit

Leslie: Have you discussed the Kenaitze project coming up? [no] Saw an internal note that they are moving forward with a fixed route system. Limited information - may be limited to recipients of Kenaitze services getting to and from services.



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Karen:

Leslie: when assessment was done (by CARTS) most people were out at the River center when we met, it was focused on the services that CARTS provides.

Karen: Not including ILC, etc.

Leslie, ILC was there. It was a transit development plan for CARTS

Tim: One of the reasons our committee from the coalition is a perfect entity to bring people together. Other than the agencies that provide serviced and transportation, people want to get behind the issue of addressing homelessness issues in transportation. Mean to get everyone to the table, don't think there are really other entities aside from those already mentioned.

Karen: Has there ever been a meeting like this, across organizations? [no]

Tim: Need to remove large barriers (like legislation) - rather than changing the plan to move around existing barriers.

Karen: This needs to be a daylong meeting, bring lunch. Identify legislation and put words to what needs to take place.

Tim: perfect opportunity with the Trust meeting tomorrow. We could go to Foraker group and ask them to facilitate a meeting like that. A Coordinator would fit this role too. Do this meeting in August or September? May miss a funding window with FY23 funding decisions made in August. A lot of agencies have extra funds and can be reappropriated. With cooperation I think we will find solutions out of a funding year as we get started. Can talk to Alaska Community Foundation about sponsoring that, perhaps would pay for that facilitation. Boroughs could also support.

Leslie: KPHC is going to be a Foraker partner, as LoveINC is. We could probably get their assistance with that with minimal cash out.

Karen: Long range goal of a meeting gathering these individuals.

Leslie: A letter of interest to go out sooner than later, would do well to help us determine how soon we can make this happen.

Karen: Scheduling poll as Jack does?

Tim: find out when Foraker is available, learn who we can get to help. Then when send out invite, have dates when Foraker and leaders are available. This would give attendees more to chew on as they determine how to join.



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Karen: Leslie, can you reach out to them? [Yes] Get a sense of how they can help and when they are available, can they offer scheduling poll.

Leslie: Do we need to be moving more immediately, like, for tomorrow's Trust meeting, or do we need to be more prepared?

Twyla: I think that, just as a citizen, we need to go and show presence, say we are working on a plan. We have ideas that have not come to fruition. Not sure how we do that but would be willing to sit down with you. A truly interested party better than no interested party.

Karen: Plan, while yet unwritten, is to connect all transit programs in some way. For all of us to be thinking, how to we put a 3-minute elevator speech together that says what we are about, and how, in this case with Trust, were the frustration points are. How funding sources would help. Goal is that we have a Peninsula with a transportation system that is free-moving and gets people where they need to be. We're seeing too many neighbors literally left in the cold because they can't get to jobs or doctors appointments. We need this assessment that has been done. Tim/Jennifer, you have in mind who we want at these meetings? We want to be working on this list so we are ready to send Doodle poll

Jennifer: I think the place to start is with the current coordinated plan. Includes a lot of entities that provide transportation. Not all but many. Some used to provide transportation and don't any longer - yet are still around.

Karen: Hasn't been a comprehensive at the table, have been smaller groups but not comprehensive. Want to have former providers at table too.

Jennifer: You can bring people to the table but can't make them play.

Karen: I get that, I just want to be sure we are casting a wide net and that there is opportunity to be heard. Don't want someone down the road to not feel invited. Then, determine a venue once we know more about possible attendance. I think it needs to be in-person to be most effective

Leslie: And at a round table.

Karen: Notes, a picture/map of peninsula with current main road system on it. From there, the different agencies that are providing services can mark where they provide service. We will then see the literal gaps where no one is providing service. As well as where service is offered but gaps exist yet.

Coming up on an hour - is there anything you here today hoped we would get to that we have not. Nothing outstanding?

Karen will be connecting with Foraker group, as well as with Tim, Twyla and Karen will form an elevator speech. Need a letter of interest.



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1PM close - Gather in 1 month - email in June about Foraker meeting.

6.29.22 11:30AM

Began at 11:36AM

Attendees

Facilitated by Tim Navarre

Tech by Jack Darling

Brent Hibbert

Dana Paperman

Maggie Winston

Twyla Mundy

Jennifer Beckmann

Tim goes over recent shared documents, offers to send

Who will set up transportation meeting between everyone involved in transportation – a good place to start.

Nikiski sterling and K-Beach area. Brent? No connection.

What comes with fixed route is working with hubs – safeway, fred meyer, etc for a warm enclosure to wait. If buses run at certain time may need a taxi or bus voucher to make it. Logistics make this challenging. Price of fuel means we can't give a half mile ride or less.

Kenaitze wouldn't be starting a system if CARTS were working.

Do we have a contact person with Kenaitze? They're not opposed to other entities in the system.

Hoping in August, when we have a grad student who will work for the coalition.

Tim has been working with Trust to get coordinator.

News of Kenaitze fixed route falls well into our coordinated goals

Brandi Bell is the contact at the tribe.

Sending invites, setting a meeting. Zoom link, also in-person.



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Distinction between KPB plan and this Homelessness strategic plan. Little knowledge about transportation involvement.

Brent: we have public transportation – CARTS, and KZenaitze starting the bus service. Was hoping this work and related work could get together with CARTS to see what's working and what's not working and figure it out. I think if CARTS was working we wouldn't have the fixed route beginning.

Twyla: I don't think the problem is with the system of CARTS but people not being able to afford it or it doesn't apply to their specific need or social group. Something that is a low barrier entry for all to use. Individuals don't have the finances or support to access previously existing systems.

Tim: Facilitate meeting between everybody., have the discussion. Help us find gaps, where improvement work is happening. Don't want to lose current transportation opportunities that exist.

Will let Karen know committee is OK with moving forward with this. Borough could call a transportation meeting. We have money in our fund that could be used for that purpose. Don't know if the borough does and how long a grant takes.

Jennifer: The way transportation funding works, it's not one-size-fits-all. Coordinated plan is only directed toward one source of funds: those geared toward individuals with disabilities, older adults. Prioritizes related projects that use that particular funding. Public and tribal have their own funding pots. Coordinating them is a big task and there are match requirements, usually local money. Don't know what the Tribe's plan is, if they are doing a true fixed route or possible deviated route. There's a certain population that wants to be picked up door to door, the immediacy of a bus stop, still others who can't get to a bus stop. Putting the pieces together to make the system work. Agencies representing different populations and different needs. No matter what, is going to take a lot of different service options combined to make a system that works for everybody, or the majority of people. When talking about a borough-wide system, there's a lot of distance between – a lot of mileage without pickups.

Tim: I see a model where vehicles are tracked on GPS and someone can hop on when needed a ride. Maybe open seats can be tracked and filled. Different funding with different formulas – talk to congressional delegation about meeting the needed match. Tired of seeing empty vehicles drive by.

Meeting should include those who provide transportation but also to include those who use transportation

Maggie: I'm in support of that. What doesn't work frustrates everyone. The hope is if there's something we can do to address gaps, that's what the meeting is for.



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Assembly chamber has zoom support, large capacity. Perhaps joint meeting between coalition and borough. Legislative delegation, or at least staff would attend.

Board will be the new leadership team, we decided to move forward with becoming an entity.

Adjourned 12:26PM

8.30.22 11:30AM Start

Present

Brent Hibbert

Dana Paperman

Twyla Mundy

Jennifer Beckman

Charlene Tautfest

Dana shared the Transportation Day post over email - September 9th in person in Anchorage Jennifer Beckmann planning to attend.

Not seeing Zoom access. Statewide – sponsored by DOT, hosted by AML and AFN

Dana: Are we prioritizing 5310 application because of due date coming up? No, that would be the transportation group Joyanna had at ILC. Question about when that was coming up.

Applications used to be due in December but it is now due first week of September.

Karen has been leading this group and could not attend. Kathy leads in her stead. Practicum student is taking inventory of housing.

Kathy: Housing coordinator is still a wish – AMHTA has not funded this for us but we are still trying. 501c3 paperwork is through but we are waiting to hear back from the IRS, hoping for end of year so Nikiski property can go under KPHC name.

PHC has date of Tuesday January 31st so PIT will be done that Monday night. I'll get with the Homer group, Seward group, and Anchor point to see if they are doing the same date or others. We'll probably get started with meetings on that.

Twyla: in June meeting we talked about a transportation meeting of all players as to routes, Karen and I have a map of the Peninsula – talked about putting lines on that map in yarn and looking at holes. Making a plan of coordinating to fill those holes. Any further talk about that meeting?

Kathy: No development yet, maybe could make one of the next meetings in person and do just that.

Has Kenaitze started their system? Not yet



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Jennifer: I want to clarify that 5310 application isn't due yet but the Intent to Apply is due the first week of September.

Kathy will reach out to Karen about this. Something visual like this seems helpful to put up at PHC. Include BUMPs in there, which I believe is the Ninilchik group

Dana: Looking at hiring 2 drivers, one being part time supervisor. Marketing on access to vouchers for ILC, getting people into social services, assisting them with activities of daily living, getting mail at post office. We're at full staff for the first time in years. Accessing cultural, recreational, and playtime, adding trips outside for the same activities, through a grant from the Alaska Community Foundation

Kathy: Is transportation Needs assessment conducted annually at CARTs?

Jennifer: No – Last date was prior to planning process so pre-pandemic. Typically they are for 5 years or more, so may be due 2025.

Grant funds came through again for transportation through LoveInc – tells us who is vetted and eligible. This year we have over 200 trips we can do thru the fiscal year, all has to be used by end.

Kathy: with inventory – how do they work, vouchers or otherwise? If folks have ideas on what should be asked about transportation options.

Jennifer: One of the big questions will be eligibility because some funding sources are targeted specifically for groups – some specific for homelessness, some for elderly and disabled.

Kathy: Questions for the spreadsheet?

Eligibility of Usage. Some for veterans perhaps.

When are services available?

Service Area?

ADA accessibility and how many wheelchair spaces – may be affected by eligibility.

Assisted or unassisted? (door to door or curbside).

Contact/App?

Fare required? (some have donations, some will be vouchers) Will accompanying person be charged if client is not?

An ILC consumer cannot use their voucher with CARTs because CARTs and ILC are not contracted. Medicaid, Choice waiver, there are a lot of types of vouchers.

Brent: I think what's missing is one centralized dispatch to put all these calls together. It's the only way this is going to work and the same issues are coming up as there have been for 20 years. Not all will participate but those who do can be collected together.



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Kathy: are you aware of areas with a centralized dispatch we could glean information on?

Brent: No, those that do are probably just one provider.

Dana: We looked at software but it wasn't feasible

Brent: I have the software and can dispatch 9 companies, have not tried this.

Dana: Great idea Brent!

Brent: It would work great in Seward, maybe don't have the volume to make it work locally all year. Taxi company may have issue.

Kathy: Education and Awareness group is working on elevator speeches - Monthly education spots we can put on Facebook and the website, like HUD definitions of homeless, the Built for Zero materials, an ask for help the homeless donations. Notes will be on website, Jack will send scheduling poll for a new monthly regular day.

Closed 1:40PM

9.28.22 12:30PM

Present:

Karen Martin-Tichenor

Kathy Gensel

Charlene Tautfest

Tim Navarre

Kathy: Bathrooms and showers are secured -gifted from the city. \$5000-6000 of pipes, ready to get rid of it.

Cold weather addition of cots etc to Nikiski will be 10-15 beds.

1 year since Love INC conference and this process started.

Karen catching up – what was decided?

Inventory of available transportation, coming up with questions to ask: what needs is it meeting – curbside, etc.



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Brent was on the last call – brought up how centralized dispatch seems vital. Has in place a software dispatch system that has the ability to add additional groups outside of his own. He is willing to try this with us. Being able to coordinate and dispatch to meet needs.

Leslie at Love INC purchased a van they've been using. Perhaps they would do testing with AK Cab

Borough-wide transportation meeting is when?

Trust conference in Anchorage today could be why we are missing some folks today.

Twyla and Karen have, from the report that Leslie shared. One image had major road system on it with a few side roads but not extensive. Twyla had this blown up to poster size and onto a board. If we could start mapping out with colors what the existing lines are to show us where the holes are.

Charlene has attended with Borough-wide meetings and hasn't seen a lot happen. Charlene would like to see a fixed route, even once or twice a day.

Is Kenaitze doing a fixed route? Yes. And where to?

Bumps, from Ninilchik, unsure if they have fixed route.

Considering asking neighbors if they are looking to sell property next to Nikiski shelter. Could also be bus stop. Old AT&T building is still sitting empty – could also be a bus stop, along with food bank.

Kenaitze transportation - Still working on building bus depot, etc.

Needs to be a fixed route at some point

It seems we all agree on that, at some point people were saying a fixed route ALONE would not resolve things. That's still true. People could use something to rely on that they can plan around.

Karen: would really like an in person meeting where we can work on this map and collaborate, determining where we would like to see the fixed route.

Charlene: Has someone talked with Kenaitze about attending a meeting? They have a new CEO, full of energy, I would start there. Charlene has made an introduction, is willing to connect with him about attending.

Has Tim connected with someone on Kenaitze regarding transportation?



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Will be meeting in October, hoping to get folks together. Greg at food bank wants to make their facility a bus stop.

Charlene will give contact info and share about committee. When would he be able to meet?

Kathy will find out if borough has scheduled transportation meeting.

Prior to announcement from Mayor Pierce, didn't know about priority list.

Assembly has a transportation committee they were putting together, Pierce and his staff.

A lot of moving parts politically right now, though Joyanna others are aware of the coordinator hiring interest and of the interest in a coordination meeting with partners present.

What is the first ask? Need to have updated form that Tyson can make into ordinance. By the time we hire someone it will probably be January 1.

When Tyson introduces on Oct 11, comes up on one meeting in November. Then would pass and the borough would have to hire or put out RFP. January to June 30.

If they did a 3-year grant that would still hold. Mental Health Board meetings coming up, Trust attends and I can bring it up to them.

Has been approved, may need to update application or numbers. After the first year, they will let us know if approved for subsequent year.

In the past, borough mayor Pierce would not approve, though the Trust had agreed to award the grant.

Kenaitze Elders and Transportation Manager, Brandi Bell: 907.335.7280

Conference room at ILC Kellie Bartelmay

First borough assembly meeting in NOV should be passage day

Oct 25th WORKS at 12:30PM

Closed at 1:20PM

10.25.2022

Kathy Gensel

Karen Martin-Tichenor



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Jennifer Beckmann
Tim Navarre
Joyanna Geisler
Maggie Winston
Collin Attleson
Jack Darling (Zoom support)

12:36PM

Twyla and a handful of others meant to be here, but weather is keeping people at home. The hope has been to work in person to map out transportation lines.

Borough Transportation Prioritization meeting: Thursday 10/27/22 at 3PM - Zoom only.

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84503668551?pwd=aDB0NHg4WHdleWRBa3ZZYIZGRzYzQT09>

Tim: It has to do with setting priorities and then filing a resolution. We received full funding in the previous year for the first time. We can come together with those who gathered last year to advocate for transportation services on the Peninsula.

Karen: Would it be best use of this time to come up with our list of priorities and be sure it's reflected?

Jennifer: This is part of the process for a specific pile of money: [FTA 5310 elderly and disabled](#) funding. Only for transporting people who qualify under those parameters. Must have coordinated plan, projects are submitted that fall under coordinated plan. In addition, need to fill out intent to apply, timeline has already passed. If the intent to apply has not been submitted, cannot apply for projects until next year. Last I checked, Joyanna at ILC was only applicant so they are the only ones eligible for those funds. Joyanna will explain the projects she is submitting, and the group prioritizes those projects. Then, the process for resolution Tim described.

Tim: Future funds may be available down the line, but still a helpful meeting to be involved with. Rep. Vance wanted to put transportation committee together. There's no ordinance or resolution requiring this. What we are doing with this group is bring everybody together on the peninsula to discuss what we have and what we need moving forward.

Karen: What's the best path to that meeting with representatives? We have struggled with this so far, bringing folks together to get a big picture and hear from all of them where the gaps are that people are falling through. What are the unmet needs people have to live their lives?

Maggie: Coordinated transportation meetings? I thought there was something that went out about planning this. I will check with Joyanna.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

[Scroll to the end for most recent committee notes]

Tim: We do want to get the players together to talk about what's there, what's needed/missing, where funding is coming from. There's all sorts of needs for transportation, from airport transport, no license, formerly incarcerated, those who are disabled, and/or homeless. It's not an issue that affects just one group. If the borough will help facilitate a coordinated meeting, that will get some focus. I still think we could get funding to facilitate

Salamatof has acquired the cannery lodge, could host there. Could utilize another building like sports center. City of Soldotna is supportive of finding solutions and bringing people together. Can use the Challenger Center at no cost. We will need to plan for some time in February and plan for it in the meantime.

Tim and Karen talked to Brandy at Kenaitze and had a positive phone conversation. They requested funding for 2 routes, received for one. More funding is needed to cover 2nd route. The earliest they would start construction is Spring 2023. She was excited to hear that us as another transportation committee is working on this, and that the food bank is willing to have a bus stop at their location. They have a lot to make happen, Brandy is new in her position and needs to defer to elders as is traditional structure about involvement in a February meeting. We haven't heard back yet but will follow up.

Karen: Is there an "A-list" of existing agencies and companies that have threads of transportation? We can create an email/call list, add to that city & borough, mayor, and put out a date/time or choose best. Getting something on a calendar.

Jennifer: Current coordinated plan could be the best list, you can find this on the [DOT's website](#)

Karen: Let's have everyone review a master list to be sure we don't think we have anyone missing. By next meeting.

Next KP transportation meeting set to December 6th at 12:30PM

Looking at February dates for a facilitated, coordinated meeting of transportation entities. Mondays and Fridays are more difficult for within-work-hours events like this. Afternoon preferred?

Tentative booking: **Thursday, February 23rd from 2-4PM**. First meeting – may take more than one to find a plan we are satisfied with.

Karen notes that she hoped to be further along with this coordination meeting, however is glad to see shared interest in bringing it to fruition.

Maggie: There needs to be activation and action steps.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

[Scroll to the end for most recent committee notes]

Karen: Maggie and Colin are willing to meet with Joyanna to start putting that list together of agencies with aspects of transportation that affect the greater community. We also need to choose a location. Do you two want to take that on or should we assign to someone else?

Karen: Who can make calls to find location for this meeting? Tim had great ideas, I will reach out to him about this before he leaves town. When the location is set, Jack will send announcement out to group.

Karen: Twyla will continue to work on the poster, it will be at this meeting and more might be added to it. It's 3' x 4' for a visual explanation.

Kathy: Can put on display at Project Homeless Connect – have it available for feedback from all.

Kathy: Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition is now a legal 501c31! The plan is to now bring everything underneath it, including the Shelter of Hope out from under Bridges. We can start moving forward, opening up accounts, gathering money, taking care of things. PHC is under the coalition as well, so that is exciting. We have been working at this a while! Sent letter of interest to the AMHTA for the housing coordinator position and sent that information to the interim borough mayor. If that goes through, that position will start as soon as January.

General sentiment that it is Really exciting to be finally an entity after all these years of work! Last year's strategic planning efforts moved things forward but the decade of Project Homeless Connect was much-needed groundwork.

Meeting ended at 1:22PM.

12.6.22 at 12:30PM

Attendees:

Charlene Tautfest

Kathy Gensel

Tim Navarre

Brent Hibbert

Winter Marshall Allen

Maggie Winston

Sen. Peter Micciche

Jack Darling (Zoom support)

Kathy will be making a call regarding transfer of property to KPHC

Maggie has updates on some tasks assigned from the last meeting



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

[Scroll to the end for most recent committee notes]

Tim can talk to Challenger Learning Center about hosting the transportation meeting February 23rd

Over 100 responses back on the survey <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-PggXQ5O-TVjXyZwPAnMe-sviLFg2xCfhpSihyXQFZwkoQ/viewform>

Jack will send this out to the listserv – deadline is December 16th

Maggie has started a master list of 45 people that would attend a meeting. First stab at this – some emails and names, some information is missing.

Representation from Homer – doesn't seem like anything is moving forward at the Borough transportation committee. As we get everyone together in February, we will need to continue to use the priority list at the borough and our list too

Brent had meeting with Mike Navarre on Friday, discussed some transportation stuff. Not sure where this will end up since he doesn't expect to be there beyond special election. There's some money, we discussed the position at the borough for the homelessness coalition. We talked about tying that into transportation as well.

Tim - Folks from this committee should fill out the survey. Getting everyone together for February meeting – could also try the Cannery Lodge, I have a meeting with someone at Salamatof and they hold that space. This would include the city, borough, native groups, homeless serving organizations, people that currently get transportation services.

Winter - Asking our IDD Community members and/or their guardians to fill out the survey would be helpful. I can share with my parents. Or others with a disability who are identified with our community. These are the base receivers of the current transport services.

Maggie - We need a volunteer organizer, someone who will be planning this transportation event.

Tim - We had hoped to have a coordinator. Perhaps ideally the borough could take the lead and send the invitation out. The February election won't likely be certified by this time, but I think we can get them to advertise and get us a staff member's time to put this information out/organize. Tim Dillon also spoke to Mayor Navarre in creating the survey.

Sen. Micciche – here to listen, I know it's been a fight for transportation. People are welcome to call me and fill me in on transportation issues.

Maggie notes to Peter that they need board members if he would like to deepen his disability advocacy.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

[Scroll to the end for most recent committee notes]

Micciche notes that his richest experiences have been supporting the community and if she thinks he can add value he will consider it.

Tim - Kenaitze will be initiating their route system in the summer – single route. Potentially if there was additional funding, even if tied to homelessness-specific transportation, maybe even one-time or modest ongoing funds. State DOT may have some new funds, unsure how long they will be available. At the transportation meeting we can cover funding needs

Micciche - Funds were for 5 years, we aren't yet ready to put something on the table. What makes these initiatives successful is partnership and engagement between the borough, department of Labor, disability advocacy groups. The Kenai Peninsula is about 40,000 people from Sterling to Nikiski to Kasilof. We can't fill jobs without transportation solutions so if you get the Department of Labor involved there could be more funding. Get more interested constituents involved. There is power in showing understanding that it's not just a homelessness issue, it affects so many groups

Brent: Kenaitze and CARTS are doing transportation. What do we want to do? Other transportation, starting new? Or, partner with CARTS?

Winter: I don't have an overall answer but I would hope, and my goal is, that there is cohesive transportation. Kenaitze doesn't connect to Homer. CARTS can be cost-prohibitive. I have a student living in Anchor Point who can't attend their choir concert because there's a missing transportation piece

Maggie – Great points, we want people to be able to see what the options are and that those options work for everyone.

Next KPHC Transportation meeting: January 10th 12:30PM

May potentially have another meeting before the 2/23 borough-wide transportation meeting

Micciche – have we defined the goals? I don't want to sound bureaucratic

Winter: Defined problem and a four-point goal we are working toward. Streamline who is doing what, what it looks like, how the transportation options come together, pedestrians, trucking capacity. Resiliency coalition and another polled the community and the data is available

Micciche – does it include private sector and labor needs

Winter: Workforce, if they are trying to meet workforce needs in relation to the services they provide. When set up for vocational work, transportation is one of the first questions asked.

Tim: we can work to collect all of this for the borough-wide meeting



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Micciche – What is the vision? I would think that some sort of regular schedule and some sort of floater service – is this what you all think?

Jack: It hasn't been said exactly that way, but fixed route won't cover everyone and so something else like vans to fill in ad-hoc needs.

Brent: My question about direction. Issue with CARTS, looking for board members to help straighten the system out. It's the best we have at this time and we can make it better. I don't want to see the system we have go away. I've been tempted to walk away but I know how many people rely on us for appointments, etc. There have been issues with staffing and unwillingness to be flexible. I'm unsure if those I have recommended will be accepted as board members. I don't want to see us burn something down if we can make what we have better.

Maggie – that makes a lot of sense, and I have applied in the past but you put a fire under me to apply again.

Tim: I know we have a problem with CARTS and hope that this coordination helps. DOT sees they don't have community support needed for what they are doing. Infusion of new board members could help, work to save what we do have. I hope we do that before we lose more staff. I want us to support it and I worry this could come back to bite us if we don't have a backup.

Maggie – From the disability perspective. We are rolling out a new transportation service for disabled folks. It is a peer-support system. For individuals who live on the way outskirts. You can pick a driver and have your miles reimbursed. Up to 500 miles per month. If you know of someone who could benefit from this put them in contact with us.

ILC offices:

Homer (907)235-7911

Central Peninsula (907)262-6333

Seward (907)224-8711

Meeting closed at 1:25PM

1.10.23 at 12:30PM

Tim: Talked to Mike Navarre about transportation meeting, getting the borough to be involved may be March would be better. March 7 runoff. Not that the current administration can't do it, they are positioned to focus on the budget for the new administration etc. Suggested conference call between Trust and borough. We want the cities to attend, for it to be coordinated.

Challenger center is in the works – waiting to hear about dates from Marnie there.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

[Scroll to the end for most recent committee notes]

Hoping the event will be successful – End of March beginning of April might be better dates.

Kathy: My concern is, is the new mayor going to be supportive? The timing is tricky. If we can wait a little longer for the borough to get through their special election that could be good.

Is March 23rd late enough? Yes, current administration will take the lead, but we have to finalize the location and invite people, set up Zoom and in-person. Set the stage for a great discussion. Will need to set the agenda to cover what we want to – will take some forethought. Hopefully the outcome will mean that people talk about a year-calendar and follow up meetings. Hope to get a briefing from each part of this: what are they doing, what's working.

It would be good to have someone from DOT. Pushing it out to March 23rd puts it at the week after spring break, and right after the new borough mayor is sworn in.

Tim to coordinate a Zoom meeting for details the borough might need as they take the lead.

Karen: I feel compelled to get us together to talk, because I heard about another organization doing a transportation survey. I worry about trying to re-invent the wheel. We need to be connecting and sharing ideas.

We are atalking about catering this – afternoon so perhaps not a meal but perhaps some of us put something together.

Tim: Borough might have some money for that. If 2PM-4PM, not quite enough time. Though we don't have an agenda yet. It would be really nice to do introductions and hear where people are, but that takes an hour. People can sign up ahead of time in the chat to save some time – note who they are and why they are attending. Hear from Joyanna, others about what they want to hear at the meeting.

Karen: Seeing silo-ing of efforts – want to integrate our communication as a result of this meeting. We've done a lot but somehow people are not aware of what we are here. My agenda: introductions, reports (invited, prepared), discussion, and then decisions/plans for moving forward. Whether that's, we need to meet again, we need more time, or identifying roles and tasks that can be distributed.

If we delay to March 23rd, I really don't want us to delay further as we have already delayed to February. I think we've pushed things down the road and it's not serving us. I'll reach out to Maggie about her list.

Tim: Hoping that the borough leading this and working on the same agenda will help everyone be on the same page. Prioritizing together – everyone involved in transportation including the Native groups. What do we need and what's missing. Karen, what you said makes sense.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

[Scroll to the end for most recent committee notes]

During strategic planning process in 2021, did we put a blurb in the paper about the coalition or committees? (No)

Karen: We do have a need for awareness and education so people know we're here – could this be in the form of an article.

How can this committee work with the committee of Education & Awareness.

Kathy: We need to have a KPHC board meeting. Underneath the coalition we have PHC, we have some business to take care of.

Tim: We have priorities but understand there are other priorities and things that will happen – coordinating efforts is the goal. Quarterly meetings will be to discuss transportation needs. Could invite Sen. Murkowski and Sullivan. Everyone isn't on the same page – this is one of our action points. Let's make this quarterly, set the date at the end of the session, aka, we'll meet again in June.

I think we'll find we are educating city staff still. Our action plan in this committee is to have a coordinated effort.

Karen: I have 2-4PM for the previous plan. Do we think it should be longer?

Tim: I think 10AM-2PM

Karen: This is over mealtime, which is okay. People think and work better when they are fed and have their coffee, tea, or beverage of choice. Should it be a working lunch?

Tim: Let's have it be a break for the people on Zoom, let's have 15 minutes or so at the beginning overlapping to allow socializing and networking. I'm sure EDD would be a part of it. By the end of 2023 we could have a game plan of the service we have and what we will do moving forward.

Karen: Are we running the meeting or is the borough?

Tim: I think we need to offer our services. It will take us all coming together.

Kathy: We could look at someone coming in and facilitating the meeting. There are several people in town or Denali/someone at DDA could take the lift off the team.

When Denali and Kathy meet on 1/16 they will discuss, and Jack will send a cost estimate.

Tim: I will be talking to Mike at the borough as well as Marnie at the Challenger Center. Getting people involved as early as possible could give them opportunities to affect the day's agenda, be sure they can attend.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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We will thoughtfully ensure invites get to everyone needed – some may even take opportunity to speak.

Karen: OK, so we have March 23rd from 10AM-2PM, 12PM 30 minute lunch provided in person.

During next 3 months afterward, we'll consider what's happening now, look at the systems we are involved with in our spheres and then at the next quarterly we will check in again with greater clarity and deeper understanding of what's needed and the barriers.

We'll have Twyla bring the physical map of the peninsula's transportation for the first meeting as a visual aid, providers can use it to add information about routes. This will be turned digital for later use.

Tim: We need to come up with a name – the real transportation look for the peninsula.

Meeting of the board of KPHC – Board includes Leslie, Frances, Karen, Kathy, Tim, Abigail – will try for MONDAY 1/16 at 3PM (Jack will send Zoom). Denali and Kathy meet 1/6 – hope to provide cost proposal that day or soon after.

Meeting closed 1:24PM

5.22.23

Follow up meeting in June?

CoC 6/14/23 at 12:30

Insider perspective of drivers was eye opening – invested in helping people get to where they need to go

AK Cab possibly? One driver had an accident and him being off the road affected 1000s of riders.

Going to have 1 or two connections but we will have exchange hubs.

Concern about cutting vital services if a private entity took it on

1-5PM for Town Hall

We have a population too young to drive, a population who is old enough but can't afford it, and a population that is adult but won't ever be able to drive.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Encouraging committee members to go attend the Town Hall representing KPHC and being a bridge between entities.

Karen: I think that may be a big task of ours- that at least one of us can make it to planning, lookout meetings so there is a common voice.

Winter: Encourage pairs, it's easier to go as pairs than as a standalone person.

7.25.23 12PM

Maggie Winston
Kathy Gensel
Karen Martin Tichenor
Greg Meyer

Karen: Breaking news – Kenaitze set sites of service for transportation. Had meeting several weeks ago putting that to the community. Did not have a route to put in front of the group at that time. It was same information as before: it's coming but it's not fixed yet. It is up and running, we see the shuttle but no idea what route or schedule is. That's frustrating, I expressed that. Our indigenous communities are in action mode. Ninilchik has BUMPS and is up and running, wants to expand services. Kenaitze working hard for at least one fixed route but ideally for a second, funding willing. Greg has offered the food bank as a park and ride. Soldotna United Methodist would be a good site – I'm no longer pastor there. Safeway as well.

Kathy: Are they accepting public comments?

Karen: There was supposed to be a survey but haven't seen it yet.

Greg: They accepted verbal feedback and took lots of notes at the chamber meeting, that was hopeful.

Karen: Seeing K-beach dropped off was sad to see.

Maggie: Have we reached out and invited someone at Kenaitze to join this group? If not, let's do that. Or ask someone for an update by next month.

Karen: When an agency, community, entity has a meeting called, like Change 4 Kenai did Town Hall – We'd like to know about them so that we can keep communication lines open and coordinate efforts. I found myself acting as representative updating and informing. In the interest of working together and not in siloes.

Maggie: We have a transportation person on our staff now, he is in Homer. Disability focus since it's the ILC. I should invite him to this group.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Karen: Has Kenaitze contacted you at all about using the food bank as a stop?

Greg: No communication, no. I would love to see it happen though. We could feed a lot of people.

Kathy: Could we do it grassroots-style and just build the bus stop that they can use?

Karen: I think there's a concern about non-indigenous people and groups taking over the project. We want to back up Kenaitze on this project, and having a conversation with staff about how we can support. Communication about what we can do to support could appeal.

Greg: Not that they haven't had uncomfortable conversations, but we have had a lot of uncomfortable conversations with CARTS. I know there's a change in the board which has maybe changed the outlook. I hope it can be more positive/productive. There's a lot of nonstop frustration expressed. Things needed to be said, but now that we know, how do we make that change. For our MAST workers, it's taking half of what they're making, so they're disincentivized to come to the food bank. We have a spot where, when it's cold, people wait there. We have some cleaning to do.

Karen: We're talking about a location that Kenaitze isn't considering.

Greg: It sounds like they haven't made that decision and they have some reason to be on the Spur.

Karen: Perhaps a big loop.

Greg: We already work together moving supplies, maybe we can expand that. I'm pretty confident if we can make transportation more accessible, we can get people more food.

Karen: And get people to services like at ILC. And, to a job because they can count on transportation. Doctor's appointments, etc. Steady, affordable transportation.

Greg: We are looking at having more of us in one building or area. As we grow – the food bank is at its capacity. We have to encourage people to clear tables to make room for others, as we're serving over 100 people a day. Consolidating some services means needing less transportation in the first place.

Karen: Borough is no closer to getting coordinator?

Kathy: Maybe Jack can find out if a contractor would work – if they would accept a contractor. The borough is not legally allowed housing authority.

Greg: Is there any downside to Jack trying to get that question answered?



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Kathy: Brenda Ahlberg is back doing grant stuff as well as emergency management. Perhaps she would know or should be involved.

Greg: During our emergency mgmt. mtgs, using buses to move people when needed. It's not a stretch.

Karen: Not a stretch for any entity since transportation affects so much.

Leslie Rohr's latest report on the shelter indicates they are using the van a great deal, getting clients to appointments and the job center. Talking to clients that have stayed there is that there isn't transportation. Not sure where the disconnect is.

Greg: There is often not staff to drive the van – it definitely is always there. They're very good about appointments, certainly it's not on-demand.

Karen: Might be years before we can convince a company to take over that system.

Brandi Bell is the elders and transportation manager, 907-335-7280

Greg: I know on the map in March, there was a lot "there" that I didn't expect or wasn't aware of. Getting the word out on what is happening now

Maggie: Who would compile that and put it together?

Greg: We have some talented staff who can help with that.

Karen: Do we have pictures of the map? Completed?

Jack: Yes – I will locate and send out.

Greg: This would be a good time to update our hours and locations of referrals.

Maggie: Remember, we have a transportation program, for folks with disabilities. However, that is a self-disclosed disability, across the lifespan, and across all our offices.

Greg: Is there a cost to the rider?

Maggie: Yes, it makes a \$15 cab ride \$5. It works best for people who live in Soldotna and need to go to Safeway. We have a program no one is using yet. If you know seniors that live way out – the driver gets 50 cents on the mile to get the senior where they need to go. You need to keep a register of all your miles.

Greg: Kasilof is one of those areas that's really tough.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Karen: Based on these updates – if we take that list, it might take phone calls, but getting down a brief description of what their particular agency, clinic, etc. is already providing.

Jack: service area, who is eligible, cost to the individual.

Greg: If you can funnel that information our way, I will volunteer us to put that together.

Karen: This is making me think that we didn't necessarily intend to call out entities/providers

Greg: Could use a regular meeting where all nonprofits get together and share what they're doing.

Maggie: There are the interagency meetings.

Greg: Our monthly directors' meeting has picked up as well.

Jack: If this is a living document, it could be a google doc? Could put out public facing copy quarterly?

Karen: To each here, do service provisions change much in a quarter? [all agree – not really]

Jack: So maybe, while we might still learn about new/existing services and add to list, we don't expect the services themselves to change frequently.

Kathy and Jack to send map and provider info to Greg, Jack to strategize coordination between KPHC/AMHTA/potentially the borough.

Next meeting: **August 22 at 12PM**

August 22, 2023 at 12PM

Present:

Bradley Parsons

Brent Hibbert

Grey Meyer

Jennifer Beckmann

Jillian Chapman

Jodi Stewart

Karen Martin-Tichenor (excused)

Kathy Gensel

Kathy Romain

Maggie Winston

Tim Navarre



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Tonya Gillies Silk

Maggie: Joyanna announced the Intent for human services award which funds 3 voucher programs, required prioritization meeting on October 5th at 4PM, Brenda Ahlberg in grants / emergency funding position.

Tim: The yearly meeting coming is up, borough needs to come up with a resolution. Joyanna stepped up lately.

Tim: Jack will you share a bit about the looking for grants you are doing for the Coalition?

Jack: Gladly. We have added grant research to our scope of work for KPHC, which means I'm looking for funding opportunities that might be of interest. We have a small pot of hours to work with. We can also help write applications for grant funding, and we can make a pitch for the Trust to fund grant writing for projects that will serve Trust beneficiaries.

There are a few opportunities we are looking into to start. "Marathon" funding can be used for operations. Leslie Rohr has applied for this. Trust Partnership grant may be a good fit to try to match the Rasmusen funding awarded toward the sprinkler system upgrades coming soon at Nikiski Shelter of Hope.

Karen Martin-Tichenor shared a funding opportunity with Jack. Here is a blurb with links:

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) has released a joint [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program](#)

This transportation grant will require partnerships with certain program options. Seward and Kenaitze mentioned.

Jillian has grant contract experience from Sealife Center, including interagency applications.

Frances: Partnership would show commitment across sectors and that Seward is really "part of the puzzle". Transportation options limit people's care options, in that there are buses to Anchorage and not to central Peninsula. People are having to go to Anchorage for essential services, drastically increasing the cost of care because of the need to pay for lodgings, and escort services.

Jodi: I'm confused, and I'm looking at the grant information shared. It's great that we want to go for funding as a group. I have not heard a project for the money to go to, other than nebulous ideas.

Jillian: Planning budget and scope could be the stage we are at – perhaps we find it is a fit.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Tim: I think it's clear, that we want this funding to assist the Kenaitze or Ninilchik with their transportation projects already underway. With more funding they could have more routes. They only have the one route now. Want to learn if this funding can be used that way? Kenai Peninsula Foundation funded the first get-together and we heard about the Kenaitze project.

Jodi: I have also been a part of grant applications and it's important that the applicant makes a very specific ask. I participated in the meeting / strategic planning meeting, which was more awareness, information sharing. What I'm hearing today is nebulous and without direction. I'm not sure if we are ready for Jack to help determine if this is a fit.

Brad: I might have a specific project. We have been working to get a needs assessment completed for Ninilchik – South. We need a consultant, to improve BUMPS. As folks are moving further away we need to form and strengthen in-town connections.

Tim: We don't want to do nothing. Going after planning grants may be a good fit. If we find we are not ready, or we are not awarded, we would be more ready for this funding next year.

It seems like the best use of funds if Ninilchik and Kenaitze only need extra funding, they already have a plan. Let's support the Kenaitze model forward.

Jodi: I would like us to have Kenaitze at the table to move forward if that's the case.

Tim: They are involved and ready, just not here today. I don't want to lose out on these funds.

Kathy Romain: What is our vision? This is a short turnaround of just over 1 month. Planning is needed, identifying areas: South Peninsula, Seward, Central Peninsula. Does this group need to move toward a planning group?

Tim: Planning grants bring folks together. The KP transportation working group in March will meet again, we are seeking ideas for growth and might not have an entity to carry each issue forward. If Kenaitze and Ninilchik could get extra funding, that would be good.

Jodi: What does Jack / DDA team need?

Jack: In order to proceed with the go/no-go conversation, we'll need to have a clear applicant who can assess if they have a project they want to pursue with this funding.

Kathy Gensel: We don't want to do nothing. If the grant is for planning, perhaps we can hire someone part time.

Jodi: I support gathering information and bringing it back to the group to determine how to proceed. What is required of the grant, including match. A larger group with money in place to do things makes more sense than deciding here in committee.



Priority Area Action Plan – Transportation

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Tim: I'd like us to partner with the Kenaitze.

Bradley: Tim, let's have a sidebar with Joyanna about this. From Ninilchik to Homer we need a professional engineering consultant to look at expanding BUMPS, a regional shuttle and an intown loop. That professional would provide a report with recommendations – would need to fund the report but then the report would make the case justifying further funding. The climate analysis part might be the key. The spit is 5 miles out and back, and parking has been an issue for years.

Jodi: The "Neighborhood Access and Equity" option has a line mentioning "flood-prone infrastructure planning" and I know there has been a particular issue with the rock base impacting flood prone transportation at the spit. The evidence is there.

Bradley: The city of Homer is very interested in flood proofing/management.

Tim: With transportation endeavors, we are intending to serve a wide range of the population, not just those experiencing homelessness.

Scheduled next meeting for September 26 at 12PM.

Closed at 1PM.

9/26/23 12PM

Kathy Gensel
Maggie Winston
Leslie Rohr
Tim Navarre
Bradley Parsons
Jodi Stuart

Jack: We don't have Karen today, and one update would be that KPHC chose not to pursue the DOT funding we discussed last meeting, given the time frame and size of project.

Kathy: Homer was in middle of needs assessment, so we were looking for data from that to possibly add to BUMPS program or Kenaitze to include Homer. Jillian from Seward mentioned she could also help get info together.

Bradley: Our working group finished our 1st draft of the transportation needs assessment; we are getting it finalized. Formally known as the Southern Kenai Peninsula Transit Coalition, the working group met on Aug 28 to discuss possibly pursuing the DOT funding Jack mentioned. We can share preliminary results on the needs assessment. The community is torn about what kind



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of transit should happen – 3 at once which would be a lot to put together for that grant in the short turnaround. I can share more about the needs assessment if there is interest?

Kathy: Yes, please!

Bradley: The ILC this summer got a grant of \$10K from the [American Public Transportation Association](#) (APTA). ILC was the grant recipient and administered the project with considerable help from the Alaska Mobility Coalition. This funding was only available to community advocacy organizations – a grassroots effort as cities and states could not apply. We interviewed 30 stakeholders in community, interviews were conducted in-person, by phone, and through written correspondence (when they requested that format).

Here is the community stakeholder list from this effort:

- Homer Public Library
- Homer Food Pantry
- Seldovia Village Tribe
- East End Cottages
- Hospice of Homer
- South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services
- City of Homer Port and Harbor
- Land's End Resort
- Anchor Point Senior Center
- Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic's The REC Room
- SMLS Restaurants Inc dba Kenai Peninsula McDonalds
- Save-U-More
- South Peninsula Athletic and Recreational Committee (SPARC)
- Homer Aspen Suites Hotel
- Anchor Point Food Pantry
- City of Homer City Manager
- Homer Flex High School
- Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
- Kenai Peninsula Housing Initiative
- City of Homer Economic Development Director
- City of Homer Public Works
- City of Homer Planning Commission Member
- Finn's Pizza - Homer Spit Boardwalk
- KOA Campground and former Homer Trolley
- Safeway
- Local small business and small manufacturer owner: E Bikes and Restaurant Products
- Small Business Owner and Economic Development Commission Member
- South Peninsula Hospital
- Land's End Acquisition Corporation
- South Peninsula Hospital Home Health

We also finalized more surveys you might remember from KPEDD – We gathered 40 more surveys, pretty big outreach. Going in we thought, let's just put a fixed route in. But folks said, it's too sprawled. People would want door to door or on demand. Would have to travel many



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miles. Overall, this outreach work pointed to details about what is needed – Housing and transportation came up all the time, as twin needs.

Jodi: The door-to-door service might be coming to mind because of CARTS – feel free to use data and resources on the CARTS website freely – it's public knowledge. CARTS has been doing door to door that works for 30 years. Would love to share how it has worked, what is sustainable. We've had a lot of changes – left Homer because it was not sustainable. We then had to stop weekend services, confining processes because we didn't have funding to do more. If you are looking for answers as to what is possible, I hope we can collaborate.

Bradley: WE have a list of 6-7 transit models, it's next on our list to do outreach and investigation into what worked, what entities would do differently.

Jan Kaiser is retiring and will come back to homer and get involved in transportation. Her background is in building the Seattle metro system. Fixed route may not work but coordinating between several options makes sense.

Jodi: Maggie's on the board too, so you have our broad support if you'd like it.

Tim: Kenaitze survey was open last time, I got some folks to take it who might be using it. It was designed by rider rather than by entity.

Jodi: Seen and heard nothing from Kenaitze.

Leslie: I believe they are collecting data still. A few weeks before we have data on their plan.

Bradley: This is why we pursued community outreach. To focus more on the major transit-potential businesses and organizations, and what do they need. Ridership surveys encourage a one-size system that meets all the needs. Once you start interviewing entities, it's different. Hospital wants to have a shuttle to meet daily trip need that is tailored daily. It becomes really complex.

Jodi: To support what you said, when we did our recent plan before COVID. Our facilitators provided distances from comparable communities. Had community members making their routes. Contractor provided exercises. So spread that a fixed route is so foreign in concept to get to accessibility. IF we focus on accessibility – CARTS model is best for that because of door-to-door. There are all sorts of examples where there are gaps. We can't do what one person or entity thinks will work, but a combination of things. Agencies picking up slack, like the hospital shuttle idea.

Bradley: Head of public works at city, and city manager. Homer has 130 employees, and many are moving out of town like Anchor point – a barrier to employment with housing limited and transit nonexistent. Vanpooling was one idea. City would own the vans and have a driver who would pick up folks and drop off. A 30-mile loop really just doesn't make sense.



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Tim: Not opposed to Homer-Ninilchik system to get folks to other services in central area – does that sound viable still?

Bradley: I think that's still our top priority – expanding BUMPS, getting 2 trips out to Homer and staying in town for a bit. Having a seasonal trip out to the spit would be an economic driver but doesn't help transit. Another idea that came up is accessible vans that would have on-demand service. There's only one accessible cab in Homer so there is a real need there.

Bradley: Joyanna wants us to announce that the ILC will take part in prioritization meeting for HS grant, requirement from DOT where grants will go. October 19th at 4PM over Zoom, hosted by KPB. Tim, could you elaborate on the prioritization meeting for those who may not know?

Tim: It's a yearly meeting that is required for funding recipients. ILC used to host, now borough has had it for about 7 years. Important for everyone that utilizes or needs services to find out what grants are, being awarded, or being asked for. We didn't get full funding in the past but got fully funded for vouchers for seniors and people with disabilities. Great way to get information and connect.

Kathy: January 30 PHC – January 29th is the Point In Time count night. Seward and Homer will likely be on the same day – TBD. Notices for meetings coming soon.

Next meeting: October 24th at 12PM

10/24/23

Bradley Parsons
Jodi Stuart
Joyanna Geisler
Karen Martin Tichenor
Kathy Gensel
Kathy Romain

How many made it to last Thursday's meeting at the Borough?

Kathy Romain got to attend

Joyanna: It was a prioritization meeting required by grantees of DOT. Not well attended, 7-8 folks. ILC was the only with projects. DOT requires those projects to be prioritized. No other entities were applying for human services grants. Homer was number 1 and Seward was #2. Central pen was 3rd priority

Other business: Tim Navarre was there, Brenda Ahlberg is lead and facilitated the meeting. Talked about trying to consolidate various transportation meetings. Could still be



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subcommittees for various entities or regions if needed. Have similar goals, audiences in different regions.

On prioritization, what has to happen is recommended priorities go to borough for resolution. Brenda is taking care of that. For human services grants, there has to be 5-year coordinated transportation plan. This is the last year for the current plan. Suggested a subcommittee for that, she will take care of invites for that and many of us could get to work on that.

Tim brought up another issue asking for borough resolution to go to DOT to make 5311 (public transit funds) and other rural transit funds competitive. At this point they have been locked into 11 different public transit providers in the state. Tim and I will work on that language, talked with Patrick Reinhardt (SP) about that resolution.

Bradley: Meeting last spring – trying to do that on a semi regular basis, as a way to consolidate some of these groups that are splintered and not necessarily integrated. Last spring's event was a success including the hybrid format. This could be a model for future meetings.

Joyanna: Yes, it was sponsored by KPF, unusual but well attended.

Karen: An active well functioning transportation system will be a cooperation of many different entities with perhaps some change points or hubs to make the full trip. There's a good case example of a person in Kenai who got a job in Soldotna. He was OK during the week but on the weekend CARTs does not run. Had good employment but the gap on weekends has been troublesome.

In term of moving forward toward a transportation system, this last Thursday was prioritization. These grants are complex to apply for. Our voucher programs work similarly, for people with disabilities. Operated on central pen since 1997, always worked with AK Cab there. Depends on community in terms of how much voucher costs, limit of number per month, and how much reimbursement for cab driver. Depends in each area. Central pen was #3 because of the existence of more options for transportation there.

Bradley: Would it be accurate to say previous meetings like this, that requested buses or other equipment? This one was unique because there was no competition.

Two years ago request for vehicle. Usually it is ILC that goes forward with projects because the application process is onerous. It's easy to get a vehicle, but it's the operations that are a little more difficult. Last year we had 3 for purchase of services, 4 replacement vehicles, and a couple other purchase of service projects including Muni of Anchorage. That information is on DOT website, under Transit, Human Services grants. You can see past awards.

Karen: Where are we at for naming base need? We saw Ninilchik and Kenaitze looking for information on transit, seeing entities offer their location for bus stops or hubs. Had anyone



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heard of whether it is Kenai or anyone else, creating a route that includes some of those sites who have volunteered.

Bradley: I talked about some of the Homer needs assessment in the last couple meetings. One thing identified is that yes we need a fixed route, but also within communities we need an on-demand door-to-door system. Also possibly expanding BUMPS and having some kind of circuit in Homer, more frequency. City of Homer is interested in supporting this but does not want to run it.

Karen: Ideally the borough would hire a coordinator to set up one hub and centralize information. Kathy Gensel, correct me if I am wrong but there have been appeals for funding such a person but there has been no answer or minimal answer.

Kathy: The borough has said they are not able to stand up a coordinator. Not sure if we have asked specifically about a transportation coordinator. Borough does not have housing powers. If that made the difference

Jodi: Our borough has remained steadfast that it is second-class borough and that means it does not have any human services power.

Joyanna: Most boroughs at least pitch in some money, and that has happened in the past with CARTs but that money was rescinded. Bradley, perhaps you and I can do some statewide

Jodi: Juneau provides significant resources, and so does Mat-Su. As far as what Karen is asking, that level of coordination, oversight by direct governmental entity that says transportation matters – boroughs aren't' really doing that.

Karen: So we are looking for the funding to hire a coordinator between these entities among us

Joyanna: funding and partnerships. Nonprofits, tribes, boroughs and local governments to put our heads together. There is millions of public transit planning dollars that could be coming down the pipe from DOT that might help offset some costs.

Everyone has to put their money where their mouth is. It's each entity's role, we need to put it all together to figure this out. If we had some type of planner who knew the peninsula and what the needs are. There have been plans put out with high ticket prices that, would work but the lack of investment with resources have meant they fall flat. We all have to have some skin in the game to make it work.

Kathy: Pat Branson in Kodiak might be a helpful person to talk to. They used the senior center for transit, but funded it through the state. Someone there as a nonprofit perhaps knows more about how the Kodiak Area Transit System. It's for the general public.



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Joyanna: The positive about KATS is that it is financially efficiently run. However it has limitations similar to CARTS like location bounds. Can't go to airport, times are limited. We have an office in Kodiak and have voucher program there. The loop can take an hour for a 10-15 minute drive. There needs to be some fill-in for the gaps. In Central Pen, Kenaitze and BUMPS and CARTS are doing their own thing but ideally there could be some coordination. Need someone whose job it is. Perhaps can't please everyone at once.

Jodi: We have to do a little of everything to ensure service to everyone as much as possible. No end-all answer but many small solutions. There's still the issue of, how to get to the stop. CARTS has sought partnership with Kenaitze and how we can be involved, but have not heard yet. Para-transit, where multiple modes fit together, is I think where we are headed. It requires thorough knowledge of the area and modes. We don't know what's next in Kenaitze's plans.

We at CARTS are unhappy about not being able to provide weekend service. Funding is an issue; transportation is not cheap to provide.

Kathy Romain: I asked Brandi Bell at Kenaitze who came to our senior center. Would it be helpful for us to have her come and talk? They plan to start at the new year, they have survey results. At some point Tim brought up supporting further funding what Kenaitze is already doing.

State NTS director is having a Zoom meeting to title III and title VI collaboration to support Alaskan elders.

Bradley: For possible models, if we want a peninsula wide coordinator - KPED is non-gov entity that would be governmental in nature with more funding. It seems like a similar group like that might be a good entity to run this.

Karen: Can't wait for the borough – the interest may be there but the focus/leadership is not. Do we know of any planners in this region, that if we came up with an outline for what it would take, they could tell us the cost.

Maggie: Advocacy-wise as a group it would help us to know how much it will cost. We can develop a scope of work and line out what is needed. Getting advocacy around that will be really important.

Kathy: EDD is a good place to start. They may be in transition, it could be a good time to go back and talk with them about this.

Joyanna: it's the 3-legged stool of housing, childcare, and transportation

Bradley: EDD has done a couple presentations using this metaphor/concept.



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Maggie: Joyanna and Bradley, as you look into other boroughs, it would be nice to know what kind of barriers and workarounds they found.

Bradley: Jodi Stuart has a lot of knowledge as well.

Jodi: I would be glad to help. I feel we are a little lost in the weeds without knowing the direction. Everyone wants their overarching theme, their piece of the pie. Trying to determine what an overall group would do without the biases. This group is unhoused/housing focused. I have some concerns about the biases that come from each entity. If we really want to help every individual regardless of what group they fit into (disabled, houseless, elders)

Karen: How we started was as a committee of the KPHC, getting folks who are houseless to their appointments and jobs, etc. When we met last spring it became clear that we could not limit to one group. I heard from the agencies represented that we all matter and we need to hear we matter. It needs to show in the system for transportation. It was a bigger task than any of us were willing to take on so I think that is a part of the floundering we have seen. Tim and many of you have transportation connections and expertise, I do not have that expertise. What is the next step? Joyanna and Bradley, if you want to look into what other boroughs are doing, that is great. Could we also get a 1-2 people or a small group who can put together a job description or collection of needs. That will help us meet the needs.

Maggie: The way my brain things about wicked problems like this, the 3-legged stool. Thinking of it as removing barriers. Less of, helping every person, but what are the barriers to making some solutions happen. Focusing and narrowing there.

Joyanna: Approaching KPEDD initially might give us one tool in our belt. Talking to Tim or Cassidy sounds helpful.

Next meeting: December 5th at 12PM

12/5/2023 at 12PM

Karen Martin-Tichenor - Former pastor, current committee leader

Brad Parsons - ILC - Southern Peninsula transportation coalition

Joyanna Geisler ILC out of Homer, operate 3 voucher programs - writing those grants now

Tim - part of coalition, vice chair of this committee, chair of KP Foundation which supported the March transportation meeting

Brandi Bell - Kenaitze elders & transportation coordinator. We are identifying needs.

Jodi Stuart - Kenai adult probation, then outside of PO work CARTS board president

Greg Meyer at Food Bank. Multiple calls a day about how to get to the food bank. Willing to be a bus stop, be open on Saturdays.

Tonya Silk, manages NSH under LoveINC



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Karen: If there is another person who would like to lead this group, perhaps someone who is well-connected in the transportation world - I would gladly step aside in hopes of meeting our shared goals. One of those main goals being seeking funding for coordinating individual, for a system that is borough wide that empowers as many individuals as possible. March 2023 event showed clearly that we cannot limit this to folks who are homeless. It affects everybody.

Brandi, thank you for being here. Did the Kenaitze route get finalized?

Brandi: No, we took comments from our meeting last week, continuing to accept input until Dec 14th. Proposed route maps are listed on website, and a comment box is there. Working with FTA diligently, to adhere to regulations.

Kathy: Tim and I attended, not sure if others did via Zoom. Great to see a map and consider what needs to go where. R&M Consultants were very receptive and did a good job. One question I had asked was, if there is a group that wants to be a stop, what will be needed for that? Churches, etc. Hopefully they'll take that info and get that out to folks. Are covered area needed? Bathroom access? Just in and out bus access?

Brandi: Yes, in and out is the main thing, in any stop all passengers need to be able to embark and disembark safely.

Tim: \$ that Kenaitze is putting into fixed route is going to collect a lot of data that all can use. We'll have something. It may not cover all areas. It might help senior centers and churches to be a conduit for central drop locations. Just like our homeless shelter out north, there will only be a certain pick up spot. There will be a small fee associated with the ride but it does give some avenues between Kenai and Soldotna. If coordination with Ninilchik, can go further. Takes more money and labor for additional routes. If we can get Sterling folks in town they can access more transit.

Joyanna: We are a referral source for BUMPS, they are in the plans. Brandi perhaps you are connecting with BUMPS as well.

Link to Kenaitze Indian Tribe webpage: <https://www.kenaitze.org/tribe-seeks-kahtnu-area-transit-project-feedback> that has space to provide input.

Brad: When we were working toward needs assessment, we stopped in at stakeholder entities and spent 30 minutes listening to what is needed. It might be good to select 10 stakeholders to reach out to.

Brandi: Thank you. Regarding BUMPS We are working to see how we can help make their lines more robust, or faster, or if we can meet in the middle to connect riders between systems. Some talk with Darrel but it is time for us to get some hard information in the books.

Tim: Do you have a start date approximately? Next summer?



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Brandi: We hope to be launched well before then, but it's really hard to give an estimate. The buses are a big deal, regulations from FTA, and paratransit is a part of that.

Brad: Perhaps the start date will be extended?

Brandi: We need to ensure we are ADA compliant. We discovered there is a 3/4 mile bubble requirement, as the crow flies. We have to be able to travel to people outside of this bubble to accommodate paratransit riders, so we are considering a shuttle bus or deviation plan. We have to ensure our paratransit passengers are able to get to the stop and meet the bus at the same time as other riders who don't rely on shuttle.

Joyanna: Seward has started a free in-town shuttle. Had one in summer being extended through April. Flyer lays it out nicely - partnership between the Seward Community Health Center and Seward City Tours.

Tim: Do they do GPS or have an app for tracking? [Not sure]

Karen: Brandi, regarding Kahtnu Area Transit, how can we help connect or partner?

Brandi: Understanding your community's needs helps - you can reach out after the input box closes and I will pass along input.

Tim: Perhaps we should join this group with the larger group, and meet quarterly.

Karen: That's a great idea. A larger identifiable body. Something I have seen representing KPHC is ignorance of the group and its work. Some kind of info blurb posted in a newsletter.

Kathy: We also need to fold ourselves into the 100% Alaska work. I passed along Brandi Bell's contact to 100% Community's transportation committee.

Karen: Tim you had mentioned another event - do we need to identify a date and time, and have that be the kickoff for the new group?

Tim: If no objection, when we schedule KPHC, we can send out a notice. The meeting I'm talking about redoing near 1st of year or maybe around same time. KPF will have funds to support this.

Karen, I like the idea of all these groups meeting all at once - CARTS, Kenaitze, BUMPS, KPHC, etc. If nothing else all will be in the know. Eventually coordinator for transportation could tie all that work together. We are molding into a bigger group and we need to start a monthly meeting. This will help our legislative and statewide delegates. City and borough participated last time - We can grow and change.

Transportation meeting every month - have an agenda, can keep ourselves on time putting people on the agenda by request for i.e. 5mins. Then in April get everyone together for face to face meeting.



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Joyanna: Has anyone reached out to KPEDD? They are another overarching entity for the borough.

Kathy: I've talked to Tim there, he's retiring. Whether they would oversee I don't know.

Joyanna: They've been involved in the Southern Peninsula Transportation Coalition.

Brad: KPEDD was very keen 6months ago, they ran that survey.

These various groups are all meeting, so we need to have representatives to equally come together to plan the peninsula-wide coalition. what to look like. Hesitant to have one group just turn into another an manage that.

Karen: Good idea, there can be competition even when that's not the intention.

Tim: There's no ownership in ours. We want to learn what others are doing and include everyone. Want to put \$ currently spending on committee to bring everyone together, that is a plus.

I spoke with Tim Dillon on transportation issues recently, but everyone needs to come to the table with no ownership. To solve problems that are unique as well as those that affect everyone.

Perhaps choose co-chairs by location. We can get it hosted and funded. EDD does get involved. When communities need help they jump in, but they don't tend to take the lead.

Process email to go out describing holding goal of successful transportation for community members, looking at coming together in April. Hoping for all entities and communities represented.

Tim: getting people to be involved in larger group and help set up. It's an introductory meeting. We'll want cohosts from other regions in the borough.

Next new mtg: February 6 at 12PM - 1:30PM

February 6, 2024

Present:

**Alecia Gottlob
Bradley Parsons
Greg Meyer
Jessie Schultz**

**Jodi Stuart
Karen Martin Tichenor
Kathy Gensel
Tim Navarre**



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Jack Darling - Zoom support and notes

Tim: CARTS is making a lot of changes not everyone is comfortable with.

Jodi: I can clarify there has been one large change, in leadership.

Tim: CARTS is going for changes, with zero community support for what they were moving forward with.

Jodi: Respectfully, you are jumping the boat. CARTS is looking to make more changes but we are not ready to make them yet. There has been a lot of fallout and it is a process.

Karen: Regarding the Gaps and Solutions event, April may be better this time around. Between seasons, more free time. Would two months be long enough lead time?

[Yesses]

Tim: We can apply for a state grant to facilitate or help facilitate the is meeting. There should be money with getting everyone together and keeping them on the same page.

Karen: How long would that take?

Tim: The legislature could do it, may be funds through DOT coordination. I am hoping to see great opportunities to coordinate or facilitate transportation needs on the peninsula aligning with goals. There has been funding awarded for different studies to keep funding coming. I will call a few people and see. Potentially could come up with the same funding from KPHC or Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Community Foundation to facilitate next meeting.

Jodi: A meeting in April sounds doable, again we at CARTS just made massive change. Jessie is moving up as acting executive director as of December. CARTS as an organization changed directors and Jessie is a current staff member and is finalizing contracts. This group needs to understand that CARTS is in process of getting house in order, so can't take on new responsibility.

There is an election coming up for our board of directors, we will know more after that with potentially new leadership. CARTS is transparent with me as president but that could change. Anyone can put their name in the hat for any position on the board. April will allow us to share about positions but CARTS would not be able to take on coordination. We are in the process but can't expect miracles so don't want to raise false hopes or overpromise. This has gotten CARTS in trouble in past. We have to fix CARTS before CARTS can help fix transportation. On February 22 we have a posted public meeting.



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Greg: How involved has folks been in 100% Alaska? I have been sitting on these meetings as relevant. What I like about what is relevant is we are pulling everyone who is doing food together. Try not to create new siloes.

Jodi: I am recently taking reigns for Alecia for 100%, and that work, We have missed each other but we will be talking about how to pick up where she is leaving off. Can't confirm if 100% will be separate meeting. Unclear if good plan will be in place by April

Karen: I'm hearing not April, is there another time in mind?

Jodi: I have had some family health issues and I can't promise how involved I can be. CARTS will be proceeding with or without me.

Tim: I think we should stick with April and hopefully have announcements that other things are transpiring. One downside has been waiting and missing opportunities. We have momentum. Even if it is a once-a-year update. Host by KP foundation and Bridges, will facilitate funding however we find it. DDA and Jack help coordinate.

Brad: Last year's event what a springboard to get me involved. We try to re-do that including both Zoom and in person, and how well those were managed. When it comes to hos we move forward with discussions. Half the people here now were also there. So how to bring together

Karen: May be a different name of group that is in good conversation with each.

Jodi: It would be important to have presentation about 100% - it may be new to many people. Will have CARTS update by then - presentations on what they look like and gives options and time to lay foundation on how will proceed.

Tim: I's like to keep it called KP transportation gaps and solutions. We have tried through grants and others, but KPHC does not have an executive director, at least not a paid one. Board members are more active in performing duties as necessary to proceed. Who is managing it may change but can still call it Kenai Peninsula transportation gaps and solutions. Bringing people together, an entity that does have an executive director and responsibility to manage this event - that can be helpful in the future. Even if only 5 hours a month in non-Activity months. Have support of borough and city, keep focus the same. Who it falls under may not affect who gets involved. KPHC does not have ownership but want success so we are prodding entities and someone will take it on.

Karen: It sounds like the name will be the same as last year, will advertising be the same?

Tim: Yes, we will advertise the same as last year.

Karen: What we did last year was successful. People are paying attention to this need and trying to do something. It's for the whole community not just homeless folks. Jack, let's poll for dates.



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Brad: At the last big meeting, one thing that came up was to find a coordinator. Not just a dispatcher but a point person that coordinates these efforts and brings them together. I assumed this would be paid. That individual leads this group and is a conduit to make this work happen. Dedicated to year round, including potential spokesperson with borough and state level. Hard to start this sort of thing, serious barriers.

Kathy: Let's go for April, I do have report that was put out last time. We started at 10 and ended at 2PM. Agree with Brad that it would be great to have coordinator. Bridges is more than happy to host with KP Foundation

Alecia: What was kind of lacking was steps moving forward with ownership. Incorporating 100% concept will be good for laying groundwork and hope for movement on this.

Jessie: April does work, CARTS will be able to provide an update and commit. We are up in the air and busy with changes.

Tim: I will find out dates with Challenger Center - Dates will be April 15, 16, 17, 18

Similar outline to last year, 100%, CARTS, DOT, others.

Kathy: We should try to bring Seward.

Red Eye Rides - Seward to Anchorage, closest thing to public, I think it's like \$40

Jodi: Once you have the poll, we can get that on social media. Not just agencies but general ridership. If you can get that poll to us we can post it. This is a great way to start, how CARTS involvement.

Tim: got off the phone with Challenger, 15th or 16th are open there.

Jack to put out poll for dates for Gaps and Solutions event.

Adjourned at 1:05PM



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February 27th, 2024

Present:

Kathy Gensel

Secretary and treasurer of KPHC, director of Central Peninsula Health Foundation, and president of Bridges Community Resource Network.

Karen

Former pastor, glad to be a part of this movement for transportation for our area. It's not just for homelessness, any of us with car issue need for appt, to visit a friend. working to thread smaller efforts together.

Jodi Stuart

CARTS board of directors president and team lead for 100% AK transportation group. Hope to join groups together, have 100% efforts to share.

Sheila Garrant

Peninsula Reporting, Moving Forward

Dana Paperman

Seward Senior Center. I have been in

and out of meetings due to staffing shortages at the Senior Center.

Adam Garrant

Moving Forward, a coordinator hoping to cater directly to recovery community intentionally toward five or six sober houses – to support 55 clients. Have a small fleet of sedans, with intention to support accountability & employability of clients.

Alecia Gottlob

Counselor at Cook Inlet Counseling We have so many clients who have transportation as their biggest barrier to being successful. We need long term solutions not just one time grants.

Tim Navarre

President of KPHC and Kenai Peninsula Foundation.

Gaps and Solutions event date confirmed: April 16th 10AM-2PM Challenger center in Kenai.

Jodi Stuart with 100% Alaska

100% Alaska model is based on across the board needs and resources to meet them. Many needs fall onto the “surviving” list while many fall onto the “thriving” list. Transportation is on the “surviving” list. People need transportation to survive.

We put out a survey that asked respondents to rate accessibility. The results showed that transportation was accessible... yet we are surprised by this.

We hope to use the Gaps and Solutions event to bring all groups together. This is what all action teams are doing in every sub-topic in 100%.

Jodi has reached out to folks and found a lot out.

1 - BUMPS out of Ninilchik is only available Thursdays due to driver shortage. Smaller entities are literally providing transportation themselves (behind the wheel)

2. Red Eye Rides, out of Seward, is interested in expanding to this side of Peninsula. They are wanting to be a part of conversation.



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3. CARTS had to withdraw weekend service due to funding cuts (years ago). Hoping that will change.

4. We have entities that want to participate but can't because they're drivers.

5. We have some we haven't reached out to that are hoping to expand services. Folks see issues from their perspective and want to encourage and support smaller projects. Also want them to get the best bang for their buck.

Following event in spring, I think we can act more collaboratively.

Karen: How much have you pursued Alaska bus company? They go out to the airport.

Jodi: I have reached out but not seen a response yet. They are out of Homer.

Karen: I spoke with one of their bus drivers. If you were to go from Homer all the way to Ted Stevens in Anchorage. It would be \$125. Homer to Anchor Point would be a smaller chunk.

Jodi: CARTs and Red Eye are Medicaid approved so will be exploring that. I think there is a real possible connection with a few transportation providers. Perhaps not a large scale initially but small scale pilot program would be worth looking into

Adam: Q for Jodi - How far do services provide rides into Anchorage? To the airport? And into Homer?

Jodi: It goes to the middle of Homer with multiple stops they can make from Homer to Anchorage, Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Soldotna, Cooper Landing, Girdwood, Anchorage, ends at airport. Same with Red Eye, it stops in Moose Pass and Girdwood. The Medicaid portion for Red Eye Rides pays for cab from airport to hotel or appointment.

The Alaska Bus runs out of Homer and the Red Eye out of Seward.

Tim: Have they considered pulling in Soldotna?

Jodi: Still waiting to hear back about plans or desire to expand.

Tim: It seems like a reroute over expansion, and if successful brings in another 15K people.

Jodi: They're for profit so I can't speak to their business model.

Tim: Are they on an invite list for Gaps and Solutions?

Jodi: They should be.

Karen: People who run the company are drivers behind the wheel. Did you get the sense there are board members who they could send to be present?



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Jodi: Beth Hilts, she said she is driver rest of the week but Thursday is her day at the office.
Ninilchik tribal council

Karen: Perhaps find someone else who can present.

Jodi: We have to be super conscientious that they are small and providing the service - be thoughtful.

Jack: While not ideal - We can support them to make a recording and play that at the event.

Tim: Did borough pay for rental of challenger center? I think the borough will be more involved after the first one.

Karen: We do need their involvement, financially and getting the word out.

Tim: They can help make it successful

Jodi shared provider list:

Central Area Rural Transit System (CARTS), Ninilchik BUMPS, Kenai Senior Center, Nikiski Senior Center, Soldotna Senior Center, Kenaitze Transportation, Medicaid Travel, Alaska Cab, TNT Transportation, Alaska Bus Company, Kenai Public Assistance Office, Independent Living Center, Ninilchik Senior Center, KPBSD-First Student/Apple Bus, Seward City Tours, Resurrection Taxi, Red Eye Rides, Ryder Transport (currently non-compliant w/reporting) Heritage Place, Serenity House, Seaview, Mountain Haven, Avtec

Jack to send out invite/save-the-date by the end of the day Thursday.

Jack: Is there an email list for 100% Alaska? Jodi provided to Jack.

Tim: Did we invite DOT? Agreed to listen in. Dana at the borough. Also the person that handles 5310, 5311 funds. Brenda Ahlberg.

Kathy: Do the borough groups have a transportation subcommittee? Not yet.

Tim: Make sure city council members and assembly members have invites.

Last time we had presenting: KPEDD, BUMPS, Kenaitze, ILC, Alaska Cab, State DOT

Should we ask them all again?

Jodi: Yes, and add 100%, CARTS.

All can give updates, 100% especially.



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Give folks a time frame – 5 or 10 minutes, depending.

Next transportation committee / gaps and solutions planning meeting: March 22nd at 10AM

Adjourned 1:11PM