

August 1, 2019

State Solutions – Policy Action meeting

Cambridge City Hall

Present:

Tim Schmutzer, Miranda Janssen, Marcia Westover, Jeannette Kester, Ashley Eckdahl

Absent:

Karen Onan

-Miranda is leaving. Isaac Schultz will be her replacement in the interim. Following hiring someone will be in her place.

-Charitable reimbursement rate- city of Cambridge has written a letter of resolution. She will email it to either Karen or myself to keep on file. Unaware if anyone else has besides Genny Reynolds who have done the same.

-Miranda explained a bill is authored by Collin Peterson, then Stauber as a co-sponsor. Seeing support from conservative side, not much from left. Disbelief in funding. They have “bigger fish to fry” It is a standalone bill but will go in a larger bill. Unless there is a special session called it will not be a standalone bill. She suggests not mass mailing. It all goes to the same office and they get overwhelmed. Personal phone calls to representatives, letters that aren’t mass marketed. No more than 5 of the same. Petitions to show community support. Necessary of bipartisan support to get to standalone bill. Other things attached are a potential hold up for our bill. Currently bills not being looked at because they are consumed with candidacy at this point. Start now and continue doing our efforts, no such thing as a good time for them to receive it. Phone call is the suggested format. Develop a simplified list of talking points for those calling in. Not to be read verbatim, but to guide their conversation. All communication is logged. If we do use a letter, we need to use our list of supporters to make ourselves more seen. If just looking to effect Minnesota we need to go to state government.

-Link together this issue with the 1099 issue. They are currently two separate items. The 1099 is not a formed bill, but is in research. Reach out to Pete Stauber to push completion/introduction of bill. We need a lobbyist. Research into transportation lobby group. MTA was mentioned Minnesota Transportation Alliance...

-Jeff Bishop legislative coordinator will get requirements of making it a stand-alone bill. This is an unusual scenario. State wide relatively unseen. We need democratic support. We will likely be lumped in with other transportation issues which may hold us back. Phone calls and letter are first and foremost. Letters should go to all people even those already in support of it. Petitions should be a part of it. The ECRTCC members and their affiliations should be present. We need someone from the state in this group... a representative should be present. Even if federal support isn’t there state can. Collin Peterson would be a good one to ask for a rep. If county commissioners don’t want to write letters individually, they should do them as a letter of support together. We need political face to accompany our cause.

-Suggestions into what other states are paying as their charitable reimbursement rate. Map the rates potentially to show. Providers suggested as their own letter of support. Also find out what the providers are paying.

-5310 and 5311 class 300 and lower vehicles. The state will give money but there needs to give a community match.

-Speak to both the house and the senate. Pick a senator like Amy Klobuchar to be our lead. Start with her immediately. Even if it is an intern from her office, their presence would be advantageous in relaying our information. Karen or Bob? Ask at next ECRTCC meeting who else would have a personal contact. Sue Siemers?

-Are the tribes involved? Their support would prove beneficial for us. Mike Moilanen? It would look good for us if they were.

-Supply the letters to the different groups so all they need to do is sign. **Is this considered lobbying that is unacceptable. Sue? Also does that prevent us from having a lobbyist?**

-Keep the letter signers informed about progress and perhaps further contact with them for ongoing support.

-Make ourselves just the supporting agent if another entity will go to bat on our behalf.

-Internet is a risk that many counties aren't interested in because consecutive funding isn't guaranteed. It is being pursued by townships to make it more specific.

-Senator Mark Kuran Chisago, Isanti, etc. would be advantageous

-Ann New- North Branch, Matthews and Erickson out of Mille Lacs

-Reach outside our region? Jason Rarick

-Go to meeting? Virtual meetings instead of in person or as a fill in between. Webex?

-other members for our group- get commitment from elected officials to attend meetings. Ask for political contacts at 8/22 RTCC meeting.

-Follow up email with potential future meeting date.

-Make roles for each individual of the subcommittee.

-Local survey data necessary that reflects REAL NUMBERS. Individual testimonials from people impacted by going without transportation. Press release requesting people to come forward and attest to their issues.

-Encourage volunteers from the ECRTCC