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Welcome to the

Older Adult Mobility Summit

Part Two

March 7, 2025

About TEF

ORGANIZATION

- **Mission:** empower people by increasing access to transit options
- **Est. 2011** “Basic Transportation Needs Fund” with an allocation from CapMetro
- **Independent volunteer board**

PROGRAMS

- **Microgrants** (\$1,000) to meet short-term transit needs
- **Transit passes** for partner organizations are deeply discounted (approx. 80% reduction)
- **Demonstration** (\$50,000-\$75,000) and **planning** (\$25,000) **grants** to test innovative mobility solutions

Today's Gathering

PURPOSE

Identify potential projects participants want to work on together to address current challenges or opportunities for meeting senior mobility needs, specifically demonstration or planning projects that TEF can consider for funding.

OBJECTIVES

- **Exploring Innovations** – *Learn from other initiatives how they have overcome obstacles and innovated new solutions to stuck problems*
- **Generating Project Ideas** – *Co-create specific strategies to help organizations meet the mobility needs of older adults*
- **Action Planning** – *Refine approach to help move from ideas to actions*

Agenda

9:00 – 9:20	Welcome & Context-Setting
9:25 – 10:20	Exploring Innovations
10:20 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:25	Generating Project Ideas
11:25 – 11:50	Action Steps
11:50 – 12:00	Closing Reflections

Discussion Guidelines



Start and end on time



Stay present



Contribute ideas



Consider your words before speaking



Ask questions to gain greater understanding



Allow time for everyone to speak



Respect confidentiality and / or sensitive matters



Introductions

2024 Summit Highlights



Increased need and demand for services



More focus on fixed route rides/group rides versus individual rides



More strain on volunteer base



Increased use of rideshare or paid drivers

“Relevant to transportation services, how has Austin’s growing older adult population changed how you deliver your services?”

“Describe any current or future trends in senior transportation that make you feel optimistic.”

More awareness for seniors and their needs, especially with aging baby boomer population

Government, companies, and nonprofit orgs motivated to find solutions

Focus on social isolation as an issue area

Larger senior population in Austin

More work in rural areas

Potential for innovation

Increased tech savviness

“What are your top three barriers related to the transportation/mobility needs of seniors and connecting them with critical programs, services, and social opportunities?”

Need additional funding

Lack of volunteers

Awareness of services

Understaffed

Need for door-to-door services

Traffic

Lack of options in some areas (especially rural)

Technology barriers and issues with scheduling

Cost for users

Large service areas

Connection to wrap around services

Fleet coordination

Safety concerns

Wait lists

Need more accessible parking spaces



Greater awareness so seniors know how to access services, and so others know about the needs



System coordination so a person makes one call for a ride.



Coordination and collaboration with service providers; Improved connection within and between cities and jurisdictions



Community Engagement; Older adults around the table for planning and decision-making



Improved use of technology (i.e. GPS systems, dispatch)

“If this work of improving senior mobility lived up to its fullest potential, what do you envision is possible?”

Summit Take-Aways



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- Convene, connect and move to action
 - Disperse some funds for pilot
 - Fund a technology solution for connecting, i.e. dispatch
 - Gather information from seniors on how they see the barriers
 - Connect service providers together; one organization that covers region
 - Find ways to subsidize rides for more free or low cost options i.e. vouchers

Current Context

Data on Senior Drive Programs

*2023 data gathered
from (5) senior drive
programs*



Miles Driven: 622,023



Total Rides (one way): 52,032



Clients Served: 3040



Volunteer Drivers: 680



of Vans: 10

of Cars: 4

Data from
Austin Parks
and
Recreation
Department
Senior
Transportation
Program



Total Rides: 17,756



1 Supervisor and 1 Dispatcher



3 Full-time Drivers and 6 Part-time Drivers



of Vehicles: 17

Data on MetroAccess



Runs 7 Days per Week



Mixed Fleet; some have lifts and ramps



62% of registered passengers are age 60+



They represent 45% of ridership (just under 22,000/month)

Exploring Innovations



Pair and Share



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“What new insights or inspiration do you have based on what you heard?”

PROCESS

- Pair up to share - 2 minutes each
- Full group - Gather a few highlights from conversations



Break

Generating Project Ideas

TEF Planning & Demonstration Projects

Mechanism for piloting innovative transit-supportive projects that:

- Address a **demonstrated need** in the community;
- Leverage **existing resources or partnerships** efficiently;
- Support or leverage **environmentally efficient modes** of transportation such as shared rides, public transit, or active modes; and
- Could be **sustained through follow-on funding** after the demonstration period.

Funding Details

Planning Projects

Up to \$25,000 per award

One-year award to develop a plan or project that addresses a specific challenge.

Demonstration Projects

Between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per award

Multi-year award to launch, run, and evaluate a program or service.

<https://www.transitempowermentfund.org/projects/demonstration-projects/>

Recent TEF Demonstration Projects

2021 Capital Area Private Defender Service

Rides for Reentry Program

Connect individuals exiting incarceration with transportation support, primarily rideshare, to access court appointments and resources

2022 Jail to Jobs

Georgian Acres Smart Mobility Hub

Provide free wifi, solar panel lighting, covered seating, charging stations for e-scooters and e-bikes, and shuttle rides to community members as a first-mile / last-mile transportation solution.

2022 United Way

Transportation for Living Pilot

Test a responsive, sustainable, scalable subsidized transportation system to provide more transportation options to a variety of destinations for older, transit-dependent adults in Travis County

Convening Purpose:

*“Identify potential projects participants want to work on together to address current challenges or opportunities for meeting senior mobility needs, **specifically demonstration or planning projects that TEF can consider for funding.**”*



Opportunity to have more than one planning or demonstration project considered



Deadline is June 16, 2025



TEF Board can provide feedback

Breakout Workgroups



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A. Community Outreach and Education

How might we improve community outreach and education so more older adults are aware of, and know how to utilize, existing services?

B. Coordination

How might we improve coordination between service providers to meet the needs older adults?

C. Technology

How might we use technology to improve systems and achieve better outcomes?



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Process

1. **Choose a Group**
2. **Brainstorm Possible Project Ideas** – Consider both short-term or longer-term ideas
- 10 Minutes
3. **Cluster & Label Ideas** – Generate a short phrase or sentence that captures the essence of clusters of ideas
- 10 Minutes
4. **Select a Project Idea to Develop Further** – Choose an idea that has the most energy and create a rough draft of a "pitch" for a possible project for funding
- 15 minutes
 - *Be thinking about who, what, where, when, how*
4. **Report out** – Have a volunteer report out the project pitch to group
- 3 minutes each

Action Steps

Process



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1. Is there a particular idea you'd like to work on? Join that Group!
 2. In small groups, start doing some preliminary action planning to further develop idea for TEF consideration by June.
 3. Complete worksheet to flesh out initial action steps:
 - Action
 - First Step
 - By Whom
 - By When
 - Resources / support needed

Closing Reflections



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