

**Grand Vision**  
Transportation Network  
**Tuesday January 3, 2012**

**DRAFT**  
**MEETING NOTES**

In Attendance:

Matt Skeels  
Bob Carstens  
John Nelson  
James Bruckbauer  
Herb Lemcool  
Chuck Korn  
Mike Woods  
Jim Moore  
Carrie Bourdages  
Rise Rasch  
Patty O'Donnell  
Marc McKellar

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

The Network members agreed by consensus to accept the 12-6-11 meeting notes.

Ms. O'Donnell updated the Network members on the NWMCOG's HUD Sustainable Communities grant. The amount awarded is \$660,000 over three years and will be used to develop a regional sustainable development plan. All of the Grand Vision's emphasis areas will be covered in the plan as well as socio-economic opportunity and social equity. The term "plan" is used in reference to HUD requirements, and the products of this grant can also be regarded as strategies that match up with the findings / visions of the Grand Vision study. A very short description of this effort is "Grand Vision to Grand Action."

Network members asked if there were implementation dollars associated with this grant. Ms. O'Donnell stated that this grant does not have implementation dollars attached, however the completion of the "plan" will qualify the region for implementation funding grants in the future.

Ms. Bourdages reported on the Grand Vision communications. The communications team at the NWMCOG had issued a Grand Vision press release on the TC-TALUS Board vote to become part of the NWMCOG and would soon be issuing a NWMCOG press release on the same subject.

Mr. Bruckbauer reported that all 5 County Transit Directors from the area had met recently and discussed common issues. The Regional Rider email will be sent out this week. The next Transit Sub-committee meeting is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Benzie Bus office. The time for the meeting will be announced soon.

Mr. Bruckbauer also reported that the Complete Streets Sub-committee had met with Megan Olds of the State APA Board to discuss the APA's proposed complete streets policy. Russ Soyring also discussed the City of Traverse City's upcoming Corridor Studies.

The Network members asked Mr. Skeels to contact Tom Menzel and request he discuss the results of the route study with the Network group in February.

Ms. Bourdages reported that the Governor is confirmed to attend a local event on transportation on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Bruckbauer added that the MLUI is coordinating the agenda and had prepared a draft for the Governor to review and they have not responded as of now. The final agenda should be ready in the near future, but attendees should assume the event will take up all of the morning.

Mr. McKellar reported that the TC Chamber's Natural Gas fueling station group will be meeting tomorrow to review two proposals to conduct the study of a natural gas fleet fueling station in the Traverse City area.

Mr. Woods reported that the Citizens Guide for Transportation Planning is now complete and is posted on the Grand Vision website. He asked Network members to consider linking to the document on their websites.

Mr. Woods also reported that the rural task force meetings for Northwest Michigan will now be coordinated through the NWMCOG. A number of meetings will be held over the winter in various areas through the region. However, a number have had to be rescheduled recently, so a complete meeting schedule is not available at this time.

Ms. Rasch informed the Network that the intent of the rural task force process is to distribute federal transportation funds to the rural areas. MDOT has contracted with the regional planning agencies to administer the process because of recent staffing reductions. However it is hoped that shifting the administration to the regional agencies will increase public involvement opportunities not only regionally but statewide as well.

The Network members suggested that the task force meeting publicity include descriptions of what specific projects the task force has funded in the past. Perhaps this would help to get people interested in the process.

Mr. McKellar reported that the Road Commissioners are considering asking for a road millage in the future, although he noted that the discussions are very early at this point.

Mr. Lemcool announce that the Grand Traverse County Administrator had announced his resignation and also that the number of County Commissioners would be reduced to 5 in the future therefore spreading an increased workload among fewer Commissioners. Groups that would like a County Commission representative should communicate their needs early and often.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.