

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: Edina Transportation Commission

Agenda Item #: VI. A.

From: Mark K. Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner

Action

Discussion

Date: December 18, 2014

Information

Subject: Edina Challenge Transportation Priority Discussion

Action Requested:

None.

Information / Background:

A representative of the Edina Challenge Team (an Edina Community Foundation initiative) will attend the meeting to discuss the issue of meeting transportation needs of underserved youth in Edina. This was identified as a priority for the Edina Challenge, a collaborative effort organized by the ECF. Supporting materials for discussion are included.

Attachments:

Edina Challenge Team ETC Presentation

Working Together to Address the Transportation Gap for Disadvantaged Edina Youth

Edina Challenge Team

Presentation for the Edina Transportation Commission
December 18, 2014

Discussion Objectives

- Introductions
- What is the Edina Challenge?
- How Did the Edina Challenge Identify Transportation as a Priority Gap Area?
- Summary of Initial Work
- Explore Value of an Edina Transportation Commission Working Group on Identifying Solutions
- Next Steps

What is the Edina Challenge?

- Edina Challenge Number One: Helping people in Edina understand that we have over 750 youth in our community that qualify for Free and Reduced Price Meals.

	2000-2001	2006-2007	2011-2012	2012-2013
Total Number of Students FRPM	195	500	741	750+
Percentage	2.8%	6.7%	8.98%	9.0%+

Source – Edina Public Schools' Presentation
to League of Women Voters and Sun
Current 12.5.2013

What is the Edina Challenge?

- **Edina Challenge Number Two**
 - **Community.** A collaborative effort of 14 community organizations led by the Edina Community Foundation
 - **Help Youth.** Support disadvantaged youth so they are able to develop as healthy productive adults.
 - **Launched the team in March 2013.** Followed discussions with the community in 2012 as part of the selection of Edina as one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People in America.”

Participants on Our Collaborative Team



City of Edina Park & Rec, Connecting with Kids, Edina Community Education, Edina Community Foundation, Edina Community Lutheran Church, Edina Education Fund, Edina GiveandGo, Edina Morningside Rotary Club, Edina Public Schools, Edina Resource Center, Oasis for Youth, One2One, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Southdale YMCA

The Edina Challenge Approach

- **Key Gaps.** During 2013, the Edina Challenge team identified five key gaps, including transportation
 - Mentoring
 - Tutoring
 - Funds for extracurricular engagement
 - Housing
 - **Transportation** – Transportation challenges prevent disadvantaged Edina youth from engaging in and taking full advantage of our Edina school and community resources.
- **Solutions.** The team endorsed five and funded three initial solutions – but given its complexity was not able to meaningfully address transportation.
 - Mentoring – One2One and the Southdale YMCA
 - Housing/Support – Oasis for Youth
 - Tutoring/Support – Last Mile
 - Extracurricular Engagement – Ready, Set, Connect
 - Long-term Housing – ECLC

Initial Efforts on Transportation

- **Intern Research Brief**

- Worked to address information Edina Challenge received from multiple areas that transportation gaps prevent youth from participating in activities, attending school, engaging in community recreation and obtaining employment.
- Began to identify solutions developed in other communities
 - Rideshare links, dial-a-ride, bike lending, extra buses, connector buses, alternative transportation networks, vouchers for bus passes and taxis, and others

- **Learning Discussion with ITN**

- **Edina Challenge Working Group Session**

- Gathered informal survey data from Edina School social workers and Edina Challenge participants

- **Gathering Information as part of the Mentoring Program**

Informal Survey Data

- Informal survey data from Edina School social workers and Edina Challenge participants strongly support finding that transportation is an issue for disadvantaged youth in Edina.
 - Of 11 respondents, 10/11 strongly agree; 1/11 agree
 - 9/11 very frequently or frequently work with students who face transportation challenges

- Narrative response examples highlight the challenges

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Extracurricular activities | - Community Ed programs |
| - Medical appointments | - Zero Hour classes |
| - Jobs with Park & Rec and others | - Early to school for help or make-up tests |
| - Access to resources – Oasis for Youth | - Access to Edina facilities – YMCA, ECC, etc. |

- Varied ideas for solutions described

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| - Public transit stop at ECC and/or EHS | - Volunteer drivers |
| - Activity buses and other extra buses | - Bus passes |
| - Purchased mini-bus | - Bikes |

Transportation – Initial Thinking on Developing Solutions

Destination	Timing	Gaps	Options	Comments
School activity				
Summer employment				
School-year employment				
Appointments				
Summer activity				

- ITN Youth
- Metro bus stop at EHS
- Beeline
- Bus pass
- Taxi Voucher
- Bike loan
- Volunteer driver
- Buy vans
- Zip-car

Partner with Edina Transportation Commission

Consider other community solutions (WeCab – Mound)

Considerations for an ETC Working Group

- **A Collaborative Working Group with Varied Expertise Could Develop Strategic and Systemic Solutions**
 - Further Define the Problem/Gaps
 - Research and Work to Identify Alternative Solutions
 - Develop Range of Solutions for Consideration
 - Provide Recommendations for the City
 - Advocate
 - Support Implementation

Next Steps

- Questions?
- Interest in Moving Forward?
- Timing?

Thank you!

Appendix: Income Limits for FRPM

What are the income limits?

Your child is eligible for **free school meals** if your household's gross income is not greater than 130% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)

Your child is eligible for **reduced price meals** if your household's gross income is between 130% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

See [Child Nutrition Programs: Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) for more information.

Free and Reduced Price School Meals Programs Gross Income Limits (Effective July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014)

People in Household	Free School Meals 130% FPG		Reduced Price Meals 185% FPG	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
1	\$14,937	\$1,245	\$21,257	\$1,772
2	\$20,163	\$1,681	\$28,694	\$2,392
3	\$25,389	\$2,116	\$36,131	\$3,011
4	\$30,615	\$2,552	\$43,568	\$3,631
5	\$35,841	\$2,987	\$51,005	\$4,251
6	\$41,067	\$3,423	\$58,442	\$4,871
7	\$46,293	\$3,858	\$65,879	\$5,490
8	\$51,519	\$4,294	\$73,316	\$6,110
Each additional person	+\$5,226	+\$436	+\$7,437	+\$620