



To: Edina Transportation Commission

Agenda Item #: VI. C.

From: Mark K. Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner

Action

Date: February 19, 2015

Discussion

Subject: Edina Transportation Options Subcommittee Discussion

Information

Action Requested:

None.

Information / Background:

At the December 2014 ETC meeting, guests from the Edina Challenge steering committee visited the ETC to share information about the 5th priority for the Edina Challenge (an initiative to ensure all Edina youth have support to access community resources and reach their full potential): transportation for underserved youth. ETC formed a subcommittee, composed of the following members: Katherine Bass, Jack Campbell, Paul Nelson, Anna Rummel, Dawn Spankhe

Discussion

Members discussed the idea that many residents -- youth, seniors, transit dependent, residents with disabilities - are challenged by a lack of good transportation options to get around within the city. There is a problem with intra-city mobility that is bigger than just the challenges faced by youth. An advantage to forming a working group would be that ETC could 1) conduct additional listening to understand and articulate the full scope of the problem, and 2) broaden the potential coalition of organizations interested in finding solutions.

Additionally, members discussed the importance of having a diverse group of stakeholders like the Edina Challenge steering committee bring this transportation issue to ETC and ask to partner. We'd like to be responsive to this community identified need.

Risks

Subcommittee members also quickly recognized that there is a great potential for a working group to bite off more than it has the resources to address, given that working groups do not have the benefit of city staff support in the same vein as commissions. Additionally, ETC already has a good deal of work on its 2015 work plan.

Subcommittee members also cautioned against the allure of solving the problem for "everyone" with a big, expensive solution. They felt a more doable approach would be to understand the full scope of the problem, then solve for one audience first - like a pilot - and thoughtfully expand if it works.

Recommendation

The subcommittee recommends the following action by ETC:

Establish a "Getting around in the city" working group with a narrow purpose:

Articulate the full scope of the problem, through additional research and community conversation (we felt this scope would feed the circulator work that is currently on our 2015 work plan) and make a recommendation to the ETC - and subsequently Council - based on these findings. The recommendation is likely to include a request for staff and/or budget support in identifying solutions based on the findings. Be clear about the city's boundaries (what is and isn't within our control).

Attachments:

None