

CITY OF ORONOCO
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF Southeast Minnesota Regional Transportation Planning for the creation of the **Transportation Management Organization for Southeast Minnesota.**

WHEREAS, the 2018 Southeast Minnesota Economic Impact Forecasting Study identified Regional Transit as a significant issue for communities to encourage workforce participation.

WHEREAS, the southeast Minnesota region's communities need transportation for Health and Human Services clients, employees in our regional businesses, employees and students in our regional education system, and employees and customers in our regional hospitality and tourism industry.

WHEREAS, the 2020 – 2021 Pandemic has brought changes in working from home and commuter patterns, and a discontinued regional commuter bus service.

WHEREAS, the economic outlook for southeast Minnesota forecasts a rebounding economy, an increased need for employees, and an increased need for regional transportation to address a much broader range of users, such as business employees and customers, students and faculty, medical workers, health and human services customers, hospitality and tourism staff.

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's current Inflow/Outflow data shows that communities in all eleven counties of southeast Minnesota have significant movement of people both in and out of their areas every business day.

WHEREAS, the 2021 Federal Stimulus Program allots federal funds to cities and counties to address the changing economic needs of their communities, including transit, and funds can be transferred between jurisdictions or to nonprofit partners as outlined in H.R.1319 – The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 as it was passed on 03/11/2021 and became Public Law No: 117-2.

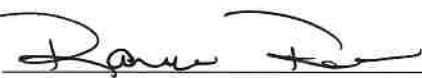
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF ORONOCO, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

The Oronoco City Council supports participating as a contributor to the Transportation Management Organization for Southeast Minnesota with a contribution of \$4505 of the city's allotted 2021 Federal Stimulus funding.

Adopted by the Oronoco City Council on May 17, 2022.



Mayor Ryland Eichhorst

ATTEST: 

Ranae Rohe, Deputy Clerk

South East Minnesota Transit and Ridesharing Coordination

The Transit and Ridesharing Coordination Challenge

Since 2013, leaders have been working together as part of Southeast Minnesota Together to organize a locally controlled entity focused on developing and implementing inter-jurisdictional transit and ridesharing solutions that address the following issues in the 11-county area:

- **Regional accessibility effects** on quality of life and community and economic development
- **Barriers** to more broadly implementing regional transit and ridesharing services
- **Geographic and temporal** transit and ridesharing service gaps and barriers
- **Inefficiencies and redundancies** in transit and ridesharing services
- **Transit and ridesharing costs** for riders and providers
- **Regional policies and procedures** for transit and ridesharing
- **Grant and funding opportunities** for regional transit and ridesharing

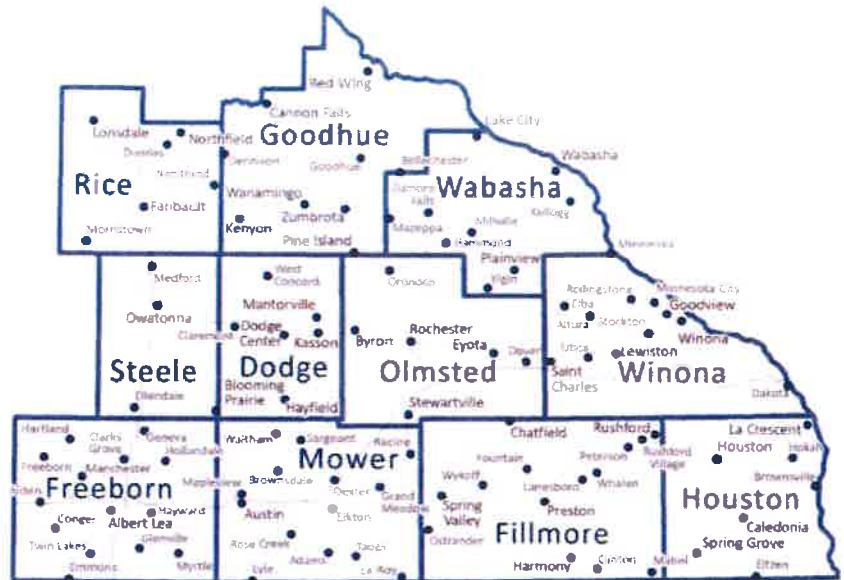


Figure 1. Southeast Minnesota Transit and Ridesharing Coordination Area

In 2018 and 2019, the leadership group leveraged grant funding generously provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Department of Human Services and conducted a transit and ridesharing coordination planning process. The process led the group to conclude in partnership with MnDOT that the MnDOT-DHS vision of a Regional Transportation Coordinating Council would not effectively meet the transportation needs in Southeast Minnesota. A MnDOT/DHS-funded RTCC would focus on and prioritize serving people with low incomes, disabilities, and Veterans.

The Southeast Minnesota transit and ridesharing leadership group concluded the region's coordination efforts must include and prioritize **quality of life, work force, and education** transportation issues as well as the needs of people with low incomes, with disabilities, and Veterans. This conclusion is based in acknowledgement that the region is a major economic driver for Minnesota, home to world business headquarters including Hormel Foods Corporation, Fastenal Company, Federated Mutual Insurance Company, Olmsted Medical Center, Mayo Clinic, McNeilus Steel Incorporated, Miller Waste Mills Incorporated, Red Wing Shoe Company, Wenger Corporation, and Winona Health, and includes leading educational institutions including Carleton College, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, Minnesota State College Southeast-Red Wing Campus, Riverland Community College, Rochester Community and Technical College, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College, South Central College-Faribault Campus, the University of Minnesota-Rochester, and Winona State University, and includes the Prairie Island Indian Community.

Preferred Approach: Transportation Management Organization

A Transportation Management Organization (TMO) is a formal organization that coordinates mobility services within a specified geographic area. A TMO is typically managed by paid staff and includes a governing board of local employers and major stakeholders. A TMO in the 11-County region would:

- **Identify and help implement** transit and ridesharing strategies
- **Connect employees and students** with alternative commute options

- **Support human service organizations** in more easily identifying and connecting people with low incomes, with disabilities, and Veterans with available transit and ridesharing options
- **Act as an organizing body** for Southeast Minnesota employers, higher education institutions, transportation management organizations and funding partners in Rochester, the Twin Cities, Iowa, and Wisconsin to manage and overcome transportation challenges and barriers

Developing a TMO is a **low-cost solution that can be implemented in the short-term** and help leverage existing resources or develop new resources to meet the region’s growing and changing transportation needs.

Funding Needs

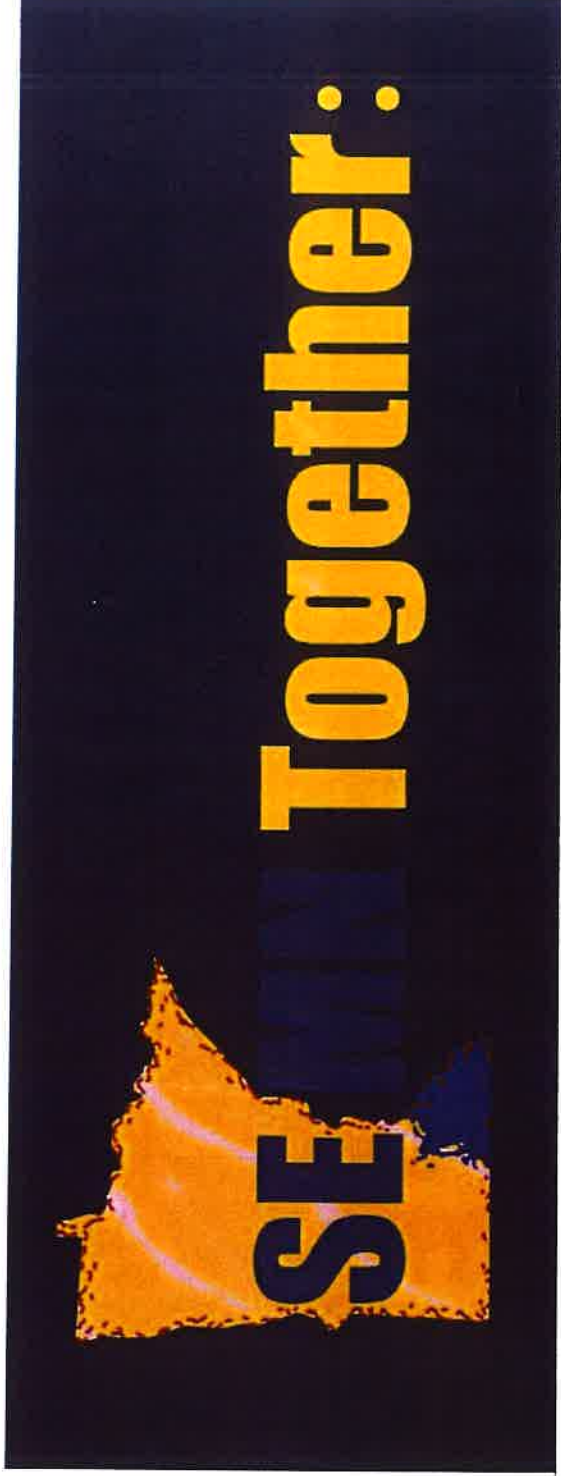
The Southeast Minnesota transit and ridesharing leadership group is seeking financial support to build on the MnDOT- and DHS-funded planning work completed in 2018-2019. Specifically, the leadership group wants to partner with and hire a consultant to:

- **Build** on and advance the region’s successful transit systems, services, and facilities
- **Modify** the 2018-2019 RTCC implementation plan to reflect a TMO approach
- **Engage** with leaders throughout the 11-county area to affirm the TMO approach meets regional needs and priorities
- **Deliver** a detailed financial plan for a three-year start-up implementation phase, including specific public and private funding sources that will lead to adoption of a detailed operations plan, including budget and financial plan for ongoing operations

When	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
What	Develop 11-county TMO Implementation Plan, including 3-year Financial Plan	Begin TMO operations Refine Year 3 and 4 budget and financial plan as needed, including audit	Continue TMO operations Refine Year 4+ charter, budget, and financial plan as needed, including audit	Continue TMO operations Refine Year 5+ charter, budget, and financial plan as needed, including audit
Who	TMO Planning Leadership Team and Funding Partners	TMO Governance Board, Committees, and Staff		
Why	Modify RTCC Implementation Plan to reflect TMO preferred approach	Resolve transit and ridesharing barriers in Southeast Minnesota		
How	Fiscal Agent supported by Engagement and Transportation Planning Consultants	TMO Staff supported by Fiscal Agent and Operations, Engagement, Communications, and/or Transportation Planning consultant(s) as needed		

Who Should Participate in the Southeast Minnesota TMO?

All stakeholders interested in improving transit and ridesharing services in Southeast Minnesota should participate. Through this planning process, TMO membership and membership dues will be defined. The goal is to include representatives from employers, educational institutions, county departments of social services, transportation providers, human services agencies, veteran service organizations, senior service organizations, workforce development, and private organizations. To share your feedback and participate in the Southeast Minnesota TMO planning process, please contact **Steve Sarvi** with SE MN Together at steve.sarvi@gmail.com



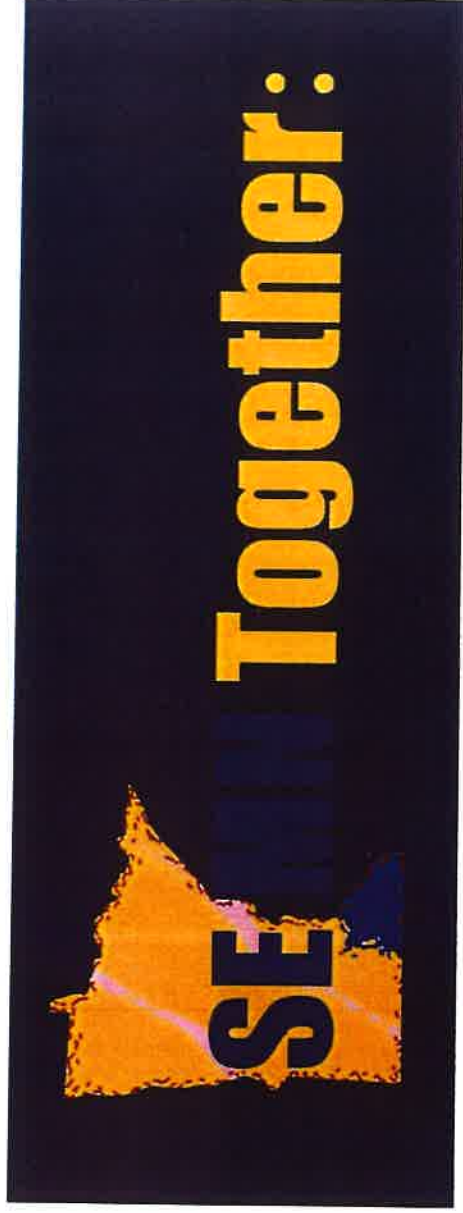
SE MN TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT (TMO) PLANNING

SEMMLM MEETING 29 March 2022

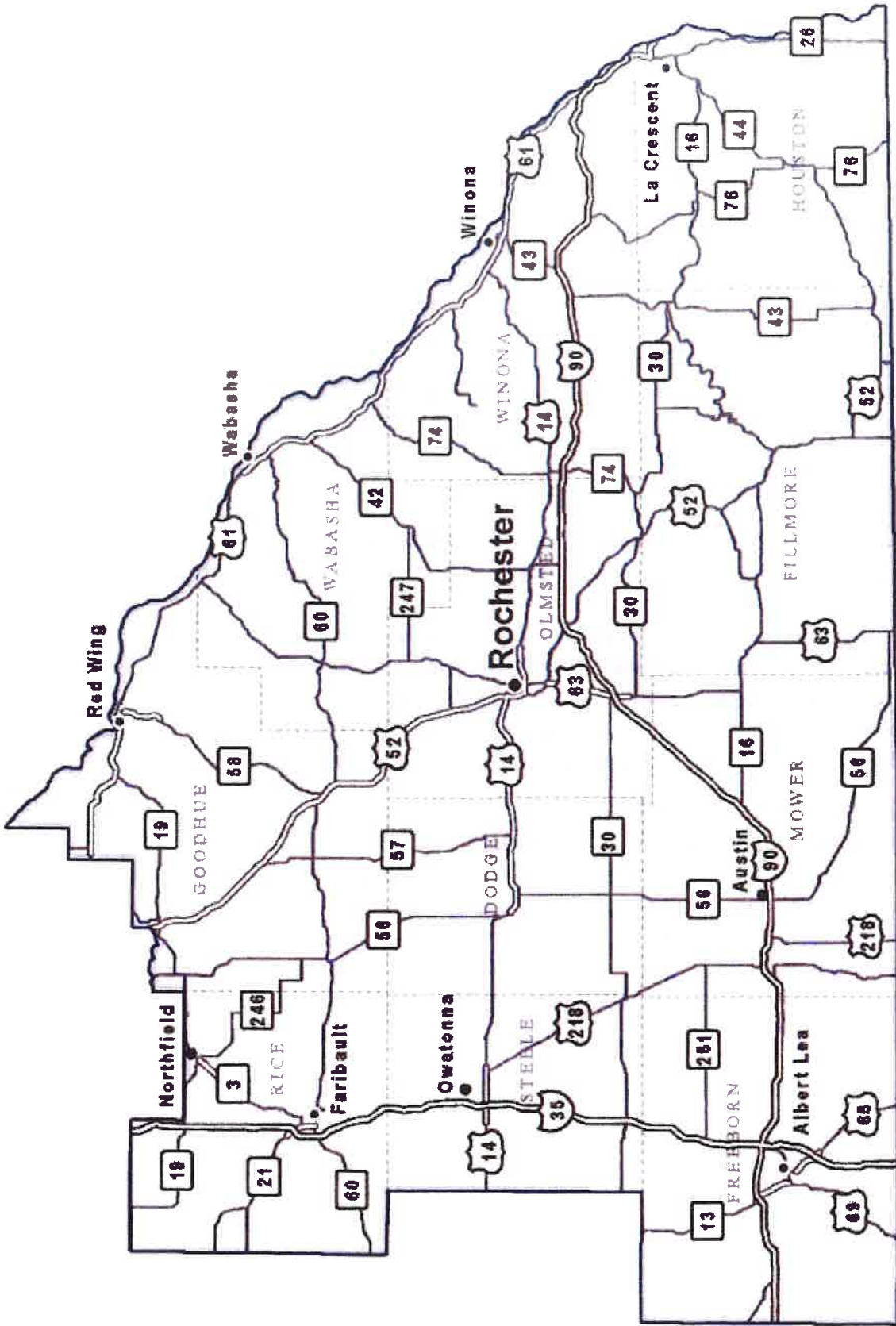
Sheila Kiscaden and Steve Sarvi

SE Minnesota Together

2015 - 2017 Regional Convenings



SE MN Together / MnDOT District 6



TODAY

- SE MN Together focused effort to establish Transportation Management Organization (TMO) for SE Minnesota
- TMO will be a planning authority capable of securing Federal funding for establishment of a transportation system specifically for SE Minnesota

SE MN TMO PLANNING

- **SE MN Together**
- **SE MN League of Municipalities**
- **Communities / Counties**

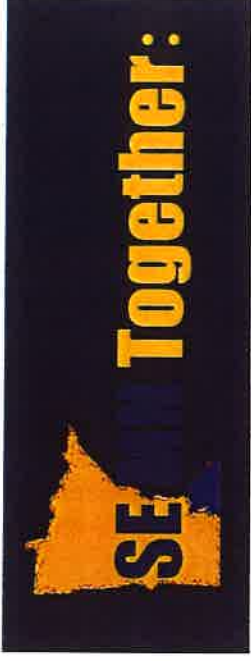
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- **Act as an organizing body for Southeast Minnesota employers, higher education institutions, partners.**

Collaboration - Transparency



Steve Sarvi

steve.sarvi@gmail.com

SE MN Together Transit Action Committee

