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AGENDA
Meeting of the Connect to the Future
Working Group

September 21, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Town of Normal, 11 Uptown Station, 4th Floor – Multipurpose Room, #409
Smart Growth America – Facilitators:
Chris Zimmerman, Vice President for Economic Development; Jeri Mintzer, Program Manager

9:00 a.m.

Meeting administration
Connect to the Future Chair Judy Buchanan
Call to order
Roll call
Public comments
Approval of meeting summary of CttF meeting held on August 17, 2019
Review of timeline

9:10 a.m.

Welcome; Status update from focus groups
Chris Zimmerman, Smart Growth America

Focus Groups will briefly report out on their progress. Summarize your current findings and thinking. Additional things to consider sharing include:
- What are the most surprising elements of your discussion?
- What feedback is needed from the broader group?
- What support does your group need?
- Have your discussions shifted towards identifying recommendations? Do you need support in making that shift?

9:50 a.m.

Presentation: Service and Operations – What tradeoffs exist?
Jennifer Sicks, AICP, Transportation Planner, McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Brief presentation meant to build on the goals and funding conversation from the August 17 meeting. This presentation will cover service issues, i.e. routes with the highest and lowest ridership, strategies to deploy to boost ridership and meet goals, etc.
Discussion:
- Let's refer back to the Ridership and Access focus group's report out.
- What are the tradeoffs that stand out to you?
- What questions do you have?

10:50 a.m.

Break

11:05 a.m.   **Review & Discussion: Goals for the future**
Chris Zimmerman, Smart Growth America

The facilitators shared a list of goals (see attachment) from the August 17 meeting. During this session we will discuss what might be missing and reach agreement on goals. The goals will serve as the foundation for the recommendations report.

11:45 a.m.   **Next steps**
Jeri Mintzer, Smart Growth America

Focus groups should complete and share their recommendations worksheet by October 12, 2019. Note: On your worksheet, please clarify which of the agreed upon goals your groups recommendations apply to.

Discuss the timeline and structure of the recommendations report (see attachment).

12:00 p.m.   **Adjourn**

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.   **Focus group working sessions**
SGA recommends that participants stay after the full meeting adjournment to begin work in their focus groups. The facilitators will circulate between groups to provide input and answer questions. Lunch will be provided.

DRAFT GOALS
Meeting of the Connect to the Future
Working Group

All recommendations will be considered through the lens of the following goals:

ACCESS: Provide access to jobs and services (including for transit reliant and low-income residents).

Access means connecting residents to jobs and their everyday needs via a convenient and reliable system.

CHOICE RIDERSHIP: Attract choice riders.

AFFORDABILITY: Keep the system affordable.

SAFETY: Provide safe access to transit stops.

Ways to provide safe access might include ensuring safe and direct walking routes to and from businesses or redesigning roads to support all users.

DRAFT OUTLINE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT
Connect to the Future Working Group

Below is a first draft of an outline for the recommendations report. This outline will be discussed at the September 21, 2019 meeting.

Background
- Brief history of the Bloomington-Normal region
- Background on the Connect Transit system
- Existing circumstances: funding, ridership, etc.

Connect to the Future Working Group
- Need for the Working Group
- How the Working Group was established
- Membership, Facilitation
- Charge and processes

Goals for the Connect Transit System
- Goal 1 [Access]
- Goal 2 [Choice Ridership]
- Goal 3 [Affordability]
- Goal 4 [Safety]

Recommendations
- Recommendations to address [access]
  o Outcomes
  o Metrics
  o Timeframe & responsible party
- Recommendations to address [choice ridership]
  o Outcomes
  o Metrics
  o Timeframe & responsible party
- Recommendations to address [affordability]
  o Outcomes
  o Metrics
  o Timeframe & responsible party
- Recommendations to address [safety]
  o Outcomes
  o Metrics
  o Timeframe & responsible party

Conclusion
- Next Steps