

SAPGA Innovation Committee – Draft Transportation Recommendations/Actions
– Prepared by KMB – 112417

Potential SAPGA Action(s)/Recommendations – Innovation and Technology Related:

1. *Efficiency Improvements - DRMAC/DRCOG VTCLI Grant:*
 - a. Write a recommendation or resolution supporting the DRMAC/DRCOG’s Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative grant, creating the Flex Ridership program discussed at the last board meeting (which is geared toward increasing efficiency of the system and increasing ridership services overall). If understood correctly, artificial intelligence/software will help to improve efficiency of delivering services to the aging population.
 - b. Provide some public relations and outreach as to the value of this effort over the life of the grant.
2. *Innovative Funding:*
 - a. Promote private sector initiative/campaign to secure additional funding through innovative funding sources including for example, health insurance companies like Kaiser.
 - b. Study – Is It Needed or Already Done: Propose a study that would assess the cost effectiveness of certain businesses providing free or discounted rides to seniors. Could lead to more businesses developing similar programs, state tax credit, state and/or federal funding support.
3. *Autonomous Driving Automobiles:*
 - a. Research information about challenges and opportunities for Autonomous Driving Automobiles on Colorado Aging Population. Once data gathered, assess whether there are “requirements” to meet needs of aging population for ADA and assess next steps.
4. *Denver Startup Week Opportunity (Transportation and beyond):*
 - a. In an effort to seek innovative and technological solutions to aging problems, create awareness of the biggest challenges and opportunities in improving the lives of the aging population. SAPGA could organize a reverse pitch at Denver Startup Week focusing on the needs of the aging population and their caregivers around transportation. Obviously, SAPGA, along with key state departments, could take this a step further and find one key challenge within each of these areas as well including health, work force (employment for seniors) and work force (enough support services/workers), housing, community supports (caregiving/care coordination) and public finance for the various projects.

Potential SAPGA Actions/Recommendations – Basic Transportation for Aging Population:

1. *Medicaid/Medicare (?) Transportation Reimbursement:*
 - a. Propose policy, rulemaking (and/or legislative) to increase Medicaid reimbursement for non-medical transportation. Need clarification if this increase is needed for both non-medical and medical.
2. *2018 Transportation Legislation:*
 - a. Check with legislators who carried legislation last year on transportation. Find out about 2018 proposed bills on transportation; work in language around senior transportation needs and any or all the items listed above – working in collaboration with DRMAC, Colorado Senior Lobby, DRCOG and other senior advocates and stakeholders.
3. *Executive and Legislative Champions Garnered through Media and Educational Campaign:*

- a. Strategize to get Governor/Executive Branch and/or find a Champion to support to increase efficiency and effectiveness of all aging-related transportation resulting in increased collaboration that would promote – utilize a public relations and grassroots campaign to make happen:
 - Comingling funding
 - allow more flexibility of the use of different silos of Federal and State dollars
 - support increased service areas, frequency and hours
 - increase access to ridership information - potential funding to support additional outreach like updated website
 - enhancing training to ride fixed rides and provide additional funding

Other Potential Recommendations:

1. *Transportation Vouchers:* Include Qualified Private Sector: Propose private sector providers be an option for senior rider programs (via voucher)
2. *Study on Alternative Fund Design:* Propose a study that would analyze the existing infrastructure and costs – and propose alternative design with one pool of funds. A study could also assess what types of legislation could be enacted to improve cost efficiency and delivery of services.
3. *Waivers to Offer Program Flexibility:* Propose seeking waivers to modify several key transportation programs allowing for more flexibility in ridership.
4. *Veteran’s Administration Cooperation on VTLIC:*
 - a. Write a letter to the VA, Colorado Congressional delegation and state department indicating an effort to figure out how to leverage existing services and providers minimizing adding totally new structure via the VA.
 - b. Congressional Support for VTLIC Grant Project: Potentially convene a meeting with key Colorado Congressional delegation and SRC/other transportation stakeholders to open exploratory dialogue about VTLIC grant project.
5. *Aging PR Campaign:* Propose PR Campaign to frame aging as positive for the community.
6. *2018 Legislation – Potential Add-ons for Aging Transportation:* Propose local level to promote volunteer programs, road sign design, smart-growth, bus stops and improved education about local transit options.
7. *Review of Municipal Infrastructure:* Supports ongoing review of municipal infrastructure (such as sidewalks) to enhance walkability and pedestrian mobility
8. *Autonomous Driver Automobiles:* Aggressively pursue autonomous vehicle (AV) legislation at the state level and ensure legislation allows people of all abilities can benefit from AVs.
9. *Regional Transportation District (RTD):*
 - a. Citizen’s Advisory Committee. There is an opportunity for SAPGA and/or committee members to apply for positions on the CAC to help push aging issues - The application is online, and people serve 2-year terms
 - b. Legislation possibility: Work with partners to create mandated parking spaces at car parking spaces for RTD Transit (helps with last/first mile issue).

- c. Presentation Opportunity: Ask for the opportunity to present at the Policy Leadership Advisory Group of RTD (Made up of civic, government, religious, non-profit, education organizations) regarding aging issues and challenges and offer input on ways RTD might consider improving its services for a growing population.
 - d. RTD ADA Services: Recommend legislation to separate RTD ADA services to better serve the aging population.
10. Other suggestions to watch for legislation that hinders business practices including multiple business licenses, fingerprinting, random road checks and more.