

# Massachusetts Community Transportation Coordination Conference

## May 5, 2015

### Small Group Sessions

Choose one small group for the morning and another for the afternoon. If you are here with a colleague or staff from a partner organization, we encourage you to attend separate sessions today and share what you learned with each other.

#### Morning Small Group Workshops (10:55 to 11:55)

##### **Promoting Mobility and Employment through Affordable Car Ownership: Vehicle Donation and Car Loan Programs**

Room: Duchess

Vehicle donation and car loan programs help make car ownership affordable, thereby enabling individuals to access employment opportunities and achieve self-sufficiency. This is particularly valuable in rural and suburban areas where fewer alternative transportation options exist. Hear presentations from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Good News Garage, and More Than Wheels. Presenters will describe programs and opportunities currently available in Massachusetts, as well as considerations for starting a program.

##### **Older Driver Programs and Services**

Room: Sterling

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) supports older drivers in many ways, whether they want to safely extend their time driving or transition away from driving and into alternative modes of transportation. Learn about the resources the RMV offers and hear about the work going on now on older driver safety at the state level.

##### **Central Reservation/Dispatch Systems for Council on Aging Transportation**

Room: Princess

Presenters will share their experience with changing Council on Aging (COA) reservation/dispatch systems to an external provider, freeing up staff time at the COA and allowing for better coordination of services. Hear from CrossTown Connect, the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority, and the Holliston COA.

##### **MassRIDES and Community Transportation: Employers, Carpools, and Regional Coordinating Councils**

Room: Salon DE

MassRIDES works with employers and commuters within the Commonwealth to promote the use of commute options in order to help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality and mobility. Join MassRIDES to learn more about their program, hear how they have been involved in Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), and explore how their commuter services can help address the mobility needs of our state's seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income commuters.



## **Afternoon Small Group Workshops (1:30 to 2:30)**

### **Three Models of Travel Instruction**

Room: Sterling

Panelists will share three different approaches to offering a travel instruction program to help people with disabilities, seniors, and students learn to ride transit independently and safely. Hear from a Regional Transit Authority, a nonprofit that contracts with the MBTA to provide travel training, and an educator of transition-aged students with disabilities. Presentations from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, Ways2Go, and Natick Public Schools.

### **Understanding Regional Planning Agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations**

Room: Princess

This workshop will introduce people to Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), the types of transportation planning work they do, and the technical assistance services they provide. Panelists will describe the work they do for transit agencies and communities, discuss how transportation funding priorities are developed, and share how stakeholders can get involved in their local RPA or MPO. Hear from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and Southeastern Regional Economic Development District.

### **Creating a Peer Support Network for Volunteer Driver Programs**

Room: Duchess

Volunteer driver programs often operate on a shoestring without a lot of opportunities for professional development. Building on the success of the regional volunteer driver forums hosted by MassMobility, we will discuss the logistics of launching a statewide peer support network for volunteer driver program staff and those interested in starting new volunteer driver programs.

### **Demand Response and Employment Transportation: Regional Examples**

Room: Salon DE

In rural and small urban areas without the density to support fixed route mass transit, demand-response services can help people access employment and other key destinations. Hear about three different services: READYBUS, in which workers ride side by side with seniors; Ready to Go employment transportation service from Vermont, which uses donated minivans; and the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority's dial-a-ride service that is open to the general public on Cape Cod.

