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# Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Board Meeting

## Item 5

**10:00 a.m. Jan Klassen, MnDOT (30 min)**

*RE: Transit Presentation*

Staff Contact:

# MnDOT Transit Study of Nicollet, Le Sueur and Blue Earth Counties

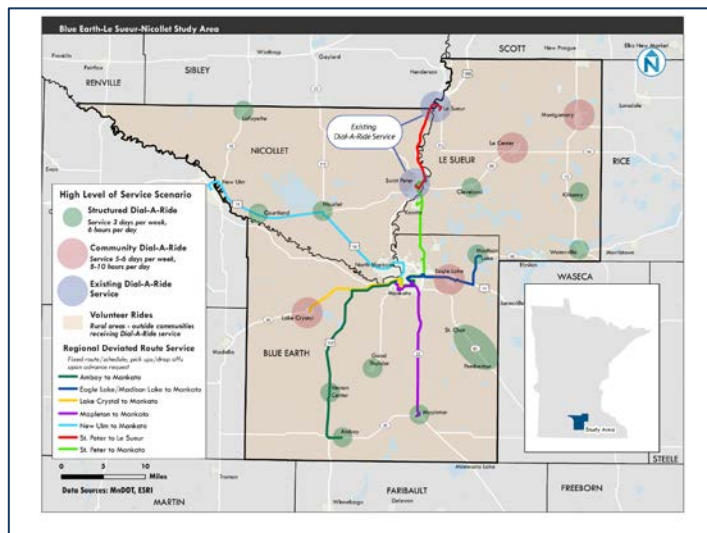
## Purpose:

MnDOT Office of Transit recently completed a study of transit services in Blue Earth, Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties to examine the potential for a new, multi-county public transit system. The purpose of the study is to explore how a multi-county transit system could provide mobility options for the general public in the three counties with emphasis on special populations including seniors, youth, individuals with disabilities, veterans, New Americans, low-income individuals and individuals with limited vehicle options.

The study area is unique because of the combination of existing systems including two small city systems, St. Peter and Le Sueur, a large urban system, Mankato, and a human service provider, VINE Faith in Action. Although service is available within city limits, the three county area is one of few remaining places in Minnesota without countywide service.

## Study Review

The consultant team from Nelson/Nygaard completed an analysis of existing conditions in the first phase of the project. The document included a review of existing plans and studies conducted in the area, demographic profile of the three counties, an assessment of the existing transit providers and input from various stakeholder groups. Based on the results of the existing conditions report, the consultant team identified a variety of possible transit enhancements as a blue print for a new, multi-county transit system. The consultant team developed a service plan with low and high scenarios. The scenarios fulfill MnDOT's goal to provide public transportation to the three counties include rural and other low-density communities while providing access to goods and services in larger communities. The service plan scenarios were presented at the final Project Advisory Committee in September 2015 and are outlined below.



*Low Level of Service Scenario:*

- Introduces demand-response service in unserved communities
- Offers a basic level of mobility in smaller rural communities with structured Dial-A-Ride
- More comprehensive Community Dial-A-Ride in small urban communities
- Volunteer rides program for rural areas of each county

*High Level of Service Scenario:*

- The high level includes all features of the Low Level scenario with the addition of seven regional deviated fixed routes to provide connections within and between counties.

**Project Next Steps:**

MnDOT Office of Transit Program Management team will continue to work the various local units of governments (cities and counties) and the private nonprofit agencies to assist in the development of a public transit service design and a system organizational structure and local governance plan that can be deployed in calendar year 2016.

## For More Information

Contact Tom Gottfried, Transit Programming Director at [tom.gottfried@state.mn.us](mailto:tom.gottfried@state.mn.us) or 651-366-4171

