



A transportation initiative of



The Colorado Health Foundation™



Fact Sheet

***Getting There* is the name of a multi-year collaborative to improve transportation for older adults in the Denver/Boulder metropolitan area.**

Rationale:

Transportation is one of the most frequently requested services by older adults, especially for those who are frail and have limited functional ability. Mobility is often considered the “glue” that keeps seniors independent, giving them access to food, health care and social interaction. According to current estimates, existing transit service can only provide 65 percent of demand, and that need will continue to grow rapidly over the next several decades.

History:

In an effort to coordinate senior transportation efforts in the Denver/Boulder metro area, Rose Community Foundation convened a Transportation Summit in October 2000. More than 300 providers, consumers and advocates identified transportation issues and problems. As a result of this meeting, a group called the Senior Mobility Alliance (SMA) formed to explore ways to increase transportation for older adults in the area, and to ensure that information about services was readily available to those who need it. SMA identified five specific objectives:

- increase transportation by volunteer drivers;
- train older adults to use fixed route services;
- conduct a transit analysis;
- facilitate collaboration among agencies that provide, fund and refer clients to transportation services; and
- establish a single-call system for clients in need of transportation services.

Next Steps:

The *Getting There* Collaborative plans to implement programs addressing identified issues and document these issues for local and national replication. Currently, three projects are being implemented – a metro-wide volunteer driver program based at Seniors' Resource Center in Wheat Ridge, a travel assessment/travel training program based at Special Transit in Boulder County, and a transit analysis completed in December 2005 by Nelson/Nygaard.

Two other projects – facilitated collaboration and a single-call system – need further investigation and planning, and may be funded in part by The Colorado Health Foundation and Rose Community Foundation.

Senior Mobility Alliance:

Members have include: Colorado Association of Transit Agencies, Colorado Department of Transportation, The Colorado Health Foundation, Colorado Mobility Coalition, Denver Regional Council of Governments, Governor's Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities, Rose Community Foundation, Seniors' Resource Center, Special Transit and others.

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