



Safe Spaces

Topeka/Lawrence, Kansas

29 Apr 2024

Focus question:

- ▶ How might we increase affordable transportation services to health care appointments for older adults and people with disabilities in Douglas and Shawnee Counties?

Insights related to the focus question

- ▶ **Focus question redirect** There is also an existing need to take people to/from local medical appointments after 2pm on weekdays and on weekends (after our senior centers close).
- ▶ **Service boundaries - who sets them?** Learning who has the authority to set/change them broadened our discussions.
- ▶ **Initial assumption was disproven by data collection** Getting people to medical trips was important; crossing county boundaries to do so wasn't as important to people as we had initially thought.
- ▶ **Many hospitals - any discussion?** Medical centers want a solution, but not much collaboration has happened among them to date.

Concept storyboard

SAFE SPACES



A small bus would pick riders up at their homes and take them to designated safe spaces in town. These spaces, such as a coffee shop, would become transit hubs.



The transportation provider can then combine other trips emanating from the safe space. While at the safe space, riders can socialize with each other as they wait for their next scheduled ride.



A transportation liaison from a health care site could incorporate medical check-ups at safe space sites, becoming part of the rider's daily activities.



We would spread the word about the program by doing a Red Couch session on the local news station showing all the locations of the small bus and advertise possible future trip destinations.



Coffee shops could become CHAMPSS (congregate) meal sites as well. While the riders are at the safe space, transit vehicles can do other trips.



Volunteer drivers could be used for people waiting at a safe space. Volunteers would get a free cup of coffee for their participation. This would allow for spur-of-the-moment trips with other riders to not-so-common destinations.



When all of a rider's trips are completed for the day, they would be taken home.



Health care organizations could support the program by sponsoring trips from a particular site.

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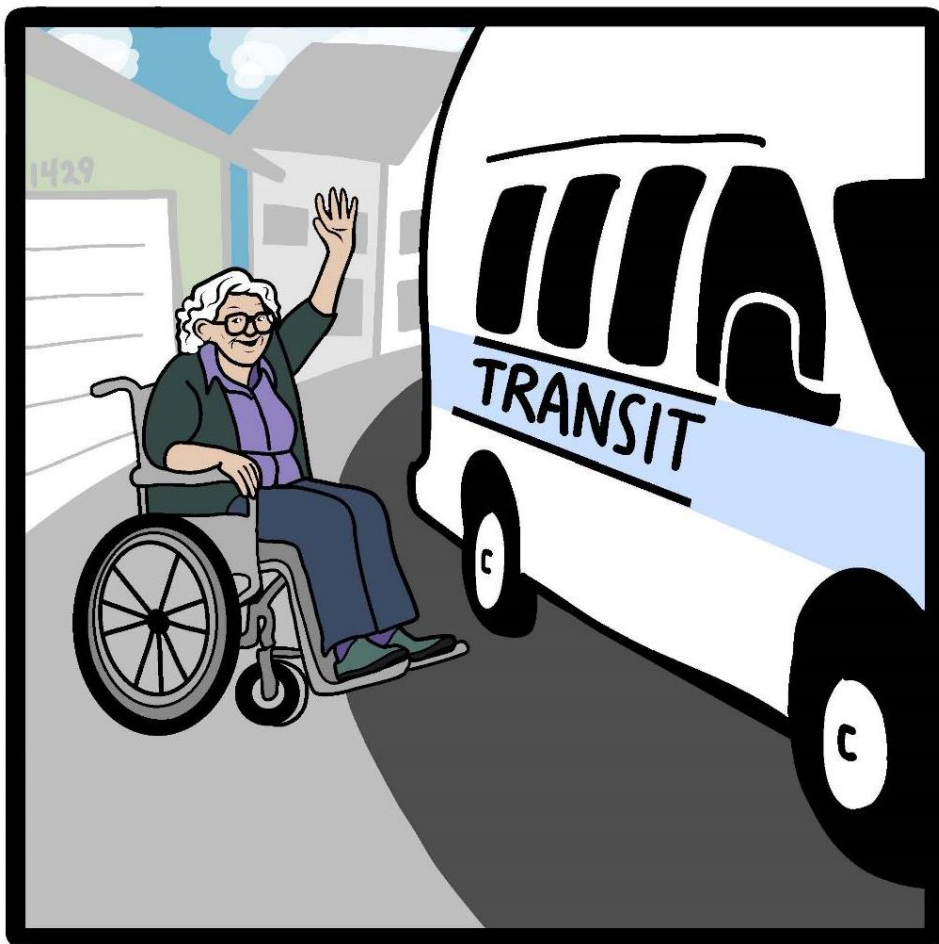
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Our concept's implementation value

- ▶ Operational
 - ▶ One vehicle/one driver doing multiple short trips in a day
 - ▶ Addresses medical, nutritional, and social needs
- ▶ Financial
 - ▶ Cost savings by combining multiple riders to a single destination
 - ▶ Sponsorship would reduce costs further
- ▶ Customer-facing
 - ▶ Greater opportunity for peer interaction
 - ▶ Multiple destinations on the same day
 - ▶ Improved public perception of transit services

Thoughts on funding

- ▶ AARP
- ▶ AAA-Kansas
- ▶ Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- ▶ Kanas Health Foundation
- ▶ Stormont Vail Hospital
- ▶ Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- ▶ University of Kansas Medical Centers
- ▶ Title IIIB Older Americans Act
- ▶ State and federal transit funds

- ▶ Other private foundations/grantors



Thank you!

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