



Transit Action Network

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January 22, 2014

Councilmember Russ Johnson
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
414 E. 12th Street, 26th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Councilmember Johnson and other members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee,

Transit Action Network strongly urges the council to recommend adoption of Ordinance 140028, Amending Chapter 76 Article II, Taxicab Code, by enacting five new sections, which will allow a charitable non-profit transportation vehicle to operate within the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

Transportation options for the elderly and visually impaired continue to be insufficient in Kansas City. Although the city extends the benefits of Share-A-Fare to elderly adults, the service is limited in where it can go and hundreds of people are signing up monthly.

Demand for special transportation services is growing so rapidly that Mid-America Regional Council has already convened a series of meetings dealing with "Older People Transportation" in an effort to develop a plan to deal with the looming transit crisis caused by insufficient transportation options for the growing numbers of elderly individuals with limited abilities to drive or use public transit. It is clear from these meetings that we need to avail ourselves of all possible, rational solutions.

The needs of many frail, elderly individuals extend beyond the curb-to-curb services traditional taxi or paratransit entities are able to provide, necessitating the need for service providers who can go the extra mile.

Independent Transportation Network (ITN) is the first and only national non-profit transportation system for America's aging population. ITN creates an efficient and financially sustainable solution to the transportation needs of seniors and the visually impaired. Rides are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for any purpose and they provide the kind of door-through-door service older people want and need

By adopting this ordinance, Kansas City will be taking necessary steps toward addressing the need for more specialized transportation that ITN or future non-profit providers can deliver.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate Transit Action Network's support for the transportation needs of seniors and people experiencing vision loss.

Sincerely,

Janet Rogers
Jefferson Lewis
Mark McDowell
Margie Richcreek
Ron McLinden

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