



Jefferson County struggled for years in planning for public transportation, yet alone to actually implement a service. Civic leaders and interested citizens came up against many barriers; especially financial constraints.

Thanks to a call for investment from the Missouri Planning Council, an initiative began for the development of community transportation solutions for persons with developmental disabilities and other community members.

The goal of this initiative was an affordable, accessible, and flexible transportation plan that would greatly enhance the community and working lives of people with developmental disabilities that would also benefit other individuals needing access to a similar transportation system.

The plan was achieved through a collaborative process that included the Jefferson County Developmental Disabilities Resource Board, the Jefferson County Community Partnership, transportation experts, those needing access to transportation, and other community leaders and resources.

The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (MPCDD) invested up to \$75,000 per project for three communities during the period of August 1, 2007, through July 31, 2009. It was anticipated that community applicants would need a planning period to develop their community specific transportation solution and the MPCDD allowed up to \$25,000 to be used in the first year to support this planning and development. Release of implementation funding was subject to the approval of the plan.

A minimum of 25% non-federal match was required of all projects. Match could be in-kind (up to 50%) or cash. At the request of the Jefferson County Developmental Disabilities Resource Board, the Jefferson County Community Partnership formed a committee to address transportation solutions and was asked to assist with the grant application. The committee included other providers of transportation, transportation specialists, etc. JCCP is currently soliciting for community investment possibilities and consults with the JCDDR as needed.

Under the impressive and distinct leadership of Dennis Murphy, Project Coordinator, the committee selected a deviated route system and crafted a "How To" manual that outlines the development process, identifies challenges, and provides possible solutions. The plan was implemented with one vehicle on November 30, 2009, and is designed to add two additional vans within 12 months of the start date. Ridership response has been positive and efforts continue to increase the number of routes and customers.