

SIMPCO Passenger Transportation Plan Amendments **Proposed August 20, 2024**

Section 3.1.04 Facility Needs (pg 73)

Siouxland Regional Transit System

A new SRTS facility and offices were officially opened in October 2023. Funded through a US DOT BUILD grant, the facility is the first to receive 100% funding. The events of the pandemic and subsequent chain of events affecting production timelines and cost of materials did result in some changes in the final build plans. Rather than fully housing the SRTS fleet of vehicles, the facility has space for 15 buses but does include a mechanic/maintenance bay and a bus wash space. **Though included in the original budget, some features such as the operational automatic bus wash are still pending. Funding opportunities will continue to be pursued for facility components and expansion to original planned capacity.**

Section 3.3 - Any Other Recent Developments Affecting Coordination Issues (pg 79)

SRTS was awarded a US DOT BUILD grant, the first of its kind, that fully funded a new facility including a garage for indoor vehicle parking, dedicated dispatch and administrative offices, a bus wash (still pending additional funding for full implementation), and mechanic's bay. At the time of this plan update, SRTS staff is centered at the new facility and bus storage/parking is transitioning from its contracted location to the new site for vehicles servicing Woodbury County origins and destinations. Construction began post pandemic and therefore costs far exceeded planned expenditures. **With adjustments made to accommodate the increased costs, the garage was downsized allowing for future expansion on the current building site as allocated for the original scope of the project. SRTS intends to pursue funding opportunities to expand the bus storage space to achieve the original scope of the project as well as office expansion to accommodate anticipated growth and support staff needs. While the current building provides centralized services for Woodbury County and immediate access to Highway 20 and Interstate 29, as demand for services continues to increase over time, there will be a need for satellite bus storage locations in Le Mars and Cherokee to better serve the rural communities in Plymouth and Cherokee Counties, respectively. Indoor storage at these satellite locations will protect SRTS' buses and vans, expanding the useful life of these capital investments.**

Section 4.1 Support Capital Needs (pg 85)

The on-going support of the PTP is tied directly to the maintenance, and at times expansion of the capital infrastructure in the MPO and SRTPA planning area. Before the MPO and SRTPA can think about strategies for improving mobility for older adults, people with disabilities and people with lower incomes, it must ensure that the foundation of services are in place which requires a sufficient capital network. Maintaining a basic capital infrastructure via vehicle replacement, vehicle rehabilitation, vehicle equipment improvements, and new vehicles would be the primary expense to ensure a successful level of assistance. **To ensure these capital infrastructure investments are maintained to the highest degree and protected to prolong their useful life, SRTS will seek funds to expand the current garage facilities to accommodate additional indoor vehicle storage at the site of the current building. Satellite garage facilities will also be necessary to protect vehicles stored in the communities of Le Mars and Cherokee as demand for services grows in Plymouth**

and Cherokee counties. In addition to these garage storage facilities, SRTS intends to pursue expansion of the existing building to accommodate a growing number of SRTS and SIMPCO staff members. SIMPCO's relationship with SRTS as a tenant of the building offsets costs of maintenance and purchase of new capital equipment. Therefore, as an essential component of SRTS operational structure, it is necessary to consider the future office and meeting space needs for both SRTS and SIMPCO staff.