

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2011  
AND 85.21 PUBLIC HEARING**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 9, 2010

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

**PRESENT:**

Jason Kakatsch, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Sal LaPuma, Valley Transit; Carol Kasimor, City of Neenah; David Vickman & Chris Strong, Oshkosh Transit; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Lori Duclon (& student), Public Health Department; Harvey Rengstorf & Mike Norton, County Board; Bob Poeschl, ARC-Winnebago County Disability Association; Beckie Pinnow, American Red Cross; Mark Weisensel & Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Jason Kakatsch welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2010 MEETING:**

Harvey Rengstorf moved for approval of the minutes of the May 11, 2010 meeting; seconded by Bob Poeschl and carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATE ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR 2011:**

Chris Strong moved to open the public hearing; seconded by Bob Poeschl and carried.

Mark Weisensel explained that each year this council has the opportunity to sponsor the public hearing for the state's 85.21 grant application for transportation funding. He said the Department of Human Services intends to submit the application for the grant amount of \$361,986 for the year 2011. The 20% matching requirement of \$72,397 is included in the 2011 Human Services budget. Mark said the funding allocation will be split evenly between Oshkosh Transit and Valley Transit for the ADA and Para-Transit services that they provide to the elderly and/or disabled citizens of Winnebago County. Mark opened the hearing to public testimony, questions and comments.

Holly Keenan explained that as the mobility manager for Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago counties, her role is to look at ways to coordinate and consolidate services to provide more transportation to disabled and elderly citizens. She would like to see more funds allocated so people are able to travel more easily between Oshkosh and the Fox Cities area.

Mark Weisensel said the county will continue to fund \$30,000 for the route between Oshkosh and Neenah. He will work with Holly on other ideas. When asked how the census will impact these services, Jason Kakatsch replied that there is a proposal that would agglomerate the Oshkosh urbanized area into the Fox Cities urbanized area. He said the loss of federal operating assistance will have a substantial impact on fixed route transit, as well as para-transit. It will have a snowball effect with different funding pools. The 85.21 money will leverage other funds, but will not be used to leverage federal operating assistance. With no further testimony, Sal LaPuma moved to close the hearing; seconded by Carol Kasimor and carried.

**5. 2011 TRANSPORTATION BROCHURE CHANGES:**

Mark Weisensel asked for any changes or updates to the “Going Places” transportation brochure. He said they should be directed to Beckie Pinnow by December 15. Mark will make copies and distribute them to council members and throughout the community in February 2011.

**6. PROPOSED AGGLOMERATION OF THE OSHKOSH AND FOX CITIES URBANIZED AREAS:**

Jason Kakatsch explained that when the Fox Cities urbanized area hits 200,000 people (which we project has already occurred), that area becomes a transportation management area (TMA) under federal designation, and the federal transit administration takes away its federal operating assistance. Jason said this means Valley Transit will be faced with a loss of between \$1 million and \$2 million in federal operating assistance. We have been looking at getting Regional Transit Authority (RTA) legislation to allow for local units of government to implement a sales tax to generate revenue. Several urbanized areas have been successful in getting RTA legislation in the last legislative session, but it failed in the Fox Cities. They hope to have it brought up again at the next session in January. Jason said some new language was found that would change how urbanized areas are defined. It includes a listing of urbanized area agglomerations that were to occur under the new urbanized area criteria. TMA's that would be agglomerated are: Kenosha/Racine would be agglomerated into the Chicago urbanized area; the Beloit area would be agglomerated into the Rockford, IL urbanized area; and the Oshkosh and Fox Cities urbanized areas would be agglomerated into one. This would guarantee that not only Valley Transit would reach TMA designation, but the Oshkosh Transit System would as well. Jason said Oshkosh would not have any reactionary time and would also lose its federal operating assistance of approximately \$1 million immediately. He said the loss of these funds would have a domino effect for all fixed route and para-transit services statewide. Public comments on the language are being accepted at the state level. They are looking for technical issues relative to how census data is collected, distributed and maintained by reverting back to criteria that was used in 1990. Jason said several local transit systems, other groups and individuals will be submitting their opposition to the language.

**7. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Sal LaPuma said they are working on the RTA and proposed changes in the legislature.

Carol Kasimor said they recently finished an RFP process with Valley Transit to look at a contract with a provider for Dial-a-Ride. They will be recommending that Fox Valley Cab continue the service and are looking at the same fare rate for next year.

Lori Duclon said she hopes the Red Cross transportation program continues, because it is beneficial to their consumers who are on a fixed income.

Holly Keenan said she has been getting more calls from the city of Oshkosh regarding rides for Medicaid clients. She would like clarification as to how the program works, so they can also educate the consumer as to who is covered for rides. Dave Vickman said the state sets a rate, and the provider doesn't have to provide the ride if they feel the rate won't at least cover their expenses or be profitable. Mark Weisensel suggested a meeting be held to discuss this issue.

Beckie Pinnow said the Red Cross has lost a major funding source for 2011 for low-income disabled Oshkosh residents. They will be struggling to provide rides to destinations outside of Oshkosh. It won't impact any rides for Human Services or the Lakeland Care District.

Dave Vickman said they are working with Holly Keenan to fill some of the gaps in transportation. He said there will be free bus fare on the day after Thanksgiving this year for all transit riders. Dave said they have had meetings with Lakeland Care District and IRIS representatives regarding transition issues for MA transportation.

Chris Strong said they sent an RFP for non-ambulatory para-transit for a five-year contract, which was awarded to Oshkosh Cabulance. They will start this service on January 1, 2011. Chris said they continue to work with ECWRPC on the Transit Development Plan update.

Mark Weisensel said the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is very busy since operation began in February in our Oshkosh building and in July in our Neenah building. He said 85% of the contacts are phone calls from people looking for information regarding services; 15% are walk-ins or e-mails. Among the ADRC staff are two disability benefit specialists and two elderly benefit specialists. Mark said we are doing a lot of marketing and outreach. Bob Poeschl expressed the benefit of having the ADRC across the street from the ARC building.

Holly Keenan said she would like there to be an avenue or group to help coordinate the things we hope to accomplish with transportation services. Jason Kakatsch suggested that a small task force get involved in such projects and report back to this group on a consistent basis. Holly will set up a meeting for interested individuals.

**8. 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Jason referred everyone to the meeting schedule for 2011.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, Bob Poeschl moved for adjournment; seconded by Dave Vickman and carried at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on February 8, 2011 at the Hooper Community Center in Oshkosh at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dorothy De Grace, Secretary  
Human Services Department