

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2009

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hooper Community Center – Lower Level Conference Room
36 Broad St., Oshkosh

PRESENT:

Jason Kakatsch, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Harvey Rengstorf, Winnebago County Board; Carol Kasimor, City of Neenah; Lea Kitz and Bob Poeschl, ARC of Winnebago County; Kathryn Nichols, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Chris Strong, Oshkosh Transit System; Barb Davies, Cabulance; Glenn Davies, Oshkosh City Cab; Judy Britton, Cerebral Palsy of Mideast WI; Beckie Pinnow, American Red Cross; Sal LaPuma, Valley Transit; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Lori Duclon, Public Health Department; Terri Stern, Nutrition Program; Mark Weisensel, Winnebago County Department of Human Services; Mark Muscavitch, Consumer; Dan Kobussen, Kobussen Buses Ltd.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairperson Jason Kakatsch called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 11, 2008 MEETING:

Kathryn Nichols moved for approval of the minutes of the November 11, 2008 meeting; seconded by Harvey Rengstorf and carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jason Kakatsch asked if there was any public comment for discussion aside from the scheduled agenda items. Mark Muscavitch expressed concerns to the Council about the way the recent fare increases were advertised to consumers. Chris Strong and Barb Davies briefly discussed how consumers were notified via the newspaper, stakeholder groups, and notices on the vehicles. Mark Muscavitch noted that he was unaware of the increases as a consumer and recommended that other notification strategies be examined. Chris Strong and Barb Davies noted that they would examine such alternatives.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF THE GOING PLACES BROCHURE:

Mark Weisensel noted that the Going Places Brochure has been updated and 5,500 copies have been produced for distribution. The recent updates to the brochure also include the 211 number on the cover. Bob Poeschl questioned whether or not the service grids from Oshkosh Transit and Valley Transit would be included. Mark Weisensel noted that those could be printed for distribution as well, but was waiting to receive a copy from Valley Transit. Bob Poeschl noted that those grids have been more useful for their clientele.

5. DRAFT ACCOMPLISHMENTS LETTER TO THE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

Jason Kakatsch noted that a draft copy of the 2008 Council Accomplishments Letter was included in the packet. This letter is sent to the Winnebago County Human Services Board and the Winnebago County Board annually. The council briefly examined and discussed the letter. Chris Strong noted that a correction was needed to some of the Oshkosh Transit numbers. Kathryn Nichols also emphasized the importance of participation from Winnebago County in the federally required specialized transportation planning/coordination process. Kathryn Nichols also moved for approval of the accomplishments letter, with a second from Chris Strong and carried. Jason Kakatsch thanked everyone for their timely information updates for inclusion in the letter.

6. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Mark Weisensel distributed and explained the content of the 2009 Senior Resource Guide for Winnebago County.

Dan Kobussen noted that they are continuing to work on 2009 contract proposals for Valley Transit services.

Sal LaPuma said that Valley Transit is currently receiving proposals for both Valley Transit II and The Connector.

Chris Strong noted that the Transit Advisory Board will be meeting to discuss fare reductions for after hour paratransit services. This would bring the fare from \$5 to \$4. He also noted that discussions are continuing with Valley Transit to improve Route #10. Ridership figures for 2008 include a 2.3 percent increase in ridership overall, 6.5 percent for paratransit and 1.8 percent for fixed route service.

Harvey Rengstorf reminded everyone of the upcoming election.

Judy Britton confirmed that they have received both of their grant funded vehicles.

Barb Davies and Glenn Davies noted that City Cab and Cabulance will be updating their computer, scheduling, and phone systems.

Holly Keenan noted that her program has had a change in funding sources and is currently developing a strategic plan which includes the potential expansion of service area and clientele.

Carol Kasimor noted that Neenah/Menasha Dial-A-Ride is up 6 percent and that the contract for 2009 is being extended with Fox Valley Cab.

Terri Stern discussed awareness of the nutrition program for Winnebago County residents and coordination with transportation providers to ensure access to the nutrition sites.

Bob Poeschl and Lea Kitz confirmed that their voucher program has ended and at this point funding sources for 2009 to continue the program are unfulfilled. They noted that a survey of program participants was conducted with 48 of 323 surveys returned. Results of the survey were briefly discussed.

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Kathryn Nichols noted that the vouchers offered by the ARC were useful for service gaps/isolated situations experienced by their clientele or families. She noted that Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh received their anticipated vehicle from the State, with another van and minibus anticipated for the future.

Mark Weisense thanked everyone that serves on the council and the service providers that are helping with the transportation service in Winnebago County.

Lori Duclon noted that the voucher program through the ARC of Winnebago County was also beneficial to her clientele on a case by case basis.

Jason Kakatsch noted that he is continuing to work on Transit Development Plans (TDPs) for both the Valley Transit and Fond du Lac Area transit systems. Jason is also conducting analysis of boarding and alighting data for the Oshkosh Transit System and continuing to monitor Regional Transit Authority (RTA) discussions at the state level.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting of the Specialized Transportation Council will be Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission located at 400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100 in Menasha. Jason Kakatsch noted that he will most likely not be able to attend the next meeting. It was concluded that Mark Weisense who is Vice Chair would fill in for Jason in his absence.

With no further business, Kathryn Nichols moved for adjournment; seconded by Judy Britton and carried at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jason Kakatsch, Chairman
Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council