

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, May 13, 2014

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC)

PRESENT:

Jim Collins, Go Transit; Dave Vickman, Go Transit; Heidi Vargas, Lakeside Packaging Plus; Sal LaPuma, Valley Transit; Steve Komp, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Mark Ziemer, Oshkosh Senior Services; and Mark Weisensel, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Mark Weisensel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 MEETING:

Steve Komp moved for approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting; seconded by Dave Vickman and carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments.

4. WINNEBAGO COUNTY SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION STUDY:

Mark Weisensel distributed and reviewed in detail the Executive Summary of the Specialized Transportation Study. In the summary it states that there are still gaps, needs and barriers, especially in the rural portions of the county that prevent individuals from getting adequate transportation. The study was done to evaluate the existing specialized transportation system and identify the gaps, barriers and needs and to develop recommendations to remedy those issues. The study utilized data from stakeholders, such as transportation providers; residents who currently use the services or who potentially could use the services; businesses, agencies, and programs that support residents who use the services. The four-step process to collect data included: develop data collection protocols; collect data via surveys and personal interviews; conduct a data analysis; and evaluate the transportation system to identify deficiencies and improvement options. The study resulted in one long-term and eight short-term recommendations for improvements.

5. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Steve Komp said they expanded their transportation program from primarily transporting their residents for medical appointments to such things as grocery store trips for their independent housing residents. They are looking to expand it further as their seniors give up driving and find it difficult to get to the bus stop.

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Sal LaPuma said Valley Transit recently had a Strategic Plan kick-off meeting, which included local officials and funding partners. They will put together a steering committee to lead the process. Any additional information or comments can be submitted via an on-line survey. Sal has been doing data analysis for trips, including looking at the Connector Program. Although the program is well used, it is not self-sustaining.

Heidi Vargas said they continue to work with Kobussen on any changes to their fixed route. They also continue working with Go Transit on the route that goes in and out of their agency's front parking lot, which has been an asset. They are looking at expanding some internal programs, which could affect transportation.

Mark Ziemer has had conversations with Holly Keenan of Making the Ride Happen around her attempts to expand the volunteer driver list. He will check into the possibility of their new software being able to enhance the relationship between both agencies in handling local calls for volunteer rides, making it more comfortable and accessible for people.

Dave Vickman said they are working on changing how the buses are interlined, such as Route #1 and #4 being interlined to eliminate one of the transfers. They have completed one year since the changes were made to bus routes, and they have already made a few changes. Four routes are doing well; but Route #3 which circulates downtown and goes to the Senior Center, and Route #9 which provides access to the hospital will get some minor changes. They are using new technology on a few of the buses to collect data for evaluating bus stops and routes. At their next Transit Committee meeting they will be discussing the Pick N Save bus stop to go over some options. Any changes that they make will take time to implement.

Mark Weisensel said the County Executive will meet with the Human Services Director at the end of August for the 2015 Human Services Budget, which then goes before the County Board in November.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE – AUGUST 12, 2014:

The date of the next meeting was noted.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Jim Collins moved for adjournment at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on August 12, 2014 at the Hooper Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dorothy De Grace, Secretary
Human Services Department