

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, August 12, 2014

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hooper Community Center

PRESENT:

Nick Musson, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC); Steve Komp, Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh; Dave Vickman, Go Transit; Glen Davies, Oshkosh City Cab & Cabulance; Erin Roberts & Cindy Draws, Public Health Department; Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Nick Musson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2014 MEETING:

Mark Weisensel moved for approval of the minutes of the May 13, 2014 meeting; seconded by Steve Komp and carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments.

4. GREATER WINNEBAGO ADVOCACY COALITION ON MOBILITY:

Nick Musson said that in response to a recommendation from the Winnebago County Transportation Study, a coalition on mobility was formed to advocate for low-income seniors and disabled citizens. Their first meeting was held July 17, where they had a speaker from Options for Independent Living. The group is in the process of getting some leadership structure in place and more representation from all areas of the county, including rural areas. The group would eventually focus on other advocacy issues besides transportation.

5. REPORT – EMPLOYMENT TRANSPORTATION IN WISCONSIN: AN ANALYSIS IN RESPONSE TO JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) PROGRAM CHANGES:

Nick Musson referred to the state's report regarding JARC program changes. The program was initially authorized to provide formula funds to states to assist low-income and welfare recipients with transportation to employment. The JARC program was then repealed by the MAP-21 program, which incorporated JARC eligible activities into the Federal Formula Grant Program for rural areas (5307 funding formula) and urbanized areas (5311 funding formula) which changed to include the ratio of low-income individuals. JARC projects will no longer need to be part of a locally developed public transit transportation plan.

One of the barriers to non-profits applying for employment transportation with the MAP-21 program is that they must get a public entity to sponsor them. Nick said he would look into a public-private partnership for transportation under the new MAP-21 program. A program such as this would expand ridesharing, promote coordination with employers, and fill in deficiencies in service.

6. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Mark Weisensel said the Making the Ride program and Advocap's Volunteer Driver program have agreed to collaborate rides for the city of Oshkosh.

Dave Vickman said Go Transit continues to evaluate their new route system and have made a few changes since April. They've seen ridership increases in the last three months. At the last Transit Advisory Board meeting there were several individuals with a disability speaking in favor of some of the new transportation areas, which are starting to get new riders. They recently awarded a contract to a company for automatic passenger counters on all of the buses, which will show how many people get on and off the buses. Dave is working with ECWRPC on doing another assessment on bus stop accessibility to determine if anything needs to be changed. He is hoping to do a rider survey later this fall. They are also working on the issues with Pick N Save bus stop and hope to have a solution soon.

Steve Komp said their internal transportation program is busy trying to meet the needs of the 300 seniors on their campus. They've added two shopping runs to their bus schedule each month. They also make other bus runs, such as to the Senior Center, Piggly Wiggly, and the library – they charge \$3.00 round trip for those trips. They have three 12-passenger buses and a van that they use for transportation purposes. They offer free transportation to the grocery store on Tuesday and Thursday; they also provide free transportation to Wal Mart and other shopping areas. They try to accommodate the residents, but still have low ridership. Steve said some UWO students will be doing research and discussion at Lutheran Homes regarding sustainability studies.

Nick Musson said ECWRPC is utilizing the GTFS? data function made available to transit agencies, whereby they put out a text file giving information about their routes. This can be a useful bus stop accessibility tool with GIS for people to use in mapping. Nick said they hope to develop a huge database with information from Go Transit regarding all transit stops where they could eventually print out a booklet to be made available to the public. Nick is in the process of updating the long-range transportation plan for the Oshkosh area. ECWRPC was awarded a three-year grant for Safe Routes to School, which will be helpful in providing safe rides to children in the region. They will be sponsoring a UWO planning class for a community service project doing bus boarding and lighting for Go Transit using their new automatic counters.

7. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** November 11, 2014

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, Dave Vickman moved for adjournment; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried at 3:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on November 11, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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