

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021

**TIME:** 1:38 p.m.

**PLACE:** ZOOM

**PRESENT:** Adam BellCorelli, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Susan Garcia Franz, Winnebago County Public Health; Holly Keenan, Lutheran Social Services; Sarah Schneider, Valley Transit; Tricia Rathermel, City of Oshkosh Economic Development; Deb Shepro, ADVOCAP; Laura VanHooreweghe, Valley Transit; and Bryn Ceman, Winnebago County Department of Human Services

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Bryn Ceman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were given by all.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING**

Adam BellCorelli moved for approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting; seconded by Deb Shepro and carried.

**4. APPROVAL FOR THE 85.21 GRANT FUNDS FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR 2021**

Bryn Ceman shared that the official approval of the 85.21 grant has been received from the DOT.

**5. ROUTE 10 – ECWRPC**

Bryn Ceman provided the article and survey links that East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is conducting as follows:

- a. Article: <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2148524498818/fox-valley-transit-authorities-seeking-advice-from-commuters-on-new-transportation-options-for-i-41-corridor>
- b. Survey: [http://oshkosh.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6EDIJRbsgtJYCV](http://oshkosh.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6EDIJRbsgtJYCV)

Adam BellCorelli provided information and updates regarding Route 10. Adam explained the importance of Route 10 which connects Valley Transit and the Fox Cities into Oshkosh and GO Transit and is utilized for employment, shopping, medical appointments, etc. As ridership for Route 10 has at times been questionable lately, Adam indicated that the survey is being conducted as a way to look to determine how riders are getting around the Fox Cities and Oshkosh including the impact of Route 10 on individuals without vehicles. Adam shared details of a proposal regarding creating a commuter express route which is a faster route that would expand on what Route 10 currently offers and potentially go from the North end of Appleton into Oshkosh as part of a larger system as user needs and preferences are determined. The first phase of the survey entailed contracting with UW-Oshkosh to provide the survey of which the survey link wrapped up approximately two weeks ago. The second phase of the survey is underway with the UW-Oshkosh staff currently conducting an employer survey. With the ridership survey, Adam was pleased to announce that over 300 usable responses were received regarding commuter services throughout the Fox Valley. Adam indicated that a report will be forthcoming summarizing the final survey data.

Adam also shared that the UW-Oshkosh Quest III Explore class reached out to him inquiring whether ECWRPC had any projects a group of their students could become involved in. Adam shared that students have since began a class project of riding in small groups to / from destinations with COVID precautions in place without fee to the students and in return providing feedback from the perspective of students. Adam stated that the Quest class additionally has another group project in which students do volunteer work at the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry and Adam encouraged that group to take the bus to/from the campus to the food pantry.

## **6. TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Bryn indicated that feedback is being sought from other transit advisory committees in the area regarding duplication and/or overlapping of efforts, potential recruitment of members from other committees, and composition of committee members and attendees in an effort to bolster participation. Suggestions to explore included: City of Oshkosh Transit and Advisory Committee, City of Oshkosh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, GO Transit, ESTHER, Fox Cities Transit Commission, and Fox Valley Thrives.

## **7. MRH AND WINNEBAGO CATCH A RIDE UPDATES**

Holly Keenan informed the group that in 2020 Winnebago Catch a Ride did 3634 total trips. This was in spite of the pandemic inhibiting volunteers.

Trish reported that the Oshkosh Area CWG received additional funding from COVID grants which helped keep their program. The long-term goal is to get more private investors in order to not have rely as much on grants and public funding. The grant has allowed the program to keep going another year and will continue to work on other funding opportunities to ensure the program continues.

Holly indicated that due to some funding obtained for the Catch a Ride Program, expansion into Waupaca County, and a staff retirement, MRH has a position opening that will be working on the Catch a Ride Program and the Waupaca County expansion. The position opening is posted on Lutheran Social Services' website.

Holly reported that they saw an influx of rides on the van obtained through LSS Wisconsin for a total of 298 rides provided with the majority of rides being medical which cross county lines. Following recruiting efforts, additional volunteer drivers were obtained.

Wisconsin Association of Mobility's remote legislative day in Madison that had been scheduled for Tuesday was postponed to later in February. The purpose of the legislative day is to discuss funding for transportation and the hope is to also discuss non-emergency medical transport issues with the WIS-DOT and Department of Human Services.

## **8. VALLEY TRANSIT UPDATE**

Laura VanHooreweghe reported that year-end ridership ended up down at 42 percent. This month they are at about 50 percent currently both ADA and fixed route.

Sarah Schneider reported the official launch 2-hour modules of the Train the Trainer travel training program called PIT Crew (Partners in Transit) helping employees get access to free transportation. Contact has been made with Lakeside Packaging, Valley Packaging, Goodwill Industries, and similar businesses with travel training roles. Sarah indicated that they would like to spread awareness of this new, improved system which includes the implementation of issuing of new ID cards. Informational brochures are available and Sarah indicated that she would be willing to do onsite presentations.

Sarah informed the group about a new initiative which has formed called the Tri-County Multicultural Communications Committee. This committee was formed with the intention to be a communications channel in which information can be translated into other languages for the purpose of dissemination to those with language barriers. At the present time, the most urgent information to be communicated is in regards to education regarding COVID and access to vaccinations. The hope is that this committee in the future can focus on transportation barriers as well.

## **9. GO TRANSIT UPDATE**

None.

## **10. ADVOCAP VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM UPDATE**

Deb Shepro shared that they are continuing food deliveries. Ride requests are starting to pick up again at a rate of about 20 additional each month. 95 rides were provided in January and 120 food deliveries to 49 people. In 2020, a total of 920 food deliveries were provided to 128 people. At this point, funding has been available to allow for food to be brought from the food pantry and be delivered to individuals who are homebound or staying home more due to COVID. They have also provided rides to individuals to receive their COVID vaccinations. The food pantries being utilized are: St. Joe's in Neenah/Menasha, the Lutheran Food Pantry in Oshkosh, and the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Oshkosh.

11. **NEXT MEETING DATE**: May 11, 2021

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Adam BellCorelli moved for adjournment; seconded by Sarah Schneider and carried at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Bryn Ceman, Human Services Department

Upcoming Meetings: August 10, 2021; November 9, 2021