

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 12, 2013

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC)

PRESENT:

Nick Musson, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission; Chris Strong, Oshkosh Transit; Holly Keenan, Making the Ride Happen; Debra Ebben and Amy Erickson, Valley Transit; Barb Wolf, Public Health Department; Mark Weisensel and Dorothy De Grace, 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 MAY 14, 2013 MEETING:

Chris Strong moved for approval of the minutes of the May 14, 2013 meeting; seconded by Amy Erickson and carried.

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATE ELDERLY & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR 2014:

Mark Weisensel opened the Public Hearing at 1:34 p.m. He explained that the state allocates money on behalf of the elderly and disabled in each county, and a public hearing must be held to allow for comments. He said the Human Services Department of Winnebago County intends to submit an application in the amount of \$377,459 to the Department of Transportation for specialized transportation assistance. The matching requirement of county dollars is \$75,492 and is included in the department's 2014 approved county budget. The funding for the year 2014 is being allocated to the following two programs for the provision of rides to the elderly and/or disabled citizens of Winnebago County: 1) ADA and para-transit service provided by Go Transit 2) para-transit service provided by Valley Transit. There were no comments on the proposal, and Mark closed the Public Hearing at 1:40 p.m.

4. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON:

Mark Weisensel nominated Nick Musson for chairperson (replacing Jason Kakatsch who is no longer on the council); seconded by Chris Strong. With no other nominations, Chris Strong moved to approve Nick Musson as the new chairperson; seconded by Barb Wolf and carried unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments.

6. 2014 GOING PLACES BROCHURE:

Mark Weisensel asked for any changes to the Going Places brochure for transportation programs and services. He explained changes that have already been identified for the 2014 brochure. Additional changes should be given to Becky Pinnow at the American Red Cross. She will update the original document, and Mark Weisensel will get copies made. Mark will bring copies of the final brochure to the next meeting.

7. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES:

Debra Ebben said rides on the connector are up and the program is doing what it was intended to do—getting people to work for second shift and for the fixed route.

Amy Erickson said Fox Valley Cab is still going to the Heritage for riders—ridership has gone up. Regarding the strategic plan, they did a request for proposal (RFP) and they are now evaluating the proposals they received. A separate RFP was done for a ridership survey that will be completed by the end of the year.

Barb Wolf said part of her work is with the Housing Authority, and she said they are pleased with the changes to the bus routes.

Holly Keenan explained that a sub-committee was formed as a result of the recent Transportation Plunge to look at things that were identified during that event. One thing that was identified was to look at expanding the volunteer driver program. They will meet to discuss recruiting drivers for the rural areas. She said they are planning to reschedule a trip to Oshkosh North High School to do travel training with some of the students as part of the Bus Buddy Program.

Chris Strong said Go Transit is going through their 2014 budget process. They don't anticipate any service changes or public fare increases. They are proposing a \$1 fare increase for individuals in the Family Care and IRIS programs. They are seeing some positive signs of ridership increases to the new bus routes; but para-transit ridership is down. Mark Weisensel thanked Chris for changing the bus routes back to going into the hospital lots for riders at Affinity and Aurora.

Nick Musson said Winnebago County, Go Transit, and ECWRPC are working on a transportation study to look at all issues of transportation. They've gotten a number of surveys back and have had some face-to-face interviews. A Transportation Summit is scheduled for December 3 at the Hilton Garden in Oshkosh to go over the results of the data collected. He said they will use the data in the process of updating their long-range transportation plans and in preparation of the 2014-2018 Winnebago County Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan.

8. 2014-2018 WINNEBAGO COUNTY COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT – HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Nick Musson distributed a draft of a worksheet which lists gaps, needs or barriers to transportation and the strategies and actions to overcome them.

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Nick Musson said the information in the worksheet is an update to the 2008 Winnebago County Coordinated Public Transportation Plan and will be used in preparing the 2014-2018 Winnebago County Public Transit – Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. He said that anyone who applies for 85.21 or 53.10 funds must derive any projects from this plan. He said the worksheet was compiled to identify the gaps and barriers within the transportation system and to plan strategies for the next five years. Some of the strategies are: look at additional tie-downs on buses for more wheelchairs; focus on rural transportation needs; do more advertising about services to potential riders; expand the volunteer driver program. After a review of the basic contents to be included in the 2014-2018 Winnebago County Public Transit – Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan, Holly Keenan moved for approval; seconded by Amy Erickson and carried unanimously.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – FEBRUARY 11, 2014:

The date of the next meeting was noted.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council will be held on February 11, 2014 at the Hooper Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

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