

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission Hosted Virtual Meeting

MEETING ATTENDEES: Kathy Groeschel (ADRC of Calumet County)
Heidi Russell (ADRC of Shawano County)
Kim Novak (ADRC of the Lakeshore)
Linda Spitzer & Liz Schumacher (ADRC of Sheboygan County)
Beth Roberts & Nicole Davis-Dawald (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Sue Pomplun & Libby Stockton (ADVOCAP)
Jeff Agee-Aguayo & Heena Bhatt (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Lisa Conard & Ker Vang (Brown County Planning Commission)
Bobbi Craig-Hegna (Center for Independent Living)
Adam BellCorelli (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)
Valerie Hoff (Enterprise Holdings)
Andrea Vlach & Essie Fels (Green Bay Metro)
Nick Musson (GWAAR)
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services)
Peggy Zielinski (Northeast Wisconsin CAP)
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)
Steve Tomasik (Oshkosh GO Transit)
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)
Rhonda Hannemann (United Way of the Fox Cities)
Sarah Schneider (Valley Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)
Pam Busch (Door County)
Nikki Voight (Door-Tran)
Jim Collins (Oshkosh GO Transit)
Brenna Root (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Agee-Aguayo called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval

Moved by Ker Vang, seconded by Essie Fels, carried without amendments.

3. Review and Approval of October 4, 2022, NEWRATC Meeting Minutes

Moved by Linda Spitzer, seconded by Adam BellCorelli, carried without amendments.

4. Public Input – None

5. State and Federal Legislative Update (All)

Nick Musson shared that the Section 5310 grants were recently awarded and that there was an increase from 2022. Nick Musson shared the following during the meeting and via email:

WisDOT distributed 28% more funding in 2023 (over \$5 million) than in 2022 (\$3.9 million). This is due in part to the increase in funding Wisconsin received from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that was enacted on

FINAL, Approved 4/11/2023

November 15, 2021. WisDOT is required to fund capital projects, mobility management and vehicles, with at least 55% of federal funds.

- *There were 74 applications requesting \$8.5 million in funds for 101 projects.*
- *WisDOT provided \$1.3 million out of \$1.7 million requested to fund 15 Mobility Management projects at 83.48%.*
- *WisDOT provided \$1.6 million out of \$2.6 million requested to fund 19 Operating projects at 60.76%.*
- *WisDOT awarded 28 first choice vehicles totaling \$2.1 million out of \$4.2 million requested.*

Sandy Popp asked if the higher levels will continue due to the BIL. Nick Musson responded that there is a need to pressure the state to better fund the Section 5310 Program.

Lisa Conard commented that Nick Musson's numbers do not reflect the TMAs. The Green Bay TMA also received an increase in Section 5310 funding.

6. Update on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (All)

Nick Musson shared the following during the meeting and via email:

- *The NEMT advisory committee met on December 8, 2022.*
- *Mileage reimbursement - back in July, DHS changed the mileage rate from 24 to 29 cents. The rate will revert to 24 cents starting January 1, 2023. DHS is continuing to monitor Federal mileage rates and will have further discussions about how to move forward based on what the Federal government does in the future.*
- *Public Health Emergency (PHE) - We continue to be under a declared public health emergency. When the PHE ends, programs will revert to their permanent state. The Federal government would give 60-day notice before PHE ends. There is one policy effecting NEMT – Testing and vaccination appointments for PHE are considered as an urgent trip, but once the PHE ends COVID-19 trips will not be considered urgent.*
- *Weather - NEMT can be impacted by weather. The goal is balance. They will focus on safety first and then communication. If a facility is planning to close, please let Veyo know so they don't put members and providers on the road in unsafe conditions. Veyo wants to leverage local and state resources to make the best decision possible.*
- *Rider notes for providers and drivers – There was a discussion about the location of the trip notes within the software for the provider and drivers. Notes are being pushed down and drivers miss the notes and problems occur. Veyo will investigate it.*
- *The top five complaints include: missed pick-ups, late pick-ups, driver issues, mileage reimbursement, and scheduling errors.*
- *Customer satisfaction survey scores have increased since the merger.*
- *Some 8 new small medical vehicle providers were added in the third quarter of 2022.*

Linda Spitzer asked if Veyo shared how many complaints were received. Musson stated that this comes up in customer satisfaction surveys.

Lisa Conard asked if provider lists have been shared; Nick Musson responded that they are shared at the county level.

Holly Keenan asked if Veyo is reimbursing counties for rides that Veyo is supposed to provide; Nick Musson responded that this is possible under a contract if Veyo is the only funding source.

Nick Musson discussed the preliminary stages of state budget development, including the Governor's listening sessions, and encouraged advocacy at this time.

7. Committee Member/Program Updates (All)

Andrea Vlach, Green Bay Metro, shared an update on service changes that were related to staff shortages.

Nick Musson shared that he has been working with various entities to draft possible model legislation to resolve problems for volunteer drivers and their insurance coverage.

Linda Spitzer shared updates on staff changes for the ADRC of Sheboygan County.

Sarah Schneider shared that Valley Transit needs an updated farebox system and noted that the facility upgrade is in progress. The continued driver shortage has affected things at Valley Transit as well.

Valerie Hoff shared that Enterprise Holdings has 20 employment van pools operating in the area.

Sue Pomplun shared that ADVOCAP is looking to add vouchers for transportation for clients who have their car in a shop for repairs.

Libby Stockton provided a volunteer update for ADVOCAP.

Steve Tomasik shared that Go Transit's paratransit ridership is about the same as 2021. Senior ridership is down and employment transportation is up. The facility has been upgraded and four new buses were received. Go Transit is having some data issues which have made it difficult to collect fixed route ridership.

Holly Keenan shared that Lutheran Social Services has two positions open in the area of transportation. Holly also shared that it has been a struggle to find providers. Clients are also having difficulty in purchasing cars because while their wages have gone up, other increased expenses have offset their increased take home pay.

Adam BellCorelli with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission shared what plans he is working on and shared his agency's data hubs in the chat.

Kim Novak shared that the ADRC of the Lakeshore still needs volunteer drivers.

Ker Vang shared that Brown County's Section 85.21 plan was submitted to and approved by WisDOT.

Heena Bhatt discussed her proposal to develop a transportation planning/feasibility study for Sheboygan County, along with her work administering the shared-ride taxi grant for the City of Marinette.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo shared that he is working on updating the long-range transportation plan for the Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), which is due in late April. Jeff Agee-Aguayo is also working on amendments to the 2023 MPO Work Program and the 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Sheboygan MPA.

8. Other (All) – None

9. Next Meeting –April 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (in-person & virtual)

10. Adjournment

Moved by Lisa Conard, seconded by Sue Pomplun, motion carried. Adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Busch, Secretary