

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 12, 2022
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Hosted In-Person & Virtual Meeting

MEETING ATTENDEES: Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)
Kathy Groeschel (ADRC of Calumet County)
Kim Novak (ADRC of the Lakeshore)
Linda Spitzer (ADRC of Sheboygan County)
Nicole Davis-Dawald (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Jeff Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Ker Vang (Brown County Planning Commission)
Pam Busch (Door County)
Nikki Voight (Door-Tran)
Adam BellCorelli (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)
Meri Tawawili (Forward Service Corporation)
Andrea Vlach & Essie Fels (Green Bay Metro)
Nick Musson (GWAAR)
Peggy Zielinski (Northeast Wisconsin CAP)
Steve Tomasik (Oshkosh GO Transit)
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)
Sarah Schneider (Valley Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Beth Roberts (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)
Lynn Gilles (Fond du Lac Area Transit)
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)
Melissa Annoye (Kewaunee County)
Jim Collins (Oshkosh GO Transit)
Kari Kuiper (Outagamie County Housing)

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 Kim Novak, seconded by Essie Fels, carried without amendments.

3. Review and Approval of April 12, 2022, NEWRATC Meeting Minutes

Moved by Nikki Voight, seconded by Ker Vang, carried without amendments.

4. Public Input – None

5. State and Federal Legislative Update (All)

Nick Musson shared that he is working with a committee on the volunteer driver insurance issue. If you have a volunteer who has had difficulty renewing their personal auto coverage or who has been denied coverage, please contact Nick. He is collecting stories at this time.

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

Nick Musson shared that an announcement was made on June 6th of the acquisition of Veyo by MTM. No further updates have been received since the announcement; however, according to Veyo contacts, it has been business as usual.

7. Committee Member/Program Updates (All)

Pam Busch shared that the Section 85.21 service has a full-time driver now and that they are fully staffed with this service for the first time since December. Pam is also researching wheel tax options and asked that any members with information or experience on this subject please contact her.

Kim Novak stated that she is working on the Section 5310 grants for operating and for mobility management.

Derek Muench shared that Shoreline Metro's digital payment system is being added to the student free ride program for next school year. Derek is also working on the procurement of six buses.

Steve Tomasik indicated that at GO Transit, fixed route ridership was up 23% year-to-date from 2021 and paratransit ridership was up 56% year-to-date from 2021. Due to funding, Route 10 will have some changes for 2023, which includes the Neenah to Oshkosh route ending. GO Transit is also scheduled to receive a couple of buses in the next couple of months. The transit center expansion should be complete by October.

Nick Musson shared that the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has hired a Volunteer Coordinator to assist agencies with recruitment and retention of volunteers.

Kathy Groeschel shared that the ADRC of Calumet County is looking for a part-time driver. Kathy is working on the 2023 Section 5310 grants and current quarterly reports for Section 5310 and Section 85.21.

Essie Fels shared that Green Bay Metro will be getting four 29-foot buses in the near future. Green Bay Metro is also finishing up on the bus lifts in their garage and LED lighting.

Ker Vang reported that he is working with the Wisconsin Bike Federation on expanding Cycling Without Age programs in Brown County.

Meri Tawawili commented that Forward Service Corporation (FSC) has been very busy, with 111 applications for purchase loans and 92 applications for repairs. To date, 20 applications have been approved. Meri expects that FSC will run out of funding for these activities by December.

Linda Spitzer noted that the Sheboygan County Board approved a \$500,000 ARPA grant to expand veteran and disabled services as well as a \$8,000 ARPA grant for a transportation study. Linda added that the Sheboygan County ADRC will play a role in both grants.

Peggy Zielinski reported that she has completed 24 loans and 16 repairs so far this year in her 11-county area. Peggy shared that many people do not qualify due to being over income (above 150% of the federal poverty level) or do not have stable housing.

Sarah Schneider stated that ridership at Valley Transit is up 20%. Sarah added that staff vacancies continue at Valley Transit.

Nikki Voight stated that Door-Tran continues to see a decrease in ridership for their veteran volunteer transportation program due to telehealth options. Nikki also shared that they write into their WETAP grant that up to two applicants will be allowed to be eligible each year if they are over 150% of the federal poverty level.

Adam BellCorelli with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission shared that he is working on updating a Transit Development Plan (TDP) for Fond du Lac Area Transit. Adam is also working on a workforce innovation grant with the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), which is \$1 million per year for a three-year project, and will be very helpful to several agencies, including Make the Ride Happen.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo noted that at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (BLRPC), they are working on the next long-range transportation plan for the Sheboygan MPO, which is due in April 2023. Jeff indicated that the Sheboygan MPO is also working on performance targets for highway safety, public transit agency safety and transit asset management, with the Sheboygan Transit Commission approving Shoreline Metro's updated Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) in May, and with the Sheboygan Transit Commission scheduled to approve Shoreline Metro's updated Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan and targets in September. Jeff has assisted Shoreline Metro staff with portions of its quarterly report for their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in July. Jeff has been working on planning for the 2022 MPO/RPC/WisDOT/USDOT transportation planning conference that they will host at Blue Harbor Resort and Conference Center October 10 – 12. Jeff indicated that Chris Garcia left the Commission and that the Commission hired a new Transportation Planner who will begin work on July 25. Finally, Jeff noted that amendments to the 2020 Kewaunee County Coordinated Public Transit/Human Service Transportation Plan would be reviewed and acted on at a meeting of the Kewaunee County Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) on August 9.

8. Other (All) – None

9. Next Meeting – Changed to October 4, 2022, at 9 a.m. Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (in-person & virtual)

10. Adjournment

Moved by Essie Fels, seconded by Ker Vang, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Busch, Secretary