

MINUTES  
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission  
439 South Jackson Street, Green Bay

MEETING ATTENDEES: Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)  
Dennis Bohn (Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services/Commission on Aging)  
Nathanael Brown (Waushara County Dept. of Aging)  
Pam Busch (Door County Transportation Consortium)  
Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)  
Joann Dewhurst (Calumet County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Linda Grider (Manitowoc County Mobility Manager)  
Rhonda Hannemann (United Way Fox Cities)  
Jason Kakatsch (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)  
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services/Making the Ride Happen)  
Sue Pomplun (Advocap)  
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)  
Carrie Porter (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources)  
Judy Rank (Manitowoc County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Traci Robinson (Shoreline Metro Connection)  
Dave Vickman (Oshkosh Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dale Deterding (Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Dale McAllister (Calumet County Aging and Disability Resource Center)  
Ron McDonald (Shoreline Metro)  
Valerie Mellon (City of Manitowoc Public Works/Maritime Metro Transit System)  
Derek Muench (City of Manitowoc – Maritime Metro Transit System)  
Katie Scheffen (NEWTC/NEWCAP)  
Chris Strong (City of Oshkosh/Oshkosh Transit)

## **1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Sandy Popp called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Sandy Popp welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo and others in attendance noted everyone who had asked to be excused from this meeting.

## **2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval**

**Moved** by Judy Rank and seconded by Lisa Conard to approve the agenda for the April 6, 2011, meeting. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

## **3. Review and Approval of January 12, 2011, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo distributed the full set of minutes (complete with the Power Point slides that were reviewed in one of the agenda items) to everyone in attendance. The minutes without these slides were e-mailed to all committee members prior to the meeting.

**Moved** by Lisa Conard and seconded by Judy Rank to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2011, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee meeting as prepared with no changes. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

## **4. Update on 2009 – 2011 Biennial Budget Repair Bill and on the Proposed 2011 – 2013 Biennial Budget: Impacts on Transit and Other Public Services**

Committee members discussed the 2009 – 2011 biennial budget repair bill in terms of the restrictions on collective bargaining in certain areas on the part of public sector employee unions. Some committee members were concerned that some provisions may be in violation of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and U.S. Department of Labor provisions that make collective bargaining mandatory between grant recipients and their employee unions. Committee members also discussed the 2011 – 2013 biennial budget (as proposed by the Governor) and its impacts on transit and on other public services.

Jason Kakatsch stated that privatization of transit services might be a way to get around the collective bargaining restrictions in the budget repair bill. Jason Kakatsch also noted that Section 85.21 funding (for elderly and disabled transportation in counties) will remain in the segregated transportation fund in the 2011 – 2013 biennial budget.

Dave Vickman discussed a recent conference call with FTA staff regarding the collective bargaining restrictions in the budget repair bill and Section 13(c). Dave Vickman indicated that FTA staff “stayed mum” regarding any sanctions that grantees may face if transit operations are no longer allowed to collectively bargain on most issues with their

employee unions; this was because the budget repair bill was not yet officially enacted. Carrie Porter wondered if national transit advocacy groups could help provide legal assistance in resolving these matters; these groups include the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the American Public Transit Association (APTA). Sandy Popp had a question regarding collective bargaining that Dave Vickman and Jason Kakatsch answered.

Sandy Popp asked if the committee wanted to write a letter regarding the upcoming biennial budget.

Traci Robinson informed the committee that the drivers' union in Sheboygan (Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998) did not ratify its contract extension with Shoreline Metro. However, Lisa Conard noted that the City of Green Bay reached contract extensions with its unions. Jason Kakatsch discussed the Valley Transit contract extension with its drivers' union and other issues. Jason Kakatsch commented that Fond du Lac Area Transit does not have a contract extension with its drivers' union at this time.

## **5. Update on Medical Assistance Transportation Management**

Carrie Porter distributed and reviewed the following handouts with everyone in attendance:

- An update on LogistiCare as the transportation manager/broker for much of Wisconsin; and
- A listing of upcoming LogistiCare NEMT provider orientation meetings.

*(Note: These handouts are attached to the paper copy of the minutes).*

Carrie Porter stated that Family Care may now be included in LogistiCare's transportation brokerage. Sandy Popp had a question regarding this matter which Carrie Porter answered.

Dave Vickman wondered why there were so many sudden changes in the contract between DHS and LogistiCare. Dave Vickman also discussed the volume of Family Care trips that Oshkosh Transit provides.

Carrie Porter noted that people who drive elderly family members to their medical appointments may now need to demonstrate financial hardship in order to qualify for assistance. People who have a vehicle or other "means" of transportation (such as a family member) may be denied transportation services.

Sandy Popp expressed concern about the lack of medical assistance (MA) providers in the region covered by NEWRATC, especially in rural areas.

Nathanael Brown commented that some local MA providers are frustrated with the contracts that LogistiCare is sending out. Dennis Bohn discussed what he heard about these issues at a recent meeting in Wisconsin Dells. There was considerable discussion among several committee members regarding decreases in service by MA providers as their costs increase.

Jason Kakatsch and other committee members expressed concerns that LogistiCare might “cherry pick” volunteer drivers from the counties in the region. Carrie Porter expressed concern that LogistiCare may require more advance notice for MA trips than is the case today.

Lisa Conard had a question regarding how many different constituent groups were provided the list of LogistiCare NEMT provider orientation meetings which Carrie Porter answered.

Holly Keenan and Rhonda Hannemann had questions regarding whether any of their respective services would be impacted by these changes which Carrie Porter answered; Sandy Popp also discussed this matter.

Sue Pomplun and Nathanael Brown discussed an individual transportation case in Waushara County.

Dave Vickman stated that Oshkosh Transit would not sign a contract with LogistiCare. Traci Robinson added that Shoreline Metro also would not sign a contract with LogistiCare.

Carrie Porter indicated that the list of LogistiCare NEMT provider orientation meetings was tentative. Carrie Porter also discussed LogistiCare brokered MA transportation services for nursing home residents.

Dave Vickman discussed a conference call among transit providers regarding how LogistiCare handles MA transportation brokerage in other states.

Sandy Popp stated that the new paratransit provider for Green Bay Metro did not have a good evaluation of LogistiCare in California. Lisa Conard discussed the new Green Bay Metro paratransit contract, as well as the future of MA transportation in the Green Bay metropolitan area.

Nathanael Brown discussed an e-mail he received from WisDOT regarding federal funding recipients and contracting; Carrie Porter and Lisa Conard also discussed this matter.

## **6. Updates on Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Enabling Legislation, Transportation Management Area (TMA) Designation, and How Proposed Census Urban Agglomeration Rules Might Expand TMA Designations in Certain Areas**

Jason Kakatsch discussed Senate Bill 25, which would eliminate existing or established RTAs.

Jason Kakatsch also discussed results from the 2010 Census being released in the coming months and how the Appleton and Green Bay areas may become TMAs.

In addition, Jason Kakatsch discussed the Census agglomeration issue; it appears that the Oshkosh area will not be attached to the Fox Cities (Appleton) urbanized area. Proposed Census agglomerations may be retracted in other parts of Wisconsin as well. Apparently, the Bureau of the Census changed the criteria used to determine which urbanized areas faced agglomeration.

Lisa Conard commented that the Green Bay area would likely go into TMA status as well, adding that TMA designations would probably be made in late 2012 or early 2013.

Jason Kakatsch noted that federal funding for small transit systems that serve TMAs might be addressed in the reauthorization bill. Dave Vickman also discussed this topic, indicating that a gradual loss in federal operational funding might be proposed.

## **7. Work Group Reports and the Future of the Work Groups (Work Group Chairs)**

Pam Busch stated that in the Communications and Coordination work group, Katie Scheffen is still working to get the *Northeast Wisconsin Transportation Resource Guide* translated into Hmong. Pam Busch wondered if the *Northeast Wisconsin Transportation Resource Guide* needed to be updated; Sandy Popp recommended waiting a few months to update this resource.

Jason Kakatsch provided a brief update from the Marketing and Research work group.

Jason Kakatsch suggested consolidating the work groups into one task force; Sandy Popp concurred with this suggestion. Pam Busch stated that the work group she chairs was at a standstill. Traci Robinson commented that now that a lot of the efforts of the work groups have been accomplished, perhaps the work group chairs could meet periodically.

Lisa Conard suggested formally dissolving the work groups and forming a task force. **Moved** by Traci Robinson and seconded by Judy Rank to dissolve the work groups and form a task force. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

Committee members also suggested adding a “task force update” to all future NEWRATC meeting agendas.

The following individuals would be members of the task force (for now – additional members are always welcome):

- Pam Busch;
- Lisa Conard and/or Kathy Johnson (Green Bay Metro);
- Jason Kakatsch;
- Traci Robinson; and
- Sue Pomplun.

## **8. Update on WisDOT Personnel Changes**

Jason Kakatsch stated that several personnel from the WisDOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors who interacted with committee members over the years, including the following:

- Rod Clark;
- Dave Lowe (Mr. Lowe is now with a consultant);
- Bobbie Beson-Crone; and
- Ingrid Koch.

Committee members also briefly discussed new personnel at the WisDOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors who may be assisting them over the next few years.

## **9. Committee Member/Program Updates**

Committee members offered updates on programs and activities in which they have been involved. The following updates were offered:

- Traci Robinson reiterated that Shoreline Metro (formerly Sheboygan Transit) did not reach a contract extension with its drivers' union).
- Dave Vickman discussed ridership increases experienced by Oshkosh Transit.
- Jason Kakatsch stated that he continued work on a Transit Development Program (TDP) for Oshkosh Transit.
- Judy Rank commented that the volunteer driver program in Manitowoc County may change in the near future.
- Carrie Porter discussed her efforts to keep current with MA transportation issues with the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR).
- Lisa Conard discussed the Green Bay Metro paratransit contract and ridership increases. Lisa Conard noted that higher gasoline prices led to ridership increases at Green Bay Metro.
- Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo indicated that he continued work on a TDP for Shoreline Metro, with continued effort focused on an alternatives analysis.
- Nathanael Brown stated that he would be meeting soon with his volunteer drivers regarding the LogistiCare transportation brokerage situation.

- Dennis Bohn discussed LogistiCare transition issues in Marquette County, as well as volunteer driver issues that he was aware of in Adams County. Dennis Bohn also discussed volunteer driver issues in various adjacent counties, indicating that one of those counties might be losing half a position.
- Joann Dewhurst discussed the Calumet County volunteer driver situation.
- Rhonda Hannemann had several questions regarding the LogistiCare transition, and suggested that the counties that participate in NEWRATC have coordination in the way that they report their ridership, cost and revenue statistics to that the effects of transportation brokerage can be monitored across the region; this topic generated considerable discussion among committee members.
- Holly Keenan reported that she was expanding Making the Ride Happen's volunteer driver program from the Fox Cities into Oshkosh. Holly Keenan also noted that she was getting additional offers for volunteer drivers, and was also getting additional MA transportation clients.
- Sue Pomplun reported on a recent survey conducted by Advocap.
- Pam Busch discussed vehicles funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that were received by Door County; these vehicles have been leased to Sunshine House. Pam Busch also discussed door-to-door transportation services, as well as a focus group of users conducted by CFIRE. Pam Busch noted that the American Red Cross no longer provides transportation services to Green Bay from Door County.

## 10. Other Issues

Sandy Popp asked if committee members had any other issues that they wanted to discuss; no other issues were raised.

## 11. Next Meeting Date and General Location

The next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.** This meeting was tentatively scheduled to be held at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100, Menasha.

## 12. Adjournment

**Moved** by Traci Robinson and seconded by Nathanael Brown that the meeting of the Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee be adjourned. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Recording secretary,

Jeffrey C. Agee-Aguayo









