

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 14, 2010
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100, Menasha

MEETING ATTENDEES: Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Dennis Bohn (Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services/Commission on Aging)
Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)
Dale Deterding (Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
Mike Glasgow (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources)
Jason Kakatsch (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
Valerie Mellon (City of Manitowoc Dept. of Public Works/ Maritime Metro Transit System)
Derek Muench (City of Manitowoc – Maritime Metro Transit System)
Nick Musson (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)
Ed Schuh (Green Lake County Department of Health and Human Services/Fox River Industries)
Lee Ann Stein (The ARC - Fox Cities)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Molly Burke (Manitowoc County Mobility Manager)
Pam Busch (Door County Transportation Consortium)
Lynn Gilles (Fond du Lac Area Transit)
Matt Halada (WisDOT Northeast Region – Green Bay)
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services/Making the Ride Happen)
Shawn Klemens (Menominee Regional Public Transit)
Traci Nugent (Sheboygan Transit – Regional Transit Connection)
Judy Rank (Manitowoc County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
Katie Scheffen (NEWTC/NEWCAP)
Jim Van Laanen (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Dave Vickman (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.

2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval

Moved by Lisa Conard and seconded by Derek Muench to approve the agenda for the April 14, 2010, meeting. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

3. Review and Approval of January 13, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Sandy Popp noted that the minutes of the January 13, 2010, meeting should be modified so that the second bullet under agenda item #7 (Committee Member/Program Updates, page 5) reads as follows:

- Katie Scheffen commented that a transportation needs assessment *was* conducted in September and October *of 2009* for Oconto and Marinette Counties.

Moved by Lisa Conard and seconded by Derek Muench to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee meeting, as amended. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

4. Work Group Reports

A. Marketing and Research (Jason Kakatsch, Chairperson)

Jason Kakatsch stated that he has received permission from the Executive Director of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) to set up a website promoting the NEWRATC. Jason Kakatsch added that he has been working with information technology staff at the ECWRPC regarding an outline for such a website. Some of the inventory material prepared by Pam Busch and the rest of the Communications and Coordination work group would be on this web site. A draft website (available only to NEWRATC members) should be available by the next meeting, and the website should be fully operational by the late summer of 2010.

B. Funding and Policy (Traci Nugent, Chairperson)

Valerie Mellon gave the report for this work group in Traci Nugent's absence. Valerie Mellon stated that the Funding and Policy work group has not met recently. Valerie Mellon thought that funding and policy related activities could be placed on the emerging NEWRATC web site; Jason Kakatsch concurred with Valerie Mellon that funding and policy related activities would be a good addition for the web site.

C. Information and Technology (Lisa Conard, Chairperson)

Lisa Conard stated that this work group has been inactive in the past quarter, and may stay inactive for a while. Lisa Conard added that some of the activities of this work group could also be placed on the emerging NEWRATC website.

D. Communications and Coordination (Pam Busch)

Sandy Popp gave the report for this work group in Pam Busch's absence. Sandy Popp stated that this work group has mainly been compiling transportation service provider information at the county level. Many individuals in this work group have provided this data (Molly Burke, Holly Keenan, etc.), but there was some acknowledgement that there were still data gaps in having complete transportation service provider information for all 18 counties in the NEWRATC area.

Valerie Mellon commented that Molly Burke would be leaving her position as mobility manager for Manitowoc County in the near future.

5. Updates on Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Enabling Legislation and Transportation Management Area (TMA) Designation

Jason Kakatsch reported that there had been considerable progress on RTA legislation, at least for the Fox Valley. Jason Kakatsch added that other statewide RTA authorization legislation was also being considered in the state legislature.

Jason Kakatsch also discussed proposals for the provision of federal transit operational funding in TMAs; these included proposals from the "100 Bus Coalition" and from the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). The CTAA proposal would allow TMAs to choose either federal operating or capital funding, but not both.

Sandy Popp asked Jason Kakatsch about Assembly Bill (AB) 282. Jason Kakatsch and other committee members stated that there would be a "flurry" of legislative activity within the next week or two. Jason Kakatsch commented that Valley Transit had been very active in advocating for AB 282. Jason Kakatsch noted that if an RTA for the Fox Cities was authorized by the state legislature and the authorization bill were signed by the Governor, a referendum could occur in the spring of 2011 (or in the spring of 2012 at the latest).

Lisa Conard discussed RTA advocacy activities in the Green Bay area, noting that numerous postcards advocating an RTA for Green Bay Metro had been delivered to State Senator Dave Hansen.

Jason Kakatsch discussed post-legislative advocacy activities that will need to occur throughout the state. Jason Kakatsch informed committee members that AB 282 (if approved) would authorize RTAs in the Fox River Valley (minus Brown County) and in

the LaCrosse area. There was some discussion among committee members regarding where AB 282 actually stood in the state legislature.

Lisa Conard stated that there was a need to educate riders and the public regarding the consequences for Green Bay Metro if: (1) the Green Bay urbanized area is designated a TMA (goes over 200,000 population – pretty much a given following the 2010 Census); (2) an RTA is not authorized for Green Bay Metro; and (3) there are no solutions at the federal level that keep Green Bay Metro from losing its federal transit operating funds. Some of the items that Green Bay Metro may need to consider if this “perfect storm” materializes might include the cutting of transit service on Saturdays and/or weekday evenings, as well as fare increases.

Sandy Popp and Jason Kakatsch discussed where legislative strategy ends up when the state legislative session ends; prevailing thought was that the focus needed to be on federal legislation. Committee members discussed why RTAs are not supported by some legislators (this is a taxation issue for several legislators). Committee members also discussed how State Senator Dave Hansen was supporting RTAs elsewhere in Wisconsin, but not in his own “back yard” (the Green Bay area).

6. Continued Discussion of State Policy Related to Development of Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plans

Discussion then turned to state policy related to development or amendment of coordinated public transit – human services transportation plans in 2010.

Lisa Conard stated that the Brown County Planning Commission intended to amend its existing plan for Brown County in 2010 to modify the county’s program of capital projects and to take that program out to 2014.

Jason Kakatsch discussed the appearance of Rod Clark (of the WisDOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors) at the January 26, 2010, MPO Directors’ meeting. At that meeting, Rod Clark stated that there would be no plan requirement for 2010, but added that there could be a plan requirement (with Regional Planning Commission involvement) in 2011.

Jason Kakatsch stated that there was some misunderstanding regarding the expectations of coordinated public transit – human services transportation plans from WisDOT. WisDOT staff wanted Section 85.21 funding included in the coordinated public transit – human services transportation plans. However, the inclusion of these funds in plans is **not** a federal requirement, although WisDOT strongly recommends the inclusion of Section 85.21 funding in these plans.

Jason Kakatsch advised committee members that if they needed to apply for Section 5310, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) or New Freedom funds, they should review their coordinated public transit – human services transportation plan, see where these programs fit and make a determination regarding whether their plan should be updated.

Dennis Bohn had questions regarding where the state was going in the area of transportation brokerages; Jason Kakatsch responded that he could not get answers from the state Department of Health and Family Services or from WisDOT after multiple attempts. Mike Glasgow added that there would be no answers on this topic until a request for proposals (RFP) is issued. Dale Deterding commented that this was tied to the medical assistance (MA) transportation brokerage issue, which generated some discussion among committee members. Committee members discussed how brokerage would work for the end user (who responds to phone calls, etc.). It was noted that call centers for transportation brokerage could be a considerable distance from the region of the caller, and could even be located outside Wisconsin. However, Dale Deterding did indicate that there would be quality assurance enforcement provisions with transportation brokerage regulations.

7. Committee Member/Program Updates

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

- Valerie Mellon stated that she was working with Molly Burke on various county issues, including the county's volunteer driver program and handbook. However, some of these activities may be put on hold until a paratransit contract can be awarded and approved. Valerie Mellon also discussed issues involved with Molly Burke leaving her position as Manitowoc County's mobility manager.
- Derek Muench commented that approval of the Maritime Metro Transit Development Program (TDP) should occur within the next two to three months. Derek Muench added that Maritime Metro Transit (MMT) was also looking at improving its website; this project should be done by August. Derek Muench discussed changes brought forth by Family Care in early April, and indicated that MMT was awarded \$1.5 million in ARRA funding for a new transfer point; Valerie Mellon also briefly discussed the funding for the new transfer point.
- Dale Deterding stated that there were few changes/new items to report in Sheboygan County since the last meeting.
- Jason Kakatsch reported that he was staying on top of the RTA legislation, as well as working on a TDP for Oshkosh Transit and assisting in the completion of long-range transportation plan updates for East Central Wisconsin RPC's three MPOs. Nick Musson also discussed his role in working on the three MPO long-range transportation plan updates as ECWRPC's newest transportation planner.
- Lisa Conard indicated that she just completed the annual route review for Green Bay Metro. Lisa Conard commented that there was a need to better publicize that Green Bay Metro funds ADA paratransit service within its transit service area (although Green Bay Metro currently contracts with MediVans to provide this service); Lisa Conard added that Green Bay Metro logos will be placed on vehicles used for the provision of ADA paratransit within their service area in 2011. Sandy Popp also briefly commented on this issue.

- Lee Ann Stein commented that the ARC has been strongly advocating for an RTA in the Fox Cities.
- Ed Schuh stated that there were few changes/new items to report in Green Lake County.
- Dennis Bohn reported that there were few changes/new items to report in Marquette County since the last meeting, but added that he had worked on advocating for the proposed RTA legislation at the state level. Sandy Popp had questions about transportation services in Marquette County which Dennis Bohn answered; Ed Schuh also discussed transportation services in Green Lake County.
- Mike Glasgow stated that the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) was conducting a needs assessment survey, and added that he hoped to present some of the survey findings by the next meeting.

8. Suggestions for Agenda Items at Future Meetings

Lisa Conard stated that a new Veterans Administration (VA) clinic will be built in the Green Bay area, which will employ around 250 people. Lisa Conard added that she would like to discuss how this clinic will impact transportation in the NEWRATC counties at a future meeting. This clinic would be built in 2011 and/or 2012 on the northeast side of the City of Green Bay where Tillmann's nursery has been located. Dennis Bohn had questions in regard to whether major medical procedures (like inpatient surgery) might occur at this facility.

Sandy Popp suggested that strategies related to authorizing RTAs and allowing federal transit operational funding to continue in TMAs should continue to be discussed at future NEWRATC meetings.

Jason Kakatsch suggested that MA brokerage and Family Care/Community Care transition issues be discussed at future NEWRATC meetings.

Dennis Bohn, Ed Schuh and Dale Deterding discussed whether Family Care was paying for transportation services in the counties where it is located. Dale Deterding stated that Sheboygan Transit (and its Regional Transit Connection) went to a pre-pay system recently because of getting Family Care/Community Care authorization for payment in a timely manner. Derek Muench discussed transportation prioritization procedures for paratransit in Manitowoc County, and also discussed the Lakeland Care District. Derek Muench also discussed what he had heard from WisDOT staff regarding these issues and paratransit. Sandy Popp discussed trade-offs with pre-paying versus not pre-paying for transportation services.

9. Next Meeting Date and General Location

The next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, July 21, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.** This meeting was tentatively scheduled to be held at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (First Floor, Community Room), 439 South Jackson Street, Green Bay.

Sandy Popp announced that Options for Independent Living would be sponsoring an Assisted Technology Fair at Lambeau Field on May 13, 2010.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Jason Kakatsch and seconded by Dale Deterding 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 11:04 a.m.

Recording secretary,

Jeffrey C. Agee-Aguayo