

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 21, 2010
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
439 South Jackson Street, Green Bay

MEETING ATTENDEES: Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Nathanael Brown (Waushara County Dept. of Aging)
Pam Busch (Door County Transportation Consortium)
Joann Dewhurst (Calumet County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
Mike Glasgow (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources)
Linda Grider (Manitowoc County Mobility Manager)
Andre Jacque (Green Bay Metro)
Jason Kakatsch (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services/Making the Ride Happen)
Dale McAllister (Calumet County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
Valerie Mellon (City of Manitowoc Dept. of Public Works/ Maritime Metro Transit System)
Derek Muench (City of Manitowoc – Maritime Metro Transit System)
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)
Katie Scheffen (NEWTC/NEWCAP)
Mark Weisensel (Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
Deborah Wetter (Valley Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: 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)
Matt Halada (WisDOT Northeast Region – Green Bay)
Ron McDonald (Lakeshore Metro – Sheboygan)
Traci Nugent (Lakeshore Metro Connection – Sheboygan)
Sylvia Phillis (Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services/Commission on Aging)
Judy Rank (Manitowoc County Aging and Disability Resource Center)

Ed Schuh (Green Lake County Department of Health and Human Services/Fox River Industries)
Chris Strong (City of Oshkosh/Oshkosh Transit)
Dave Vickman (Oshkosh Transit)

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Sandy Popp called the meeting to order at 9:36 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 Mark Weisensel and seconded by Derek Muench to approve the agenda for the July 21, 2010, meeting. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

3. Review and Approval of the April 14, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved by Valerie Mellon and seconded by Derek Muench to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee meeting as prepared with no changes. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

4. Work Group Reports

A. Marketing and Research (Jason Kakatsch, Chairperson)

Jason Kakatsch presented the draft NEWRATC website. The website is proposed to be located at: www.newrat.org(.)

Jason Kakatsch stated that the public can find inventories for transportation services in each county by clicking on the county from the map on the website. The coordinated transportation/human services plan for each county can also be found by clicking on the county links. Contact information for the committee chairperson (Sandy Popp) and agendas and minutes of NEWRATC meetings can be found on the website, along with links to WisDOT and to FTA.

Sandy Popp suggested adding a counter to the website to measure usage. Jason Kakatsch added that upcoming meeting information can also be found on the website. Committee members suggested adding a section on “news/updates” to the website (updates on state RTA legislative proposals and their status might have been a good example). Deborah Wetter suggested that the transit operations add a hyperlink to the NEWRATC website off their respective websites.

Moved by Deborah Wetter and seconded by Mark Weisensel that the committee approve the website with suggested revisions. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

Committee members commended Jason Kakatsch and Pam Busch for their efforts on the website and transportation inventory.

B. Funding and Policy (Traci Nugent, Chairperson)

There was no report given on behalf of this work group.

Deborah Wetter stated that there have been no meetings of this work group since April. Deborah Wetter stated that she could help provide ideas for this work group. Deborah Wetter stated that Green Bay Metro and Valley Transit could both lose their federal operational funding as early as October 2012.

C. Information and Technology (Lisa Conard)

There was no report given on behalf of this work group.

D. Communications and Coordination (Pam Busch)

Pam Busch distributed and reviewed a “Northeast Wisconsin Transportation Resource Guide” with everyone in attendance. Pam Busch stated that fare information was not provided in the guide, since this information constantly changes. Pam Busch asked if staff personal e-mail addresses should be provided; Sandy Popp responded that general/institutional e-mail addresses would be best for this guide. Committee members thought that a wheelchair symbol would be best to portray wheelchair accessibility in the guide. Deborah Wetter suggested that this information be placed in other languages (Spanish, Hmong, etc.). Derek Muench discussed how to link this guide to the NEWRATC website and/or to the individual county web pages off the website.

Committee members suggested that the “Northeast Wisconsin Transportation Resource Guide” be sent to all committee members for their review, but that a deadline be set for responding with review comments (that deadline was set as three weeks after the e-mail goes out). Committee members also stated that delays in receiving review comments should not hold up release of the website.

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

Deborah Wetter gave this update. The process of authorizing RTAs in Wisconsin was a legislative mess in that there was too much in-fighting with and among Milwaukee area legislators – Deborah Wetter and her staff got introduced to legislators considering RTA bills at 4:00 a.m. The statewide RTA authorization bill went nowhere. Legislators tried

to pass a bill authorizing an RTA in the Fox Valley; this legislation had success in the Assembly, but died in the Senate. The main problem legislators were in southeastern Wisconsin, along with Senator Russ Decker from the Wausau area. In addition, Senator Dave Hansen argued that Brown County could already impose up to a half cent sales tax for RTA purposes, and added that Green Bay Metro could impose a wheel tax for this purpose; Andre Jacque commented on these issues.

Deborah Wetter also discussed how the state (WisDOT) distributes transit operating aid. Specifically, Deborah Wetter noted that if Valley Transit and Green Bay Metro lose their federal operational funding, there will be a cascading effect for the other transit operations in their current tier. Senator Sherrod Brown (D – OH) introduced legislation that added tiers to the transit formula that would have saved operational funding for transit operations serving urban areas with more than 200,000 population. Representative Russ Carnahan (D- MO) was also involved with this legislation, and Representative James Oberstar (D – MN) was previously opposed to such legislation, but changed his position in support of the legislation.

Andre Jacque discussed the state legislative political environment and what happened with the RTA authorizing legislation. Andre Jacque added that often, things have to be at a crisis level before anything is solved. Deborah Wetter commented that contacting legislators does have an impact on influencing legislation; Andre Jacque added this is particularly the case when phone contact is made with legislative staff.

6. Family Care Update/Discussion

Derek Muench commented that Family Care never really calculated the costs of providing transportation, such that these costs have been absorbed by Maritime Metro Transit and by other transit systems.

Deborah Wetter stated that she has had a good experience with the two Family Care providers that are part of the Valley Transit service area (Community Care in Outagamie and Calumet Counties, and the Lakeland Care District in Winnebago County). Mark Weisensel commented that IRIS is a self-directed form of Family Care, but is fairly new, and all of the glitches in IRIS have not yet been worked out with the limited number of IRIS consultants around the state. Mark Weisensel did note that additional IRIS consultants are being hired all the time. Deborah Wetter stated that Valley Transit, Oshkosh Transit and the three affected counties (Outagamie, Winnebago and Calumet) will meet with IRIS staff in the near future to try to resolve their issues.

Nathanael Brown briefly discussed Family Care issues in Waushara County.

7. Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation Brokerage Discussion

Jason Kakatsch stated that a human service conference was held recently in Wisconsin Dells. At this conference, a state Department of Health and Family Services representative announced that MA transportation brokerage will be implemented in April

of 2011. There was considerable negative reaction to this announcement among those in attendance.

Deborah Wetter stated that WisDOT was opposed to the DHFS proposal. Jason Kakatsch added that the Wisconsin Counties Association was also opposed to the DHFS proposal. Holly Keenan wondered if Milwaukee County had been excluded from the MA transportation brokerage proposal; nursing homes may also be excluded from the MA transportation brokerage proposal. Andre Jacque and Jason Kakatsch expressed optimism that the DHFS proposal for MA transportation brokerage could still be stopped.

Deborah Wetter and Mark Weisensel stated that they would make follow-up contacts on this matter, and Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo noted that he would transmit what they discovered to the whole committee via e-mail. It was noted that more may be discovered regarding this topic at the WURTA paratransit conference on July 26, 2010.

Mike Glasgow distributed information from a Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) survey that was sent out earlier in the year – there were about 40 responses to this survey. (*Note: results from this survey are attached to the hard copy version of the minutes*). Mark Weisensel commented that county Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) directors responded to this survey.

8. Upcoming Grant Deadline Reminder – WETAP/New Freedom

Jason Kakatsch announced that WETAP grant applications are due on August 6, 2010.

Jason Kakatsch also announced that New Freedom grant applications are due on September 1, 2010.

9. Committee Member/Program Updates

Due to a lack of time, this agenda item was kept brief. Pam Busch announced that the City of Sturgeon Bay (and outlying area) would begin implementing subsidized shared-ride taxi service on August 2, 2010, and added that this service would also be provided on Sundays.

10. Next Meeting Date and General Location

The next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 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.

(Note: Due to a conflict with mobility manager training on October 20, this meeting was moved to **Wednesday, November 17, 2010, in the morning**. In addition, it is *possible* that the meeting will be held at the Menominee Tribe's new transportation facility in Keshena).

11. Adjournment

Moved by Jason Kakatsch and seconded by Derek Muench 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 11:05 a.m.

Recording secretary,

Jeffrey C. Agee-Aguayo