

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Dept. of Transportation Services Facility
W 2727 Our Children's Road, Keshena

- MEETING ATTENDEES:
- Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
 - Pam Busch (Door County Transportation Consortium)
 - Dale Deterding (Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
 - Mike Glasgow (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources)
 - Linda Grider (Manitowoc County Mobility Manager)
 - Jason Kakatsch (East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
 - Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services/Making the Ride Happen)
 - Holly Konitzer (Shawano County Department of Social Services – Aging)
 - Sandy Martin (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources)
 - Derek Muench (City of Manitowoc – Maritime Metro Transit System)
 - Sue Pomplun (Advocap)
 - Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)
 - Judy Rank (Manitowoc County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
 - Katie Scheffen (NEWTC/NEWCAP)
 - Mark Weisensel (Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
 - Deborah Wetter (Valley Transit)
 - Bonnie Weyers (Shawano County Department of Social Services – Aging)
- MEMBERS EXCUSED:
- Dennis Bohn (Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services/Commission on Aging)
 - Nathanael Brown (Waushara County Dept. of Aging)
 - Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)
 - Joann Dewhurst (Calumet County Aging and Disability Resource Center)
 - Matt Halada (WisDOT Northeast Region – Green Bay)
 - Shawn Klemens (Menominee Regional Public Transit)
 - Dale McAllister (Calumet County Aging and Disability Resource Center)

Ron McDonald (Lakeshore Metro)
Valerie Mellon (City of Manitowoc Dept. of Public Works/Maritime Metro Transit System)
Traci Nugent (Lakeshore Metro Connection)
Sylvia Phillis (Marquette County Department of Health and Human Services/Commission on Aging)
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)
Gary Wilner (WINR)

OTHERS PRESENT: John Alley, Rod Clark, Ian Ritz and Tom Robinson (WisDOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors, in attendance at the beginning of the meeting)

1. Participation in Grand Opening/Open House of the New Department of Transportation Services Facility for the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

Committee members participated in the grand opening/open house of the Menominee Tribe's new transportation services facility beginning at 10:00 a.m. A ceremony and remarks started the grand opening. Committee members participated in tours of the state-of-the-art facility following the grand opening.

Rod Clark, John Alley, Tom Robinson and Ian Ritz of the WisDOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors introduced themselves before the meeting started. There was considerable informal discussion among WisDOT staff and committee members before the meeting officially started. Deborah Wetter had several questions related to agglomeration of Census urbanized areas and what that would mean for Wisconsin's transit operations in urbanized areas. Rod Clark responded that the combined federal/state share would fall below 50 percent if Oshkosh, Beloit, Kenosha, and possibly Racine joined existing or emerging TMAs. Rod Clark also commented that the combined federal/state share would be in the 53 to 54 percent range if only Appleton and Green Bay became TMAs. (Note: the combined federal/state share for small urbanized area transit operations is currently in the 58 to 60 percent range). Rod Clark stated that the impacts of Census urbanized area agglomerations and of TMAs to transit in Wisconsin would likely not take effect until 2013.

Deborah Wetter, Sandy Popp and WisDOT staff in attendance discussed alternatives to the "100 bus coalition" to allow federal funding of smaller transit systems serving TMAs. Sandy Popp mentioned a letter that she received from Senator Russ Feingold discussing this matter. Deborah Wetter also expressed concerns about across-the-board cuts at the state legislative level with WisDOT staff in attendance.

Sandy Popp asked Rod Clark about the MA brokerage issue; Sandy Martin and Rod Clark discussed this issue. Rod Clark commented that the Wisconsin Department of

Health Services does not talk with WisDOT Transit Section staff regarding the MA brokerage issue, nor are phone calls from WisDOT Transit Section staff to DHS staff regarding this issue returned.

2. Call to Order for Meeting, Welcome and Introductions

Sandy Popp called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. Sandy Popp welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made for the benefit of everyone in attendance.

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

3. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval

Moved by Mark Weisensel and seconded by Dale Deterding to approve the agenda for the November 17, 2010, meeting. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

4. Review and Approval of the July 21, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Moved by Judy Rank and seconded by Dale Deterding to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2010, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Access to Transportation Committee meeting as prepared with no changes. Motion carried, with all voting aye on a voice vote.

5. Work Group Reports

A. Marketing and Research (Jason Kakatsch, Chairperson)

Jason Kakatsch had no new updates, but did discuss the committee's website (www.newrat.org). Committee members were encouraged to see Jason Kakatsch if they wanted to see updates on the website.

Deborah Wetter, Sandy Popp and other committee members asked if pending legislation could be posted to the website; Jason Kakatsch responded that it would be appropriate to include this type of information on the website when committee members become aware of it.

B. Funding and Policy (Traci Nugent, Chairperson)

Since Traci Nugent was unable to attend the meeting, Sandy Popp asked if there might be an alternate from the work group who could give the report. Unfortunately, no one from this work group was able to attend the meeting.

C. Information and Technology (Lisa Conard, Chairperson)

Lisa Conard was unable to attend the meeting. However, Lisa Conard did prepare a handout for committee members that outlined accomplishments of this work

group. Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo distributed and briefly reviewed this handout with committee members. (*Note: This handout will be attached to the paper copy of the minutes*).

Deborah Wetter discussed social networking outreach to promote transit systems. Deborah Wetter and other committee members indicated that there might be a desire to link to area transit advocacy groups on the NEWRAT website. Deborah Wetter suggested using Twitter to promote transit operations, as the news media pick up on “tweets” right away; Deborah Wetter added that Facebook might be useful as well. Deborah Wetter stated that Valley Transit would be hiring an information technology (IT) staff person to work on these issues, and added that fare media are sold through vending machines at Valley Transit.

D. Communications and Coordination (Pam Busch, Chairperson)

Pam Busch stated that committee members sent their changes to the *Northeast Wisconsin Transportation Resource Guide* to her, and she in turn sent these changes on to Jason Kakatsch for updating the website. Pam Busch noted that there were no other updates, and indicated that the work group would move on to its next project(s).

Pam Busch commented that she was interviewed by WBAY-TV regarding her organization’s vanpool on the November 16, 2010, newscast; there was some discussion regarding this news story. Pam Busch indicated that one person interviewed in the news story saved about \$6,000 per year using the vanpool service. Deborah Wetter discussed a WETAP vanpool grant and nonprofit grants at Valley Transit.

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

Some of this discussion occurred prior to the official start of the meeting.

Under this agenda item, Jason Kakatsch stated that Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna hosted a meeting to discuss future possibilities for RTAs in the Appleton area, and added that Mayor Hanna would like to start an RTA in the Fox Valley without taxing authority before state legislators get to this issue (as a show of local commitment to RTAs). Jason Kakatsch also noted that many Republicans in the state legislature from the Fox Valley support the RTA concept as a form of “local control.”

Deborah Wetter stated that she showed the implications of having no federal operational funding of Valley Transit to her local governmental funding partners – for Valley Transit, this could mean cutting 16 routes to seven, no night or Saturday service, curtailed paratransit service, etc. Deborah Wetter added that the City of Appleton’s Department of Public Works proposed taking over Valley Transit’s vehicle maintenance.

Jason Kakatsch briefly discussed the Census urbanized area agglomeration issue with committee members. Committee members discussed cooperation (or lack thereof) between Appleton and Green Bay as well as between Appleton and Oshkosh.

Jason Kakatsch mentioned various interest groups that are advocating for maintenance of federal transit operational funding for smaller transit operations serving TMAs; these groups include the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). Deborah Wetter discussed her recent legislative outreach activities in Washington, DC.

Several committee members encouraged those in attendance to keep the RTA discussion separate from the controversy involving the proposed passenger rail service between Milwaukee and Madison. It was noted that the bill proposed by Representative Russ Carnahan (D- MO) would involve the incremental loss of funding for TMAs (depending on their population size).

7. Committee Member/Program Updates

Due to a lack of time, there was no discussion regarding this agenda item.

8. Other Issues (Family Care, MA Brokerage Follow-Up, etc.)

Research on Elderly Mobility in Wisconsin

Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo distributed two handouts to committee members that Mike Glasgow transmitted to him. One of the handouts discussed research being conducted by the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE, based at UW-Madison) and funded by WisDOT in regard to “ensuring mobility for Wisconsin’s older citizens.” The second handout was a survey instrument that will be used to help conduct a portion of this research, the “Wisconsin Transportation Services Survey for Older Residents.” Mike Glasgow discussed the two handouts that were distributed. *(Note: These two handouts are attached to the paper copy of the minutes).*

Mark Weisensel discussed his distribution of the survey instrument – he is passing the survey out at meal sites, and the survey is being distributed to up to 2,500 consumers of Winnebago County’s services. Mark Weisensel added that the survey is also being distributed to other areas where senior citizens in Winnebago County meet (senior centers, YMCA programs, etc.). Katie Scheffen commented that she will share the survey instrument that she completed with the committee at a future meeting. Dale Deterding expressed disappointment that WisDOT did not approach Section 85.21 grantees regarding the WisDOT/CFIRE survey instrument.

Medical Assistance (MA) Brokerage

Sandy Martin stated that Logisticare (out of Atlanta) is the Wisconsin DHS' consultant for implementing MA brokerage for the state. Sandy Martin added that DHS still wants to roll out this transition in April of 2011, but there has been no communication on this issue with local governments, with counties, or even with sister state agencies.

Pam Busch commented that Roland Mross (of United We Ride) and consultant Jim McLary recently discussed these issues with the state's mobility managers. Pam Busch added that communication between local officials is important so that everyone gets on the same page regarding this issue.

Other Issues

Pam Busch stated that the American Cancer Society also has a volunteer driver program ("Road to Recovery"), and that they would like to implement this program in the region in 2011. Pam Busch suggested that the coordinator for this program be invited to participate in future NEWRATC meetings, just as the American Red Cross volunteer driver program coordinator is invited to participate in committee meetings.

9. Next Meeting Date and General Location

The next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, January 12, 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 400, Menasha.

Deborah Wetter offered Valley Transit as a back-up meeting site if East Central already has a meeting booked for that morning.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Dale Deterding and seconded by Mark Weisensel 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 12:43 p.m.

Recording secretary,

Jeffrey C. Agee-Aguayo