

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission Hosted Virtual Meeting Through
GoToMeeting

MEETING ATTENDEES: Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)
Shari Bunnell (ADRC of Calumet County)
Heidi Russell (ADRC of Shawano County)
Kim Novak (ADRC of the Lakeshore)
Linda Spitzer (ADRC of Sheboygan County)
Beth Roberts (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Bryn Ceman & Beth Roberts (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Deb Shepro (ADVOCAP)
Jeff Agee-Aguayo & Chris Garcia (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Ker Vang & Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)
Bobbi Craig (Center for Independent Living)
Pam Busch (Door County)
Nikki Voight (Door-Tran)
Adam BellCorelli (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)
Valerie Hoff (Enterprise Holdings)
Meri Tawawili (Forward Service Corp.)
Essie Fels & Andrea Vlach (Green Bay Metro)
Nick Musson (GWAAR)
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services)
Peggy Zielinski (NEWCAP)
Sandy Popp & John Meissner (Options for Independent Living)
Jim Collins (Oshkosh Go Transit)
Karl Schulte (Running Inc./Brown Cab)
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)
Rhonda Hannemann (United Way of the Fox Cities)
Sarah Schneider (Valley Transit)
Kara Ottum (Maritime Metro Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Agee-Aguayo called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval

Moved by Kim Novak, seconded by Lisa Conard, carried without amendments.

3. Review and Approval of October 20, 2020, NEWRATC Meeting Minutes

Moved by Kim Novak, seconded by Nikki Voight, carried without amendments.

4. Public Input – None

5. State and Federal Legislative Updates

Jeff Agee-Aguayo shared that there is a new Senate and Congress.

Bobbi Craig shared that she is unsure about the status of the NEMT RFP. She also shared that Section 5310 funding for 2021 was reduced for each grantee by 47% for Operating and by 27% for Mobility Management. Nikki Voight shared that she was told by WisDOT that due to reduced funding and increased applications, this will be a trend that agencies should plan for.

Nick Musson shared that there is \$3.8 million in funding for 2021, which is down from \$5.1 million for 2020. This is in part due to the FTA's request for WisDOT to spend down unspent funding allocated to past years. WisDOT also experienced the most applications ever received for Section 5310 projects for 2021. Nick stated that he has a fact sheet that he will send to Pam Busch to send out to all members via email related to the reductions in the Section 5310 program. *Post meeting, information was emailed to all members on 1/13/21.*

Sandy Popp asked if NEWRATC wanted to send a letter expressing concern about the reduced Section 5310 funding. Per Nick Musson, GWAAR is advocating for increases in funding, and suggested that NEWRATC members talk to legislators about the importance of these funds.

Derek Muench shared that WIPTA is focusing on Sections 85.20, 85.205 and 85.21. He will reach out to the WIPTA President to see if that organization wants to add Sections 85.22 and 5310 to their advocacy efforts.

Nick Musson also shared that he is a member of the new Wisconsin Non-Driver Advisory Committee (WiNDAC), which is working on policies to make it easier to access affordable and accessible transportation for non-drivers.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo asked if anyone had any updates on the CARES Act. Pam Busch shared that she noticed that Section 5310 services were included in the most recent round of CARES Act funds, which is new from the last round. Lisa Conard shared that she was contacted by John Swisler from WisDOT to see if the Green Bay MPO had needs for additional funding.

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

Nick Musson shared that he is not aware of a final decision by DHS yet, however MTM released their lobbyists and Veyo LLC hired lobbyists. Nick feels it may be a matter of time before a transition takes place. Nick also shared that it is now Federal law that it is mandatory for each state to include an NEMT benefit for Medicaid recipients.

7. Committee Member/Program Updates

Christel Giesen shared that at the ADRC of Brown County ride requests continue to be down and it has been difficult to find providers for individuals who are COVID positive or with symptoms.

Kim Novak shared that the ADRC of the Lakeshore rides had even lower ridership than it did in the 3rd quarter.

Bryn Ceman shared that at the ADRC of Winnebago County, rides have also been down. They continue to provide grocery and food pantry deliveries. Ms. Ceman stated that the ADRC of Winnebago County is currently focusing on roundabout safety for pedestrians.

Deb Shepro stated that ADVOCAP continues to do food deliveries. They had a slight increase in ride requests and brought on three new drivers.

Heidi Russell with the ADRC of Shawano County shared that they were awarded a Section 5310 vehicle to replace one that is no longer in service.

Linda Spitzer with the ADRC of Sheboygan County shared that she was informed that their volunteer drivers may be eligible for the COVID vaccine at this time. Pam Busch added that the Door County Medical Center contacted her about vaccines for the Door 2 Door Rides drivers. In the registration screening, transportation is classified within the Health Care category; Pam Busch will share that link with members. Nikki Voight shared that Door-Tran was also contacted by the hospital for their volunteer drivers to receive vaccinations.

Pam Busch shared that she is working on a rebranding project for the ADRC bus/van service. Ridership for the ADRC service was down just over 50 percent from the same period in 2019. The Door 2 Door ridership was down by about 22 percent.

Nikki Voight from Door-Tran shared that a Door County provider, Tru-Way Transport, will travel statewide and will transport COVID positive or symptomatic riders. They offer ambulatory, wheelchair and gurney-style services.

Adam BellCorelli shared that ECWRPC added a “transportation hub” to their website that offers mobility management reports, documents and various resources. The link to this website is <https://transportation-ecwrpc.opendata.arcgis.com/>. He is also working on a survey as part of the feasibility study for the I-41 commuter route project. *Post meeting, Pam Busch sent this information to all members via email on 1/13/21.*

Valerie Hoff reported that Enterprise Holdings has continued their employment vanpools at full service. They have 12 vans in this area of the state that are serving approximately 99 riders.

Meri Tawawili shared that her loan program through Forward Service Corporation is on hold while they finalize plans for 2021 programming and funding is confirmed. Nikki Voight shared that Door-Tran was informed verbally that funding may be about 70 percent of what they requested. Confirmation of funding may be available by the end of January.

Essie Fels with Green Bay Metro shared that all vehicles now have air purifying systems and that driver barriers have been installed.

Jim Collins with Go Transit reported that air purifying systems are installed. He is working with ECWRPC and Valley Transit on the I-41 commuter project. The area schools opened up yesterday, which will increase rides, since students ride for free through a partnership with the schools.

Sarah Schneider with Valley Transit shared that the Appleton School District will also be opening back up to in-school learning, so they are gearing up for that. They have hired a Travel Trainer that will be doing Train the Trainer project which will involve travel training for human service workers who serve non-driving populations. This project is scheduled to begin in early February.

Peggy Zielinski stated that NEWCAP started a new volunteer driver program for the Marinette, Peshtigo and Menominee (Michigan) area for medical trips and food deliveries.

Bobbi Craig shared that their ridership is down by about 40 percent, and added that her organization is providing rides for only essential trips. She also shared that CarePool is a transport service for COVID positive or symptomatic riders.

Nick Musson shared that he is working with the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to advocate for volunteer drivers who receive mileage reimbursements. The goal is to protect volunteers from increases or being dropped from coverage. Nick asked that committee members contact him if they know a volunteer driver who had issues with their insurance.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo shared that the coordinated transportation plans for Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties were all approved in the last quarter; these plans have been submitted to WisDOT and have been added to Bay-Lake RPC's website. Jeff Agee-Aguayo also shared that the TDP for Shoreline Metro was modified in December and is pending the Sheboygan Transit Commission's approval. Shoreline Metro's draft Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) was also submitted; Jeff Agee-Aguayo commented that he and Chris Garcia will be meeting tomorrow with Shoreline Metro staff to review comments that FTA had regarding the document.

Derek Muench shared that Shoreline Metro has made significant changes, such as tokenless and cashless fares. Derek Muench added that Shoreline Metro also allows for same day reservations, the option to change a trip, and requesting a second vehicle if a customer missed their first vehicle with its ADA paratransit service; these "premium services" are available for double the fare. Sheboygan County's Section 85.21 funded program is also operated by Shoreline Metro.

8. Other – None

9. Next Meeting Date/Location – The next meeting will be April 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., at Green Bay Metro. Depending on COVID status, this meeting may be held virtually. Jeff Agee-Aguayo indicated that a virtual option will be available for this meeting even if it is an in person meeting.

10. Adjournment

Adam BellCorelli motioned to adjourn at 10:55 a.m., seconded by Sandy Popp, carried.
Respectfully submitted, Pam Busch, Secretary