

**MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, ECWRPC, Menasha

MEETING ATTENDEES: Kim Novak (ADRC of the Lakeshore)
Bryn Ceman (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Jeff Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Ker Vang (Brown County Planning Commission)
Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)
Kara Ottum (Maritime Metro Transit)
Pam Busch (Door County)
Kolin Erickson (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)
Meri Tawawili (Forward Service Corp.)
Peggy Zielinski (NEWCAP)
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)
John Meissner (Options for Independent Living)
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)
Rhonda Hannemann (United Way of the Fox Cities)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)
Sue Pomplun (ADVOCAP)
Nick Musson (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)
Valerie Hoff (Enterprise Holdings)
Essie Fels (Green Bay Metro)
Andrea Vlach (Green Bay Metro)
Melissa Annoye (Kewaunee County Human Services)

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Sandy Popp called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. with welcome and introductions.

2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval

Moved by Lisa Conard, seconded by Derek Muench, carried without amendments.

3. Review and Approval of October 15, 2019, NEWRATC Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jeff Agee-Aguayo, seconded by Kim Novak, carried without amendments.

4. Public Input – None

5. State and Federal Legislative Updates

- Kolin Erickson shared that 2020 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant awards were made by WisDOT.
- Derek Muench shared that \$1.47 billion in grant requests were received by WisDOT for the \$75 million Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS) discretionary grant. This certainly speaks to the need for transportation funding in Wisconsin.

- Jeff Agee-Aguayo reminded attendees that the five-year Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) bill expires September 30th. There will likely be continuing resolutions thereafter due to the November 2020 elections.

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

Attendees were unaware of the status for the NEMT provider contract. John Meissner reported that visitors to the Thompson Center in Appleton have been experiencing long wait times; however, this may not be for medical trips.

7. Committee Member/Program Updates

Meri Tawawili shared that the 2020 WETAP funds for vehicle loans were approved. The following are program changes for 2020: (1) Consumers will need to pay back 75% of the loan rather than 50% (as has been the case in the past); (2) Consumers must have a valid Wisconsin driver's license (in the past, they could have an out of state license); and (3) Consumers must have a job offer or be employed in order to receive a loan (in the past, applicants who were searching for a job were also provided loans).

Bryn Ceman shared that she continues to work with the Winnebago County specialized transportation group, which meets on an ongoing basis.

John Meissner again shared that Thompson Center visitors have longer wait times than in the past for paratransit services, with one report from a person who waited over two hours. Discussion led to the fact that Running, Inc., recently launched a new dispatch system, which could be the cause of some of this.

Pam Busch shared that Door County and Door-Tran will be continuing all services in 2020, and that their WisDOT funds were awarded. Ms. Busch also shared that between Door 2 Door Rides and the ADRC bus/van services, there were just over 48,100 rides provided in 2019.

Kim Novak shared that Manitowoc County recently launched Ride Scheduler, and this has helped significantly for reporting and communication among program providers. Ms. Novak also shared that the adult day center in Manitowoc closed and that they are looking at rider needs for similar services in Green Bay. Section 5310 and 85.21 grants for 2020 have been approved. No vehicle was applied for in 2020.

Lisa Conard shared that Green Bay Metro had their first fare increase in 11 years, which went into effect earlier this month. The contract for paratransit services will change from MV Transport to VIA at the end of March. The Transit Commission is funding a Micro Transit Study by SRF Consulting. Based on results, there may be a pilot project later this year. Brown County Planning Commission will also update the Coordinated Transportation Plan in 2020 rather than in 2021. American United transportation company may start providing services in Green Bay; this company currently serves the Milwaukee area with NEMT rides.

Ker Vang reported that Brown County had a little over \$100,000 in its Section 85.21 trust fund, and was able to give money to Fort Howard Apartments for a vehicle, to Curative Connections for a bus, and to Green Bay Metro for five bus shelters.

Kolin Erickson shared that he and Nick Musson are working on the I-41 employment commuter study. They have a draft report from SRF Consulting, and hope to finalize all of this soon.

Derek Muench shared that he is working with Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission on Shoreline Metro's TDP Update, and his staff is administering passenger opinion surveys this week. A Triennial Review is scheduled to take place in 2020. Rides from 2018 to 2019 increased significantly, from 599,000 to 679,000. 2019 was the highest ridership year since 2001. Some of this is due to the new agreements with the Sheboygan Area School District.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo shared that the *Sheboygan Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Calendar Years 2020 – 2023* has been completed. Work also continues on the *Shoreline Metro Transit Development Program (TDP) Update*. Jeff Agee-Aguayo noted that two Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects were submitted from northeastern Wisconsin: five replacement buses for Shoreline Metro; and bicycle and pedestrian transportation improvements in the Village of Egg Harbor. Jeff shared that he will also be working with Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties on updating their transportation coordination plans. Pam Busch shared that Door County's meeting for the coordinated plan process will be on April 7th from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Peggy Zielinski shared that NEWCAP was awarded Section 5310 and 5311 grants for 2020. The Section 5310 grant will allow for an expansion for mobility management among multiple counties, while the Section 5311 funding will support the expansion of the vehicle repair program that will now offer services in Oconto, Marinette, Brown and Florence Counties. Ms. Zielinski also reported that the Work N Wheels Program had a default rate of less than 10%.

Sandy Popp shared that Independent Living Centers will be focusing on working with legislators to bring back the ICTC (Inter-Agency Council on Transportation Coordination) and to continue working with consumers who are having issues with NEMT services.

8. Other – None.

9. Next Meeting Dates/Locations

April 21, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., Green Bay Metro, Green Bay.

July 21, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., ECWRPC, Menasha.

October 20, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., Green Bay Metro, Green Bay.

10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Busch, Secretary