

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission Hosted Virtual Meeting

MEETING ATTENDEES: Shari Bunnell (ADRC of Calumet County)
Kim Novak (ADRC of the Lakeshore)
Linda Spitzer (ADRC of Sheboygan County)
Beth Roberts (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Deb Shepro & Sue Pomplun (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)
Debbie Stobbe (Green Lake County)
Nick Musson (GWAAR)
Melissa Annoye (Kewaunee County)
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services), *logged in at 10:35 a.m.*
Peggy Zielinski (NEWCAP)
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living), *Logged out at 10:45 a.m.*
John Meissner (Options for Independent Living)
Steve Tomasik (Oshkosh Go Transit)
Paul Woodward (Running Inc./Brown Cab)
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)
Sarah Schneider (Valley Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)
Bryn Ceman (ADRC of Winnebago County)

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Agee-Aguayo called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval

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

3. Review and Approval of January 12, 2021, NEWRATC Meeting Minutes

Moved by Sandy Popp, seconded by Kim Novak, carried without amendments.

4. Public Input – None

5. State and Federal Legislative Updates

Nick Musson shared the schedule for the State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee Budget Hearings:

- Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - The Hodag Dome, Rhinelander, WI
- Thursday, April 22, 2021 - UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI
- Wednesday, April 28, 2021 - Virtual

Nick also shared information regarding a number of upcoming events and that the American Rescue Plan was signed into law. *(Post meeting, Nick Musson's information emailed to all on 4/13/21).*

L. Conard noted that the Green Bay MPO recently award \$29,284 to Green Bay Metro for the purchase of three Quantum wheelchair securement devices to be placed on three buses. The Section 5310 supplementals funds were made available through CRRSAA (second stimulus package). L. Conard noted that the Green Bay MPO was awarded a like amount as part of ARP (third stimulus package). L. Conard continued that Appleton has received \$32,147 as they are also a TMA. The state will receive \$287,764 for non-TMA areas. The apportionment table can be found here: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments/table-6-american-rescue-plan-act-enhanced-mobility-seniors-and-individuals>.

Derek Muench provided an overview of WIPTA's state budget priorities. *(Post meeting, WIPTA and WAMM's priorities were emailed to all members on 4/13/21).*

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

Bobbi Craig shared that she met with MTM yesterday and they are not sure when and if their contract will end; therefore, they are continuing business as usual. Bobbi also commented on her concern for the two-call complaint process to expedite an issue. Nikki Voight shared that Door-Tran has been working with an MTM contact that has been very helpful. *(Post meeting, the MTM contact was sent to all members via email on 4/13/21).*

7. Committee Member/Program Updates

Bobbi Craig shared that the Center for Independent Living continues to provide essential rides in their 40-county service area, and is also working on driver recruitment.

John Meissner shared that Options for Independent Living is trying to meet the needs of its clients as much as they can.

Adam BellCorelli shared that ECWRPC continues to work on the commuter route project for I-41. Mr. BellCorelli is also working with Make the Ride Happen and other providers to meet the needs for COVID-19 vaccine transportation.

Derek Muench shared that Shoreline Metro has made several changes during the pandemic to include tokenless fares and premium paratransit service. Recently, the Sheboygan County ADRC and Shoreline Metro paratransit service streamlined fares so that they are the same. In addition, cameras have been added to buses.

Melissa Annoy shared that rides are increasing in Kewaunee County and that volunteer drivers are returning now that vaccines are available.

Nick Musson shared that GWAAR will be providing the following virtual events:

DRAFT

- Monday, May 10th, 1-3:00 p.m. – Advocate Training
- Wednesday, May 12th, 1-2:00 p.m. – Small group legislative visits

Register at: <https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z1xa9cf904ub7by/>

(Post meeting, all updates from Nick were sent in an email to all members on 4/13/21).

Nikki Voight from Door-Tran shared that their volunteers are also returning now that they have received their vaccines. Door-Tran continues to provide rides and contactless food deliveries.

Ker Vang shared that the ARP application will be available later this month. Mr. Vang is also working on a Congestion Mitigation Plan, and input can be made at:

<https://browncounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=42fbd531257440be82f920a8c5829c6c>. *(Post meeting, this link was emailed to all members on 4/13/21).*

Steve Tomasik shared that Oshkosh Go Transit is providing no cost rides for vaccines. Ridership for paratransit in 2020 was at 50% of what it was in 2019, and fixed route ridership in 2020 was at 31% of what it was in 2019. In May, the first quantum wheelchair prototype will be received. Mr. Tomasik also shared that the downtown transit center is being upgraded.

Kim Novak shared that the ADRC of the Lakeshore saw a small increase in rides. Volunteer drivers are also returning. Ms. Novak is also preparing for a Section 5310 compliance audit this June.

Pam Busch shared that Door County will be starting a no fare flex route in early May, the Connector Link, and is also working on volunteer recruitment at this time.

Debbie Stobbe shared that Green Lake County is increasing ridership with Waushara Industries closing and adding their consumers to our facility (Fox River Industries).

Sandy Popp asked if any providers are offering no cost rides for vaccine-related trips. The majority of attendees responded that they are not charging fares for vaccine-related trips.

Shari Bunnell shared that the ADRC of Calumet County will be receiving its bariatric van soon. This will increase their fleet to five.

Holly Keenan shared that Catch a Ride for employment was able to continue service without disruption. This program may expand to New London and Waupaca soon. A part-time staff person was recently hired, and an additional position is still open.

Valerie Hoff reported that Enterprise Holdings' employment vanpools have also continued without disruption. She is working with businesses on additional vanpools in the future.

Deb Shepro stated that ADVOCAP continues to do food deliveries. ADVOCAP 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 so that their volunteer drivers could receive vaccinations.

Sarah Schneider with Valley Transit shared that ridership has increased, and is now at 70% of what it was pre-COVID. Valley Transit is working with several partners and the media to ensure transportation access to vaccines.

Essie Fels with Green Bay Metro shared that the micro transit pilot on the east side continues to grow. Capacity for buses that are on school routes have increased since Green Bay schools have reopened. Green Bay Metro is implementing smart cards and LED signage.

Beth Roberts with the ADRC of Winnebago County shared that an Age Friendly survey is available.

Sue Pomplun shared that ADVOCAP's loan program has increased since people are returning to work.

Chris Garcia shared that he is working with the City of Marinette on its Shared-Ride Taxi service.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo shared that he worked on the following:

- Shoreline Metro Transit Development Program (TDP): Sheboygan Transit Commission approval in mid-February, with City of Sheboygan Common Council approval on March 1st.
- Shoreline Metro Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP – updated): Sheboygan Transit Commission approval in mid-February, with City of Sheboygan Common Council approval on March 1st.
- Technical assistance to Shoreline Metro regarding its 2021 – 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and its first quarter 2021 CDBG quarterly report.
- Two sets of TIP amendments (including transit capital, Section 5310 and WETAP items).
- Discussed employment transportation with the Sheboygan County Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

8. Other – Ker Vang shared that the ADRC of Brown County is collecting information through an on-line survey at: <https://adrcofbrowncounty.org/ap22/>

9. Next Meeting Date/Location – The next meeting will be July 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., at ECWRPC in Menasha. Jeff Agee-Aguayo indicated that a virtual option will be available for this meeting even if it ends up being an in-person meeting.

10. Adjournment

Derek Muench motioned to adjourn at 11:05 a.m., seconded by Lisa Conard, carried.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Busch, Secretary