

Transportation Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 13, 2015

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Terry Nolan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rob Wilkinson, seconded by TJ Nee. Motion carried.

Roll Call:

Present: Supervisor Brenton Driscoll, John Hanewall, Patty Hansberry, Lynn Jones, Joyce Lubben, TJ Nee, Terry Nolan, Molly Nolte, Ryan Schomber, Karl Schulte, Steve Skelly, and Rob Wilkinson.

Excused:

Absent: Jennifer Anselmi

Alternates Present: James Thompson, Joe Scharenbroch, and Mike Warren.

Introduction of Members: Members introduced themselves.

Approval of the September 11, 2015 Minutes: Rob Wilkinson made a motion to approve the September 11, 2015 minutes, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll.

Introduction of Visitors: Also present were Addison Vang, intern with Janesville MPO, and Denise Horn, an interested Rock County citizen.

Citizen Participation, Communication, and Announcements: None.

Public Hearing on Rock County Council on Aging's 2016 s.85.21 Application for Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties: Joyce Lubben explained what the s.85.21 application is and how it pertains to the Rock County Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. This application requests state funding to continue Rock County Transit (RCT) which provides older adults and disabled people with transportation. The state funds will be used to continue operations as provided in the past. Ridership remains at a steady level, and next year's operations will provide no new service and no cuts to the program. RCT also provides paratransit service to Beloit and Janesville Transit Systems. It will otherwise continue as a door-to-door, demand response transportation program.

There were no comments from the public.

Approval of Rock County Council on Aging's s.85.21 Application for 2016: Karl Schulte made a motion to approve the s.85.21 Application, seconded by Rob Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mobility Manager Report:

Travel Training: Molly Nolte stated she performed the first one-on-one travel training in Beloit. She advised there are two upcoming travel trainings in Janesville in November.

Dementia Friendly JTS Completion: Ms. Nolte said a "ribbon-cutting" for the JTS Dementia Friendly completion was held at the Janesville Transfer Center. The ceremony was attended by TCC members, members of the Janesville City Council, the Dementia Friendly task force, the ADRC, and JTS.

Conferences, Meetings, and Trainings: Ms. Nolte attended the TRIAD "Safer, Smart Seniors" seminar and the Wisconsin Senior Driving Summit in Madison. She also attended the Shared-Use Mobility Summit in

Chicago, IL, and the WURTA annual conference in Duluth, MN. Lastly, Ms. Nolte has initiated meetings with Gary Messinger of Dane County TimeBank to assist in restarting the Rock Hour Community (RHC), Rock County's time bank. Another meeting was attended by Ms. Nolte and Ms. Lubben with Mr. Messinger, along with interested stakeholders from Evansville. Additional meetings will be held in the future.

State NEMT Advisory Board: At the recommendation of Carrie Porter of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Ms. Nolte's name will be submitted to the state to become a member of the NEMT Advisory Board, directed by the Department of Health Services (DHS).

Karl Schulte, who is on the board, explained that that Wisconsin legislature advised DHS to organize the advisory board, which they have done. Mr. Schulte said during the bi-annual meetings, MTM, Inc. representatives attend to update the members of their numbers and the company. He added that it is difficult for some members to participate as the meetings are only three hours long, twice yearly. He did advise that recommended future business items do appear on the following agendas.

Old Business:

By-Laws Review and Approval: Upon further examination of the final copy of the By-Laws, it was found that they were already approved and required no further action. Ms. Nolte will provide copies of the final document to the TCC.

Update on Discussion Regarding Implementation Plan: It was agreed upon by the group that communication between agencies remains at a good level. Terry Nolan indicated that for many of the items in the Plan, money continues to be a barrier. Ms. Nolan updated the group regarding the Bicycle-Pedestrian goals, stating that there is progress being made in Janesville and more enthusiasm from the public.

Sub-Committee Discussion: The group discussed the efficacy of the sub-committees as designed. Ms. Lubben reminded the members that if changes are made to the sub-committees, it would have to be approved by the County Board. The group reviewed the terms and discussed member appointments. Mr. Wilkinson advised that the Transportation Advocacy committee is important. Ms. Nolan said the Bike/Ped committee has not been very effective and reflected on the mission of the committee. Ryan Schomber explained that the purpose of the Marketing and Outreach committee is valuable, but it can be logistically difficult to schedule sub-committee meetings due to busy schedules. Mr. Schomber suggested sub-committee meetings be tagged onto the end of TCC meetings a number of times a year. Steve Skelly suggested the merging of the sub-committees into two groups. Lynn Jones recommended the sub-committees be Advocacy and Mobility, a combination of members in each. Supervisor Driscoll recommended five members per committee. It was suggested that Molly Nolte be on both sub-committees. Ms. Lubben recommended the sub-committee meetings be held before TCC meetings so updates can be given during the main meeting, and the group agreed. A motion was made by Steve Skelly to approve the new sub-committee structure, seconded by Rob Wilkinson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Ms. Nolan opened the floor for chairperson nominations. TJ Nee nominated Molly Nolte as the 2016 chairperson, seconded by Karl Schulte. Ms. Nolte agreed to the appointment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The floor was open for vice-chairperson nominations. Karl Schulte nominated Terry Nolan as the 2016 vice-chairperson, seconded by TJ Nee. Ms. Nolan agreed to the appointment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

New Appointments for 2016-2018 Term: It was decided that Mike Warren be named as the primary member for JTS, and Becca Smith will continue as his alternate. TJ Nee accepted another three-year term on the TCC, and advised Jason Dupuis would be his alternate. Molly Nolte will fill the vacancy on the committee. James Thompson will take Michelle Gavin's place as the primary committee member for BTS, and Ms. Gavin will continue as an alternate. Ryan Schomber accepted another three-year term on the TCC. Lynn Jones said Becky Hayd will be her alternate. A motion was made by Karl Schulte to approve the new term appointments and alternates, seconded by Rob Wilkinson. Motion carried.

Member Reports:

Terry Nolan reported that there has been progress made with the Bicycle/Pedestrian plan for the City of Janesville. They are looking forward to the Streets/Highway chapter approval in May 2016. Regarding the Bike/Ped program, there will be more trails to access and a different on-street system. Ms. Nolan also explained that there is growing transit demand in Southern Janesville near Highway 11 and Beloit Avenue as job creation is expected in this area in the future. Additional JTS service might be considered.

Rob Wilkinson recommended the TCC assist with distributing information about Wisconsin's new Voter I.D. law. Mr. Wilkinson advised that it would be helpful to provide information about transportation options to those who still require a Voter I.D. Steve Skelly suggested group travel trainings that take people to the DMV to obtain their card. The group was reminded that no one can appear to be political when assisting with Voter I.D. cards. Molly Nolte suggested the information on the DOT's website be displayed on the public buses.

TJ Nee updated the committee on SLATS' Long Range Plan and invited everyone to attend the Workshop on November 16, 2015. Mr. Nee's update included information regarding future service that would extend from Rock County to South Beloit, Roscoe, Rockton, and Rockford, IL, eventually with service from Janesville to Rockford.

James Thompson explained that the new BTS plan was approved by the City Council of Beloit. The plan will require six months of implementation, and will result in new routes and a different fare structure, including a monthly pass, but no increase in fares. The Tripper routes were also cut. Expanding Saturday service is planned for the future when funding becomes available.

Mike Warren told the committee that city staff have recommended ending the Janesville-Milton-Whitewater Innovation Express service.

Ryan Schomber has been referring people to the Work 'n Wheels program.

Karl Schulte advised that Edgerton Shared-Ride Taxi was up another 20% from their already high 15% increase in ridership. He is anticipating an audit. Walworth County will be providing a shared-ride taxi service in 2016.

John Hanewall updated the committee that DHS has officially announced Family Care implementation in Rock County. He expects implementation to begin July 2016. The House will review the plan in January.

Joyce Lubben is working on the bid for the JTS Paratransit program. Ms. Lubben will also be submitting the s.85.21 application now that it has been approved by the committee.

Lynn Jones said the Work 'n Wheels program will likely be scaled down by 50% due to funds needed to sustain the program, but also explained that there was still money available for car loans through 2016. She is also exploring options for CDL Training in Rock County as it is difficult to obtain.

Future Agenda Items: Implementation of Action Items and Timeline Discussion, Resolution for Sub-Committee Restructuring

Future Meeting Dates: January 8, February 12

Molly Nolte added that all 2016 TCC meetings will be held at the Rock County Job Center in classrooms D/E.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Rob Wilkinson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lynn Jones. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes not official until approved by the Transportation Coordinating Committee