

Kankakee County Transportation Committee Minutes

March 16, 2012

Members in attendance: Mike Butler, Chairman, Good Shepherd Manor; Roger Hess, Vice-Chairman, Kankakee County Board Member; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Cheryl Lockwood, North East Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department; and, Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO MTD.

Others in attendance: Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission and Co-coordinator Region 6 HSTP; Pat McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL; Susan Bultman, Cornerstone Services, Inc.; Karen Smietanski, VAC; Amy Carmack, Good Shepherd Manor; Mike Lammey and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, and welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 31, 2012 meeting were submitted for approval. Mr. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dick. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF GRANT SUMMARIES

Ms. Carmack distributed a handout summary of their Consolidated Vehicle Purchase Grant application, and presented a summary of the need for three replacement vehicles. They are requesting two Light Duty Paratransit Vehicles with lifts and one Mini-Van with ramp. The total cost is \$151,000 (Federal).

Ms. Dick distributed a handout summarizing three grant applications for Kankakee County through SHOW BUS. The first is Job Access Reverse Commute, two year Operating expense, \$46,510 (Federal 50% with Local Share match of \$46,510). This is to continue the JARC hourly service between Kankakee and Momence started in 2009.

The second grant for Kankakee County is a New Freedom application for \$36,000 (Federal 80% with \$9,000 Local Share Capital Cost). This grant program will allow SHOW BUS to provide vouchers to not-for-profit entities to provide personal care assistants to riders who need such help.

The third grant is for IDOT Consolidated Vehicle Purchase program under Section 5310 for one expansion vehicle, a Super Medium Duty Paratransit Vehicle with lift, \$100,000 (Federal). SHOW BUS has expanded hours of operation in the eastern part of the County and increased the number of busses being used from five in FY 2008 to seven currently, with ridership doubling in that time period.

Mr. Hess made a motion to approve all four grant applications and to forward to the Region 6 HSTP a favorable recommendation for each. Motion seconded by Ms. Lockwood. Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS, INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Ms. Brutlag reported progress is being made on the inventory of their 389 bus stops, including photographing each and GIS mapping them. They are being rated on the Easter Seals guidance for bus stops. Ms. Brutlag also stated that they have heard complaints that some bus stops were not ADA compliant, but that is not true. All are compliant. Some sidewalks in the vicinity of bus stops may not be in compliance, but the bus stops are.

They have installed one new bus stop shelter in Manteno on Division Street near Family Video. They have 9 more to install and are looking for the right place to put them, matching high rider volume and high traffic volume.

METRO has had its Five Millionth rider earlier this year. They are now experiencing 75,000 riders per month, 900,000 per year. They should have their Six Millionth rider early next year.

Chairman Butler commented that he was happy to see that in addition to being a warming station in cold weather and a cooling station in hot weather, the busses are now identified as a Safe Haven for citizens.

Ms. Schoolman reported that a ramp that was recently constructed between the Options facility and the new Veterans' Clinic is ADA compliant. She is not sure who maintains it. This winter, snow was plowed up at each end of the walkway, blocking it from being used. Ms. Smietanski stated that the VA put the walkway in.

Ms. Smietanski also reported a new Superintendent for the Veteran's Assistance Commission has been selected. Mr. Mark Grogan will start in the position in June.

Ms. Dick reported applying for bus shelters on a Livability Grant through Section 5309. She had been told that a PO had been sent in for the low rider bus that had been granted

previously. A grant application was resubmitted, in case this bus never materializes. This bus is for people who exceed ADA standards. Ms. Dick also stated they are entering into a partnership with the Area Agency on Aging to work on gaps in service and barriers in service for veterans. The program will be using Options CIL as case managers for the program in Kankakee County, and Options CIL may also be selected for Iroquois County.

Ms. Smietanski reported that Public Aid had been operating a bus from Kankakee to Hines VA Hospital, but discontinued the service last week. A veteran who was using that service is now having difficulty scheduling his routing to Hines. He needs to be at the Bourbonnais Clinic by 7:30 AM to ride their bus to Hines. She also stated there is to be another van, a “Medi-Van” that will travel to Kankakee and Iroquois counties and to Hines starting possibly in May. When the Silver Cross VA Clinic site opens next year, it is expected the Medi-Van will include it in the route. Also, the veteran clinics are now linking their computer systems, so veterans can go to different clinics and the doctors will have access to their medical records and prescription information.

Ms. Dick brought up the situation of McLean County looking at an expressway and Complete Streets, providing for pedestrian and bicycle users along new or improved roadways. It is important for all road work to not only consider requirements for pedestrians and bicycles, but to include ADA compliance, as well.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

No additional report.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

Ms. Dick reported the eastern county are service is still increasing, but the western part of the county is not seeing the amount of utilization expected. More outreach is needed for that part of the County.

Ms. Brutlag had covered everything for METRO previously in the meeting.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT TRAINING

Mr. Lammey explained the new requirements under the Open Meetings Act for all committee members to receive training through the Illinois Attorney General’s Office and to provide a copy of the completion certificate to the County Planning Department. A copy of the certificate must be filed with each entity a person serves on a committee or board for. Mr. Greenstreet will send an e-mail with the computer link to the training site.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING SCHEDULE

March 19, 2012 Region 6 HSTP meeting in Pontiac, IL at 10 AM.

May 29, 2012 County Transportation Committee at METRO Centre at 9:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Ms. Brutlag. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.