

KANKAKEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 27, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Dorci Schoolman, Chairman, Options CIL; Mike Butler, Vice-Chairman, Good Shepherd Manor; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department; and, Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Affairs.

Others Present: Cheryl Lockwood, Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Donna Kelly, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Rob Hoffmann, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Sarah Neill, Catholic Charities; William Bibbs, Rex Delacruz and Jackie Delacruz, of Blessed Hope Transportation; Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Kevin Owens, State Representative Dugan's Office; Jim Greenstreet and Mike Lammey, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Schoolman called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM, welcoming all. Ms. Schoolman asked all present to introduce themselves and identify who they represent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Ms. Schoolman asked for any Public Comment. There were no public comment forms filed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting were presented for approval. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Butler and seconded by Ms. Brutlag. Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

- a. Mr. McCarthy was unable to attend today. He will give his presentation on Illinois Central School Bus at the June 29, 2010 meeting.
- b. Mr. Lammey introduced Mr. Nolan, who assists Jennifer Sicks in coordinating the Region 6 Rural HSTP Committee. He stated he will serve as liaison for the various county committees. Ms. Schoolman invited all present to attend the Region 6 meeting on May 24th in Pontiac, stating it is now better organized.

- c. Accessibility Issues: Mr. Hoffmann reported that River Valley Metro has instituted dedicated bus stops on their fixed route service. They are now assessing the stops for accessibility, using GIS, GPS technology, mapping and photography. They will need to prioritize the improvements to the sites. He expects the cost be about \$900,000 to improve 200 sites. He has Ms. Brutlag working on establishing an Urban HSTP committee. He believes this committee could prioritize the upgrades to bus stops, as well as identify new route needs, participate in political activities, and study expansion beyond traditional areas. Anyone interested in serving on the Urban HSTP should contact Ms. Brutlag.

Mr. Hoffmann stated funding for the counties was below expectations, due to tax money for ten counties (\$27,000,000) not being put into the proper fund. He also stated that IDOT has been unclear about combined projects between rural and urban transit systems.

Ms. Schoolman reported that Options CIL has received a grant for a program to train youth for the job market, which included training on riding the bus system. The training thus far has been very successful.

Ms. Brutlag reported that River Valley METRO has hired a new person to work with ADA applicants.

- d. State Budget Issues: Ms. Dick reported there has been a new need identified involving transportation of nursing home residents to mental health day facilities out of county. Nursing homes in Kankakee County are now being required to document mental health treatment of patients who need it, but they have no facilities to send the patients to in Kankakee County. This requirement stems from a recent court case and a Governor's Task Force Report. The Kankakee County SHOW BUS contract does not allow the Kankakee County busses to go outside the County. This is similar to the need for Kankakee County veterans to go to Hines VA Hospital or Danville VA Hospital, both being out of the County. One possible solution would be for the County to change its' policy and allow the County busses to take people out of the County.

Mr. Hoffmann asked if the mental health experts could contract to do the group meetings in the nursing homes?

Mr. Bibbs of Blessed Hope Transportation asked if there was any way his business could help serve this need. He stated they have applied for approval for Medicaid payment. He was made aware that there may be a wait of 9 to 12 months for the payment to be made. He currently has one 15 passenger bus, wheelchair accessible.

- e. Other Issues: None

DISABILITY/ AGING/ TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

- a. Social Service provider comments- Mr. Butler reported things were going well at Good Shepherd Manor. Ms. Schoolman reported that Harbor House has purchased a van and she had invited them to attend the County Transportation Committee meeting.
- b. Medical Service provider comments – Ms. Schaafsma reported the number of seasonal flu cases was less than expected, and recommends anyone who hasn't yet to get the flu shot.
- c. Government Agency comments – Mr. Campbell reviewed the Director of the Hines VA Hospital announcements:
 - 1) To provide a van for transportation needs, and
 - 2) Of intentions to build a new full service VA Clinic near the I-57 312 or 308 interchange, to replace the smaller clinic at the Manteno Veterans' Home.

Ms. Dick stated the Eastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging is beginning to provide in-home case management for veterans. Ms. Lockwood stated North East Illinois Area Agency on Aging is also providing this service in Kankakee County.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

- a. Ms. Dick reported they had been told there will be 2 months before we will hear about the recent JARC Grant. The 5310 grants have been pulled back to await capital funding.
- b. Ms. Brutlag reports River Valley METRO has received 9 used busses from Indianapolis, that were "excess inventory" for them. They were transferred to METRO, they only had to pay for the spare parts inventory. They are blue and silver, and two are already on routes today.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Chairman Schoolman then reviewed the meeting schedule planned for this Committee:

- February 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM, The Region 6 HSTP Meeting at the LifeCIL office in Pontiac.
- March 22, 2010 at 10:00 AM, The Region 6 HSTP Meeting at the LifeCIL office in Pontiac.
- April 27, 2010 – 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee: Mr. Patrick McCarthy of Illinois Central School Bus Presenting

- June 29, 2010 – 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee:
- Meeting Location – METRO Centre

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Brutlag made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Schaafsma. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Schoolman at 10:54 AM.