

KANKAKEE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 29, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Mike Butler, Vice-Chairman, Good Shepherd Manor; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District, 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; Richard Nolan, McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Pat McCarthy and Darren Washington, Illinois Central School Bus Company; Rosa Hernord-Warren, Harbor House; Lindsey Harper and Mike Lammey, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, welcoming all, and asking all present to introduce themselves and identify who they represent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Vice-Chairman Butler asked for any Public Comment. There were no public comment forms filed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the April 27, 2010 meeting were presented for approval. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Brutlag and seconded by Mr. Campbell Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

- a. Mr. McCarthy made a presentation on the Illinois Central School Bus Company. He stated that the company is a private, for-profit company which is in its 6th year of business. He stated that the Company runs 1400 school routes this year, and will run 2100 school routes next year. He stated that the bulk of the firm's business is in Illinois, but has business in Minnesota, and will have business in Missouri and Kansas next year.

Mr. McCarthy stated that his company has school routes in Momence and Hopkins Park at present. He stated that besides the school contracts that the company maintains, they provide service for workshops in Gary, Indiana, and have summer work in other parts of Illinois. He stated that they provide private transportation for steel mills around Gary, as well.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he regularly attends the Section 5311 meetings being held in LaSalle and Grundy Counties, and that he also regularly attends the Region 3 and Region 6 Rural Human Service Transportation Plan meetings. Mr. McCarthy answered questions about comparisons between the Region 3 and 6 Rural HSTP groups, and explained the situation in Grundy County where a 5311 transit service is in place, but that the County is studying the expansion of that service to the entire County.

- b. Accessibility Issues: Mr. Hoffmann reported that River Valley METRO has submitted requests for additional rolling stock, and for accessible bus stops, but has heard nothing so far on these requests. Mr. Hoffmann and Ms. Dick discussed the \$17 million fund for downstate capital purchases, and that the governor has not yet released this funding.
- c. 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. She stated that the PZA Committee of the Kankakee County Board authorized her to negotiate with the Iroquois Mental Health Center to provide those services from Kankakee County to Iroquois County. Ms. Dick stated that the final word from the Governor on budget cuts will come on June 30, and that a number of issues may fall out of those decisions.
- d. Other Issues: None

DISABILITY/ AGING/ TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

- a. Social Service provider comments- Vice-Chairman Butler stated that he had no issues.
- b. Medical Service provider comments – no attendee.
- c. Government Agency comments – Mr. Campbell stated that:
 - 1) 7 vans are being purchased for Hines Hospital, and that one of those vans will be based in Kankakee County. He stated that drivers and coordinators are being hired, with the intent to have the service operational by September 1, 2010. Mr. Campbell stated that he will press for the bus to stop at the Veterans’ Assistance Center at 135 N. Schuyler on each trip into and out of Kankakee County.
 - 2) Progress is being made toward the establishment of a new clinic in Kankakee (8,000 square feet), with mental health issues to be handled through teleconferencing. Mr. Campbell stated that the target date for this clinic will be sometime in 2011.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

- a. Ms. Dick stated that in addition to the service providing transportation for mental health services to Iroquois County, the PZA Committee also authorized the addition of work trip service to and from Hopkins Park. She stated that planning for this service is underway.

- b. Mr. Hoffmann stated that METRO continues on pace for a record ridership year, with a 20% increase in ridership.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

No media present.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ms. Lockwood stated that a meeting of the Liveable Communities group will be called on July 23 from 11:30 to 1:30.
- b. Mr. Washington suggested that church groups with buses might be interested in providing transportation for purposes discussed by the Committee.
- c. Ms. Kelly passed out notices of a Job Fair for forklift drivers, and asked that Committee members distribute the notices.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Mr. Lammey stated that the next meeting of the group would be held on August 31, which is a change from the previous schedule.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Brutlag made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Campbell. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chairman Butler at 10:11 AM.