

COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JULY 29, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

Robert Scholl and Leo Whitten, Kankakee County; Mike Lammey, Jim Greenstreet, and Ryan DeYoung, Kankakee County Planning Department; Amy Wiley and Mary Christiansen, Provena St. Mary's Dialysis; Cathy Meltzer, Lisa Dugan's Office; Dorci Schoolman, Options CIL; Cheryl Lockwood, NE IL Area Agency on Aging; Susan Embree, Bradley Royale; Patrick McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Jeanette Tetreault, Thresholds; Aimee McSparin, The Herald; Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Commission; Nicole George, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Allison George; Loretta LaBrec, Manor Care; Rob Hoffman and Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Bernie Thompson, Village of Manteno; Mary Jo Martyn, KCC Workforce Services; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor; Dr. Terrill Applewhite; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Lammey called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, welcoming all and introducing himself and asking everyone around the room to introduce themselves. Mr. Lammey then explained that this Committee replaces the Transportation Advisory Committee hosted by Ms. Wiley at Provena since December 2005.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mr. Lammey explained the public commentary form for future meetings, as required by the Open Meetings Act and how the meetings will be announced and posted.

HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION (HSTP) PLAN AND GOALS:

Ms. George, Illinois Department of Transportation HSTP Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) Coordinator for Region 6, explained the activities of the RTC and its Goal 1: Establish regional connections between public transportation, human service agencies, and the general public. She further explained the RTC has identified a strategy to meet this goal is to "develop (or support existing) county transportation committees."

COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES IN OTHER COUNTIES:

Ms. Dick, Director of SHOW BUS Transportation and Chairman of the Technical Committee for the Region 6 RTC, identified the value of similar transportation committees in other counties where time critical problems were resolved quickly through the committees.

CHANGES IN RIVER VALLEY METRO SERVICE:

Mr. Hoffmann, Managing Director of METRO, presented recent and upcoming changes in METRO's service. Mr. Hoffmann reported on the addition of Sunday and holiday service which began July 20th and the planned expansion of other service August 11th. METRO will be increasing a route to 30 minute cycles, extending a route to the new Wal-Mart on the south side of Kankakee, and add a new route into Diversatec and the Village of Manteno that will go to the area of Cigna and the medical centers along Route 45-52 in Bourbonnais. Three new buses are overdue to arrive to start these extended services. Mr. Hoffmann also reported that METRO had a ridership of over 520,000 this past year.

CHANGES IN RURAL TRANSPORTATION IN KANKAKEE COUNTY:

Mr. Lammey then asked Ms. Dick to discuss the possible changes planned in the County's rural transportation service, through SHOW BUS. Ms. Dick explained the increases are due to new state funding and applauded the efforts of State Representative Dugan in securing those funds for our County and others. She stated that SHOW BUS will continue the demand responsive service to all areas of the County and will re-establish emergency medical trips.

Ms. Dick also addressed the fact that the County does not allow SHOW BUS to provide trips out of the County or to pick up County residents at an out of County location, such as a Chicago hospital or other medical facility. The other counties SHOW BUS serves do not have that restriction.

STATEWIDE NETWORK OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROVIDERS:

Ms. George addressed this issue from the HSTP/RTC perspective. Ms. George stated the Region 6 RTC has as Goal 2: "Increase awareness and ridership of transportation services." To do this, the RTC established a strategy to meet this goal is to "develop a regional directory providing information on transportation services." The Illinois Department of Transportation – Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation (IDOT-DPIT) & University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) are developing an internet site for a statewide network with public access to this information.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. Lammey then explained the plan to establish the County Transportation Committee by having each of the four areas of representatives present (Medical Service Providers, Transportation Service Providers, Social Service Providers and Government Agencies), select 2 representatives to serve on the committee. From those members, a Chairman will be elected. The people were then directed to break up into small groups for each area to select their representatives.

Volunteer/appointees to serve on the Committee are:

- Government Agencies: Mr. Robert Scholl and Ms. Cheryl Lockwood
- Transportation Providers: Ms. Laura Dick

- Social Service Providers: Ms. Dorci Schoolman and Mr. Mike Butler
- Medical Service Providers: Ms. Bonnie Schaafsma, Ms. Amy Wiley and Ms. Loretta LaBrec

Mr. Lammey then asked for nominations from the new committee members for a Chairman. Mr. Lammey nominated Ms. Wiley, seconded by Ms. Schoolman. There were no other nominations. A unanimous vote elected Ms. Wiley to the position of Chairman.

SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO REGION 6 RURAL HSTP:

Mr. Lammey called upon Ms. George to explain the plans to establish the roles of the HSTP Region 6 RTC members. The newly elected Chairman of this Committee, Ms. Wiley, will be a representative to the RTC. Other representatives from Kankakee County will be:

- County Board Representative: Mr. Robert Scholl
- Rural Public Transportation Operator: Ms. Laura Dick
- Urbanized Area HSTP Representative: Mr. Mike Lammey

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

There were no questions.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dr. Applewhite was present and announced his concern for transportation needs for patients to and from hospitals and nursing homes. He stated that he was considering starting a new private business to provide for these needs and asked what the County’s responsibility would be for such an endeavor. Mr. Lammey explained that the County provides funding for urban and rural public transportation, but that Dr. Applewhite could speak to the two County Board Members present (Mr. Scholl and Mr. Whitten) about other ways they could help.

Mr. Campbell (Veteran’s Assistance Commission) brought up the need for transportation for veterans to and from medical facilities, including from Ford County to Kankakee for dialysis, and from Kankakee County to Hines Veteran’s Hospital in Chicago. He was asked to speak with Ms. Dick from SHOW BUS about transportation from Ford County to Kankakee, as SHOW BUS also serves Ford County. It was noted that dialysis is also available in Champaign, if that might be closer for the Ford County veteran.

There was discussion again about the fact Kankakee County does not allow the rural provider, SHOW BUS, to make trips out of the County. It was also noted that *METRO* provides bus service to the University Park *Metra* train station. Via the *Metra*, clients would have public transportation to all of the medical facilities in Chicago.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Mr. Lammey then reviewed the meeting schedule planned for this Committee:

- September 30, 2008 – 9:30 A.M.
- November 18, 2008 – 9:30 A.M.

- General Meeting Schedule – Last Tuesday of every other month at 9:30 A.M.
 - January, March, May, July, September, November of 2009
- Meeting Location – METRO Centre

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lammey announced the adjournment of the meeting at 10:33 A.M.