

# COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

**September 30, 2008**

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Amy Wiley, Provena St. Mary's Dialysis; Patrick McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus; Jeanette Tetreault, Thresholds; Aimee McSparin, The Herald; Richard Campbell, Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Commission; Rob Hoffman, David Hinderliter and Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department; Cheryl Chamberlain, KC-CASA; Gloria Richard, IDES; Mike Lammey, and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department;

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM, welcoming all, introducing herself and asking everyone around the room to introduce themselves.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Chairman Wiley then asked for any Public Comment. 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, including handouts listing who is notified by the County Administration of every public meeting. There was no Public Comment at this time.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the July 29, 2008 Meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Butler made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Schaafsma. Motion carried.

### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

Chairman Wiley presented the need to elect a Vice-Chairman to represent this Committee to any Rural HSTP Meeting that she could not attend. Ms. Dick nominated Dorci Schoolman, seconded by Mr. Butler. No other nominations were offered. Ms. Schoolman was elected.

### **AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:**

Chairman Wiley announced the intention to have different representatives attending these meetings give presentations on their agency's activities and transportation needs. Ms. Schoolman intended to present on Options, CIL, but was unable to attend today. Chairman Wiley then gave her presentation on Provena St. Mary's Dialysis centers in Kankakee and Manteno. Chairman Wiley expressed a growing need for appropriate medical transport for dialysis patients.

Discussion followed the presentation. Ms. Dick asked for starting location information for the dialysis patients to see if they might be serviced by SHOW BUS.

Ms. Richard asked if there were any non-profit organizations that could get vehicles, vans, etc. to provide this type of transportation, possibly obtaining grants.

Mr. Hoffman stated that traditionally, this type of service is a high number of riders in a public transportation service area, but such has not been the case in this area. He believes there is a need to educate the patients of the availability of the curb-to curb services River Valley METRO can provide, and that available outside the urbanized area as offered by SHOW BUS. Mr. Hoffman added that if any rider needs an attendant, the attendant rides free of charge.

Ms. Richard stated they are working on a Job Fair at KCC for October 8<sup>th</sup> specifically for jobs at the Elwood intermodal facilities. Many of the applicants will have transportation needs, but she was told Pace cannot provide the service, since the trips originate out of their district. Ms. Richard stated she has a meeting with employers at the Elwood site on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Hoffman stated such service could be started from the Kankakee area to Elwood, but it could be a three year project to sufficiently build up the ridership. Such a route could be started with 15 to 20 riders a day.

### **DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:**

Chairman Wiley asked for Mr. Butler to present comments from the Social Service provider perspective. Mr. Butler stated his facility, Good Shepherd Manor, is a developmentally challenged adult facility with 124 residents. The current economy has made it necessary to work at cutting expenses anywhere they can, including in the area of transportation. Mr. Butler stated he was pleased to learn attendants ride free on the public transportation.

Chairman Wiley then called upon Ms. Schaafsma to comment on Medical Service provider perspectives. Ms. Schaafsma reported that the Kankakee County Health Department had recently surveyed some of their clients, with about 50 out of 250 respondents citing a lack of transportation as the reason they could not make it to appointments for health care services.

Chairman Wiley announced a website, <http://www.netspap.com> which can be used for medical transportation requests for Illinois public aid eligible persons.

Chairman Wiley then called upon Mr. Lammey to share concerning the Government Agency perspective. Mr. Lammey stated that a new route program was being considered to assist with workplace transportation that Ms. Dick will be presenting on shortly.

### **PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:**

Chairman Wiley then asked Ms. Dick to report on SHOW BUS. Ms. Dick stated they are working to start up a fixed route service that could benefit employees who live in the Kankakee area and work in Momence, and Momence residents who need to come into Kankakee. It is expected to benefit seniors and low income residents.

Chairman Wiley then called upon Mr. Hoffmann, Managing Director of METRO. Mr. Hoffman stated there were over 59,000 riders in August on the METRO system. The fixed route was added to Manteno and a second bus was added to the KCC route, establishing ½ hour headways. Mr. Hoffman stated they are adding to the capacity of their ADA service, METRO PLUS. He stated Ms. Brutlag will have on their website, <http://www.rivervalleymetro.com> a new ride share program people can use to establish car pools. This is expected to be on the website by Thursday of this week.

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:**

There were no questions.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Campbell brought up the need to take veterans from Kankakee to Hines VA Hospital in Chicago and to the VA Hospital in Danville. They are not allowed to ride the VA service vehicle from the Manteno Veteran's Center unless they are a resident at the Manteno facility. So, the vehicle regularly makes the trip with only one or two riders. He stated the problem will get worse as more veterans return from Iraq. Mr. Hoffman suggested that Mr. Campbell work with the state legislators and federal legislators to change the policy. The ride share program on the River Valley METRO website may also be a resource for the veteran's trips to Hines and Danville.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE:**

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

- November 18, 2008 – 9:30 A.M.
- January 27, 2009 – 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:**

Chairman Wiley announced the adjournment of the meeting at 10:45 A.M.