

Minutes
Kankakee County Transportation Committee
Conference Room, METRO Centre
1137 E. 5000N Road, Bourbonnais, IL
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Members in attendance: Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor, Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Roger Hess, Kankakee County Board; Heather Long, Options CIL; Donna Copeland Hill, Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

Others in attendance: Damon Rosenthal and Gloria Rosenthal, Prince of Peace Transportation Service; and Geoff Olson, Kankakee County Planning Department; Michelle Allen, Cornerstone Services.

Call to Order

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed everyone. He asked everyone to introduce themselves because there were new attendees present.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 29, 2015 meeting were submitted for approval. Ms. Brutlag made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried.

Addition of Committee Members

Chairman Butler told everyone that there were new members to be added to the committee for agencies that previously had members; Donna Copeland Hill from Northeast Illinois Area Agency on Aging and Heather Long from Options Center for Independent Living. Mr. Hess motioned to approve their membership, seconded by Ms. Brutlag. Motion carried.

HSTP Coordinator Issues

Mr. Nolan was unable to attend the meeting but gave a list of updates to Mr. Olson to read. The update is attached to the end of the minutes.

Agency Transportation Needs, Interagency Coordination and Accessibility Issues

Ms. Brutlag said METRO has an ADA accessible vehicle on hold because of the state's budget impasse. There was a new stop created at Conerstone Services at Brookmont Blvd and Harvard. In addition to the ADA bus, METRO has two of the buses purchased from CTA running. They bought another ADA bus and are waiting for the title to be able to provide service. Because of the state's budget issue and fleet needs, seamless service has been very difficult to maintain.

Ms. Dick reported specifications for vehicle access ramps have been submitted to IDOT. Seamless service provided has been difficult for SHOW BUS, too, and there have been no

shortage of repairs needed on vehicles. Ms. Dick informed everyone that Connect Transit in Bloomington-Normal has partnered with Life Center for Independent Living to provide all their ADA rides. Also, due to the budget impasse, some social services agencies may have to close in January 2016 if no budget or funding relief is approved.

Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues

Mr. Butler said Good Shepherd Manor is down two vehicles, but they are waiting for two vehicles from the 2014 CVP and two vehicles from the 2015 CVP. He also said the current price of gas has been very helpful in providing cost savings.

Ms. Copeland Hill said that reduced home delivery meals (meals on wheels) has been cut from five days a week to two days a week. In addition, all community dining centers in DuPage County have been closed because of the budget impasse despite the governor's announcement. Adult protective services and home maker services for seniors, funded entirely by the state, is also not being funded because of the budget.

Ms. Long said Options CIL has a new CEO and is restructuring the agency. During the changes they are still providing all their services to clients. They are also looking to hire a personal assistant.

Mr. Hess said he had attended a United Council of Counties meeting for Illinois in July and it was speculated that a budget would not be passed until January. He said so far the speculations concerning the state capital and the budget have been accurate.

Program Status of Transportation Providers

Ms. Dick said that there have been no cuts in service and that IDOT has put funding caps on transit with the comptroller, which does not allow rural transit to access their full apportioned contract amount.

Ms. Brutlag reported that METRO has seen decreases in ridership, particularly in areas where ridership would not be expected to drop. The suspected reason for lower ridership is a result of the state budget impasse because of the reduction in social services such as day care.

Questions from the Media

None.

New Business

Ms. Dick explained that there is a pilot program in Champaign, Vermillion, and Iroquois Counties with shifting Medicare from the current managed care providers to Medicare Choices, an office based in Indiana. Some transit providers, in Illinois, are not providing service to Medicare clients because of difficulties in receiving payment.

Mr. Olson informed everyone that Braun Ability has begun building an accessible SUV for people with disabilities. The SUV provides an alternative to the minivans that have typically been the only accessible vehicle available to consumers. Ms. Long mentioned that while at an ADA training in Springfield, there was discussion about all-terrain wheelchairs. These types of

chairs use a tread track, similar to a tank, to provide all-terrain accessibility. One issue is that they are wider than a traditional wheelchair and there may be problems with vehicle door and ramp widths. The chairs also weigh around 300 pounds. With the next update to ADA code, these all-terrain wheelchairs will likely be included as a reasonable accommodation.

Other Business

Chairman Butler asked Mr. Rosenthal and Ms. Rosenthal to explain their transportation services to the committee. Mr. Rosenthal said they are a for-profit company that provide trips for seniors and people with disabilities within Will and Kankakee Counties to go to appointments or deliver medications. The fare structure is \$2 within Kankakee, \$3 to Bradley or Bourbonnais, \$60 to Midway Airport, and \$100 to O'Hare Airport.

Next Meeting

There will be a Region 6 HSTP meeting on March 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM in Pontiac. The next scheduled County transportation Committee meeting is on March 29, 2016 at 9:30 AM at River Valley METRO Centre.

Adjournment

Ms. Brutlag motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hess. Motion carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 AM.

COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Region 6 HSTP Update
Tuesday, December 15, 2015 @ 9:30 A.M.
METRO CENTRE, 1137 E. 5000 N. ROAD, BOURBONNAIS

Mike Healey from IDOT announced last month that every agency from Region 6 with the exception of Veterans Assistance Center of Kankakee County were awarded at least one vehicle through the Consolidated Vehicle Program awards for CY 16. Contracts to the award winners will be sent out this winter with estimated delivery for fall/winter of next year. According to Mike, all vehicles awarded during CY 13 or earlier except Super Medium Duty vehicles should have been delivered. The Super Medium duties for that period should be delivered in spring of next year.

CY 14 award winners should expect the following delivery schedule: Minivans (fall 2016), Light Duty (summer 2016), Medium Duty (summer 2016) and super medium duty (spring 2016). Vehicles awarded through the Downstate Capital Improvement Program the schedule is as follows: minivans (fall 2016), light duty (delivered), medium duty (delivered), super medium duty (Spring 2016).

Most HSTP operations continue to take a “survival mode” mentality until state budget problems can be solved. We are hearing don’t expect much of anything to happen until February at the earliest or sometime in the spring.

The Region 6 Policy and Technical Committee will be working to put together a special meeting on March 14 in Pontiac to get as many regional representatives from municipalities and county boards as possible so we can talk to them about the continuous problems and challenges facing rural public and private agency (special populations) transportation. Although some are aware of the problems, the Committee felt it is timely to put a meeting such as this together. Rick Nolan, Laura Dick and Adeana Fox will be coordinating. All transportation professionals are welcome to attend. We are currently considering some sites in Pontiac and will let everyone know through Geoff place and time.