

Minutes
Kankakee County Transportation Committee
Conference Room, METRO Centre
1137 E. 5000N Road, Bourbonnais, IL
Tuesday, May 03, 2016

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; Bonnie Schaafsma, Kankakee County Health Department; Michael Roof, Veteran's Assistance Center, Kankakee County; Rick Nolan, McLean County RPC; Michelle Allen, Cornerstone Services.

Others in attendance: Geoff Olson, Kankakee County Planning Department;

Call to Order

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM and welcomed everyone.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 29, 2016 meeting were submitted for approval. Mr. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roof. Motion carried.

Withdrawal of Mr. Steve Mitchell from Committee

Mr. Olson explained that Mr. Mitchell retired from KCTC in March so he could be removed as a committee member. Mr. Olson said he will contact the interim director at KCTC to see if they still want to be involved in the committee. Mr. Roof made a motion to withdraw Mr. Mitchell as a committee member, seconded by Ms. Brutlag. Motion carried.

Addition of Ms. Allen to Committee

Mr. Olson said Ms. Allen of Cornerstone Services has been a regular attendee at the committee meetings and membership of the committee would be beneficial. Mr. Hess motioned to add Ms. Allen to the committee, seconded by Mr. Roof. Motion carried.

Presentation on CVP Applications

Mr. Olson asked each of the members who are submitting a CVP application to give a short description of their application and the type of service it would be used for. Ms. Allen explained that Cornerstone Services already provides transportation in Will County and has been providing services and client transportation in Kankakee County. She will be submitting two applications, one for service in Kankakee and another for their location in Will County. For the Kankakee Application they are asking for two replacement vehicles. Currently they have a minivan from 2000 with 114,000 miles and no lift. They also have a 2003 light duty bus that is also beyond its service life and does have a lift. They also have a contract with First Student to provide

transportation for Shapiro but that vehicle has no lift. They have many clients that require the use of a lift that come from many locations.

Ms. Brutlag reminded everyone about METRO Plus service for ADA needs. Mr. Roof asked if METRO is able accommodate regularly scheduled trips for riders. Ms. Brutlag said that by regulation at least fifty percent of the rides cannot be standing orders, which would be those type of rides.

Mr. Roof explained the VAC is applying for a light duty vehicle. In addition of the trips to Hines Veterans Hospital, they now take clients to Loyola for specialty services. The VAC has also had donations for White Sox tickets to take veterans to baseball games to help with PTSD.

Mr. Butler said Good Shepherd Manor will be applying for one medium duty bus as a replacement vehicle. It will provide transportation of manor residents. Initially, they weren't planning on submitting an application. While looking at previous applications, it was discovered that a past CVP application requested two replacement vehicles, but only one was awarded. The vehicle that wasn't awarded is the vehicle being requested for replacement in the current application.

Ms. Dick said SHOW BUS is submitting an application for Kankakee County for one super medium duty bus. Mr. Olson reminded everyone that SHOW BUS is the transportation operator for Kankakee County and provides general public transportation.

Endorsement of CVP Applications by Committee

Mr. Hess motioned that all CVP applications presented be approved for submission. Ms. Schaafsma seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HSTP Coordinator Issues

Mr. Nolan provided handouts with notes from the Springfield CVP training in case anyone wasn't able to attend either the Chicago or Springfield dates. He reminded everyone that they would need to hold a public hearing to include the publication in the application. The Region 6 HSTP will also publish notices in each of the major newspapers for the May 23 Region 6 meeting. They will be run once each week for the two weeks prior to the meeting. After the May 23 meeting, Mr. Nolan will send out the draft minutes containing CVP application approval to everyone so it can be included with everyone's submission.

Mr. Nolan reminded everyone to provide as much support and documentation as possible for the CVP applications and that the deadline for the application is May 31. For any additional documentation applicants have until June 30 to submit those items. Also, for any information that doesn't fit into the application text boxes, additional comments may be included in the submission email.

The April 23, 2016 HSTP meeting had low turnout, however State Representative Bennett and Kankakee County Board Chairman Bossert attended. The annual RTAC conference was held in early April, which has always been a good source for current information.

Agency Transportation Needs, Interagency Coordination and Accessibility Issues

Ms. Brutlag said METRO is progressing with their comprehensive operations analysis and is looking forward to the final product.

Ms. Dick reported two bids were submitted for vehicles with access ramps Ms. Dick explained that the vehicles should accommodate 14 passengers. The next step is to score the vendors bids. At the Chicago CVP training, Mr. Healy said there may be a possibility of having the low rider buses available through CVP if the pilot project is successful.

Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues

Ms. Allen said Cornerstone is facing the same issues as all the other social services agencies in the state due to the budget impasse. They are working with clients, trying to make all necessary accommodations, but most of their grants are from state funding sources.

Mr. Butler thanked the CTC and the CVP program for being able to provide vehicles. He said Good Shepherd received a medium duty vehicle a few weeks ago and that it's very nice to replace a non-ADA vehicle with one that is.

Ms. Schaafsma informed everyone that the Health Department is writing a required certification plan. Access to care has always been a concern, but big strides have been made over the last several years and METRO and SHOW BUS have made it possible. The Health Department used to have to pay taxi fares in order for people to get to medical appointments, but public transit has had a great impact and made transportation affordable to individuals.

Mr. Hess deferred to Mr. Olson for recent activities at Kankakee County. Mr. Olson said the rural public transit service application, purchase of service agreement with SHOW BUS, and CVP application were presented at the Planning, Zoning, and Agriculture Committee last month and were approved. They will go to County Board for final approval next week.

Mr. Roof said the VAC is working on the CVP applications. They are continuing to provide trips for Hines and Loyola for veterans. He said Hines now has a food patty on Thursdays until 1:30 PM, which clients have been trying to schedule appointments around.

Program Status of Transportation Providers

Ms. Dick said some super medium duty buses have been received and there have been a few issues. She said IDOT has gone back and forth over the past several years on how they view rural fleets. Currently they are suggesting that CVP awardees request IDOT lien removal from titles when vehicles meet their age or mileage requirement for disposal and then sell the vehicles for additional capital funds. In the past they have suggested operators run, maintain, and repair buses for as long as possible.

Ms. Dick also said due to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), that IDOT has been further delayed in requesting inter-city bus projects. Ms. Schaafsma explained that GATA will standardize all state grants so all the information on them is identical and will hopefully remove redundancy and duplications.

Ms. Brutlag reported that METRO received a call for service that was outside the urbanized area and directed the call to SHOW BUS. Ms. Dick said she would follow up on the status of the call. Ms. Brutlag said eighty percent of the METRO fleet is beyond useful life and that seventy percent of their vehicles' manufacturers no longer exist. She said METRO is applying for thirteen vehicles through CVP because IDOT has an excess of Section 5339 funds to award. She added that toll revenue credits can be used as local match so there is no cost to METRO.

Ms. Brutlag said the comprehensive operations analysis will include a full rider count with interviews on all routes. They will do the ridership count in September after school recommences. She said there may be large changes to routes in the future and METRO is looking forward to the results.

Questions from the Media

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next Region 6 HSTP Meeting will be on May 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the historic courthouse in Pontiac, IL.

The next CTC meeting will be on August 30, 2016 at 9:30 AM at River Valley METRO.

Adjournment

Mr. Hess motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Brutlag. Motion carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 AM.