

Minutes
Kankakee County Transportation Committee
Conference Room, METRO Centre
1137 E. 5000N Road, Bourbonnais, IL
Tuesday, August 30, 2016

Members in attendance: Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor, Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Ken Munjoy, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Roger Hess, Kankakee County Board; Michael Roof, Veteran's Assistance Center, Kankakee County

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

Call to Order

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM and welcomed everyone.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Postponed until the next meeting that a quorum is present.

Election of Officers

Postponed until the next meeting that a quorum is present.

HSTP Coordinator Issues

Mr. Olson explained that Mclean County RPC staff were unable to attend and didn't have an update to share. He said last week was the Illinois Public Transportation Association conference where at the HSTP meeting, led by Ed Heflin of the Rural Transit Assistance Program said they would be working on a rural transit manager's manual. The goal is to provide information to new rural transit staff and systems to have a better understanding of the program and managing it.

Agency Transportation Needs, Interagency Coordination and Accessibility Issues

Mr. Munjoy said METRO is working on a plan to achieve the goal of having accessible bus shelters at all bus stops.

Ms. Dick stated SHOW BUS is working on inter-agency coordination, particularly with the Head Start program in Ford and Iroquois Counties. She explained that Head Start is not required to provide transportation to attendees and that the FTA considers Head Start transportation as social service transportation with the difference that vehicles must essentially be school buses that are not 100 percent yellow and do not have the stop arm and flashing lights.

Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues

Mr. Butler reported that Good Shepherd Manor has not had any transportation issues. They have received new vans and are awaiting the delivery of one more.

Mr. Hess said Kankakee County is working on their budget for next year.

Mr. Roof said their current bus has been having mechanical problems. The most recent was a cracked engine manifold and leaking coolant. They are waiting to hear the status of their CVP application, hopefully in October. He also said he was speaking with the Illinois chapter of the Disable Veterans of American which receives donated vehicles from Ford for VA hospital transportation. If the Kankakee County VAC is not awarded a vehicle, he will likely look into the possibility of receiving a donated vehicle. Mr. Roof is also looking into the possibility of his volunteer drivers receiving a daily stipend. Currently they receive a five dollar voucher for lunch at the VA hospital.

Program Status of Transportation Providers

Ms. Dick said the state's implementation of GATA is mostly resolved and some transit operators are beginning to receive contracts. However, some social service agencies are having to programs for disabled individuals and they do not have an alternate program to attend that is close to home. SHOW BUS is trying to help those agencies.

The low rider bus is getting closer to fruition. IDOT is creating a contract for the vehicles. There is also the possibility of having it as an available vehicle through the CVP Program in the future. The low rider vehicles cost more than the current vehicles with a lift, but having a ramp instead of a lift will decrease maintenance costs.

Mr. Munjoy reported that METRO is continuing their comprehensive operations analysis and in September the consultant will have staff on buses all day long to collect data and perform surveys. METRO's fleet status is in need of daily repairs. Mr. Hess suggested inquiring of any possibilities of partnering with KCC for internships in welding or diesel mechanic programs. Mr. Munjoy said that may be worth looking into. He said one good thing that has come out of all the repair work is that overall vehicle fluid use has decreased.

Questions from the Media

None.

New Business:

Urban & Rural HSTP Combined Meetings

Mr. Olson reported that the urban and rural HSTP committees would be consolidated into the County Transportation Committee. The purpose is to reduce the number of meetings between the two groups because many members were on both committees. It will also benefit CVP applicants because there will only be one local committee for all applicants.

Tentative Meetings for 2017

Mr. Olson explained the difficulty of having meetings on the fifth Tuesday of the month is that they do not always land in the same months each year. He said it may be easier to pick which months the committee wanted to hold meetings and make it the last Tuesday of those months.

The one exception would be the timetable for CVP applications which would dictate when the May meeting should be. Mr. Olson referred everyone to the calendars included in the meeting materials and asked if there were any known conflicts with the proposed meeting dates. The 2017 meetings dates were January 31, March 28, May 2, August 29, and October 24. The May meeting would have fallen on the day after Memorial Day and the October meeting would have been on Halloween. Since some members may be busy for those holidays, they were moved.

Next Meeting

The next Region 6 HSTP Meeting will be on November 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the historic courthouse in Pontiac, IL.

The next CTC meeting will be on November 29, 2016 at 9:30 AM at River Valley METRO.

Adjournment

Chairman Butler asked if there was any other business to come before the committee. There was none. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.