

Minutes
Kankakee County Transportation Committee
Conference Room, METRO Centre
1137 E. 5000N Road, Bourbonnais, IL
Tuesday, May 02, 2017 @ 10:30 AM

Members in attendance: Mike Butler, Good Shepherd Manor, Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Michelle Brutlag, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Michael Roof, Kankakee County Veteran's Assistance Center, Geoff Olson (proxy for Mr. Hess), Kankakee County; Colette Jordan, Northeastern Illinois Agency on Aging.

Call to Order

Chairman Butler called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM, welcomed everyone, and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Roof made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from February 1, 2017. Ms. Dick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Addition of Committee Members

Ms. Dick motioned to add Ms. Collette Jordan as the current committee member from Northeastern Illinois Agency on Aging. Mr. Roof seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HSTP Coordinator Issues

None.

Endorsement of Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Applications

Chairman Butler asked if any members were submitting applications for the Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Program this year. Ms. Dick said SHOW BUS was applying for regions outside of Kankakee County, but that Kankakee County did not have any vehicles eligible for replacement. Mr. Roof said the VAC decided not to apply for a vehicle this year. Ms. Brutlag said METRO was not applying for vehicles funded by 5310. Mr. Olson said he was notified by Ms. Allen that Cornerstone also did not have any vehicles eligible for replacement. Mr. Butler said Good Shepherd Manor didn't have eligible vehicles, either, so there were no applications to endorse.

Agency Transportation Needs, Interagency Coordination and Accessibility Issues

Ms. Brutlag said METRO is looking for the most accessible locations for bus stops and that soon there will be new areas receiving service by METRO.

Ms. Dick said IDOT began looking into the low ramp vehicle again. She may still be able to lease one from Springfield as a trial for how well it will work for rural transit service.

Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues

Mr. Butler has nothing new to report.

Mr. Olson said he received notification from Ms. Allen that Cornerstone was awarded one minivan and one light-duty bus from the CVP program last year.

Ms. Jordan said the state legislature has proposed a stop gap bill that would provide funding to social service agencies and MAP grants. NEILAA is continuing to monitor possible changes to the Affordable Care Act and how it may impact their clients.

Mr. Roof said the Veteran's Choice program, which allows veterans to seek more local medical appointments if the VA medical centers are more than 40 miles away or an appointment cannot be booked sooner than 30 days, should be seeing some changes. He said there will be a VA townhall meeting in August to help inform veterans on the best procedures for receiving care from non-VA medical centers. He also said the VAC was awarded one light-duty vehicle from the CVP program and is hiring drivers.

Program Status of Transportation Providers

Ms. Dick said the managed care programs in the state are continuing to decline. Ms. Jordan mentioned the state is looking into having three or four managed care organizations, but they must serve the entire state. There are currently about eleven agencies. Ms. Dick also said there is a proposed bill that would require funds intended for downstate transit to be deposited into the appropriate fund. She said ridership has been high and is continuing to increase. Chairman Butler asked if SHOW BUS was continuing to provide service for Arc. Ms. Dick said they are.

Ms. Brutlag said they have been training some students from St. Anne on how to use public transit. They take SHOW BUS from St. Anne to Kankakee, where they transfer to METRO's buses. She also said many route changes will be coming as a result of the comprehensive operations analysis. Starting July 1 the new routes will be in effect. The new routes will be much more efficient and beneficial to riders. There will be fewer needs to transfers and reduced transit times for riders. There will also be a stop in front of the VA clinic on Latham Drive. There will be a specific KCC route during peak hour for riders. Beyond those hours, there will be a route shift and another route will provide service to KCC. Sunday and Holiday service will be reinstated and service will end one hour earlier, with the exception of an additional Sunday evening trip to Midway. Midway service will also extend to METRO Centre instead of just the Manteno stop. The transfer center at St. Vincents will also be removed. All routes with new times will be available for public comment on METRO's website soon and will be open until mid-June.

Ms. Brutlag said METRO Plus service will go to Aroma Park via Lowe Road instead of Waldron Road and the big loop near Manteno will be removed to provide better service.

Questions from the Media

None.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting

Mr. Olson said the next Region 6 HSTP Meeting is tentative for May 22, 2017 at 10:30 AM at the historic courthouse in Pontiac, IL.

The next CTC meeting will be on August 29, 2017 at 10:30 AM at River Valley METRO.

Adjournment

Chairman Butler asked if there was any other business to come before the committee. There was none. Ms. Brutlag motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roof seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:18 AM.