

DRAFT

MINUTES
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 12, 2016
Green Bay Metro, 901 University Avenue, Green Bay, WI

MEETING ATTENDEES: Amy Erickson (Valley Transit)
Brian Silk (MTM)
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)
Jeffrey Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)
Linda Grider (City of Manitowoc)
Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)
Pam Busch (Door-Tran, Door County Transportation Consortium)
Peggy Zielinski (NEWTC/NEWCAP)
Ron McDonald (Valley Transit – City of Appleton)
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)
Kim Novak (ADRC of the Lakeshore)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mark Weisensel (ADRC of Winnebago County)
Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)
Nick Musson (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)
Sue Pomplun (ADVOCAP, Inc./Work-n-Wheels Mobility Manager)
Adam Sengbusch (Aging Services, Marquette County)

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Sandy Popp called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Welcome and introductions done. Pam Busch and Jeff Agee-Aguayo noted who had asked to be excused from the meeting.

2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval

Moved by Jeff Agee-Aguayo and seconded by Derek Muench, carried without amendments.

3. Review and Approval of July 13, 2016 NEWRATC Meeting Minutes

Moved by Lisa Conard and seconded by Jeff Agee-Aguayo, carried and filed without amendments.

4. Public Input - No input received.

5. State and Federal Legislative Update

Jeff Agee-Aguayo shared that the DOT budget came out without any new changes and no increase in transit. There may be a small increase for 85.21 programs.

Sandy, Ron and Derek shared that they attended the Just Fix It meeting in their areas. All agreed that the meeting discussions were mainly about roads and highways. Derek shared that Sheboygan had gone to a .5% sales tax for roads.

Ron shared that much of the discussion was about rural/farming community traffic and hoping that farmers would get involved with a road tax. The urban discussion included public transit funds needed. Some discussion eluded to needing expansions for transit to reduce commuter traffic. RTA was also brought up at the meeting.

Sandy shared that the Brown County meeting also had some discussion about the farming traffic and the amount of funds needed to make road repairs was surprisingly high. Sandy brought up the

need for increased funding for transit and 85.21 services for expansions in the urban sprawl areas and the need for more municipalities to contribute to costs.

Sandy also shared that a disability organization sent out a questionnaire to incumbents and candidates in Wisconsin with approximately 50 who responded. About 90% of respondents were in favor of RTA's and want the public to decide. Attendees agreed that the referendum process may be the most difficult.

Derek shared that there was almost \$30 million requests for Section 5339 funds and only \$26,000 was recently awarded. In the past years, Wisconsin received millions from this fund.

6. Update on Medical Assistance Transportation Management

Sandy welcomed Brian Silk representing MTM to the meeting. A letter was sent to MTM from NEWRATC in July with six recommendations. The following is the summarized question in italics with the meeting discussion to follow:

1. *Consider allowing additional passengers (not included the designated companion or care giver) to ride with member free of charge or at a nominal charge.*

Brian shared that this is a limitation based on DHS policy to transport only the person needing medical services and a guardian or personal care attendant.

2. *Develop a call script for continuous users with permanent disabilities so that a member does not need to be asked the same questions for each trip request.*

Brian stated that the average call time is six minutes, which doesn't include the wait time that is about two minutes. Brian also said that the computer system that the CSR's are using is different than the member on-line system so the CSR's are unable to open member information as the member can on-line. MTM is researching software upgrades to have access sometime in the future. Sandy suggested that the next DHS RFP require this system so CSR's can access the same information as the members.

Brian also shared that the call script is required by DHS and is something that needs to be followed for each call taken.

3. *Please revamp the medical necessity verification to include only those who do not have a permanent disability.*

Derek said that in Sheboygan they can lifetime certify someone if there isn't an expected change in location or disability status. Brian said that a request was submitted to DHS, which is under their review at this time, to allow for permanent certifications for the level of need.

4. *Increase promotion of the brokerage to Medical Assistance (MA) users so that they know that MTM is a transportation option.*

Brian shared that this was also discussed at the TAC meeting last week. DHS is reviewing what opportunities are available to inform people of the MTM service.

Peggy asked how to know who is eligible for transportation services under their MA benefit.

Brian said that people can call him to verify as well as calling a CSR.

5. *In regard to Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, please add a designated time for advertisement from committee members on the agenda to discuss concerns or suggestion during the meeting.*

Brian said that there has recently been a 14 day requirement put into place for posting the meeting information and for questions to be submitted.

6. *Please consider adding a member from NEWRATC to the TAC.*

Brian said that anyone can join, so yes NEWRATC could.

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Other questions for Brian were as follows:

Jeff asked if David Stepien is the best contact for DHS and Brian said yes.

Lisa asked about reports by County that were provided some time ago, however her request was denied for some information recently. Pam said that a provider list request she made was also denied for Door County. Brian asked that Lisa forward the related email communication and he will check into this further.

7. Committee Member/Program Updates (All)

- Jeff shared that he has submitted Coordinated Plan drafts to the TCC's in Sheboygan and Manitowoc and is working on the Kewaunee County draft to be submitted to the TCC in December. Working on a new TIP and work program items for Sheboygan. He is wrapping up the Transit Development Plan for Manitowoc.
- Linda said that as of July 1st, she is now with the City of Manitowoc and has a contract with the County for volunteer transportation services. Goal is to do a GAP analysis in 2017. Linda asked that anyone who has resources related to the analysis to please contact her.
- Derek said that Sheboygan had 5% rider growth in July, 19% in August and 4% in September. The growth may be related to recent route changes that were made.
- Pam shared that Door County is currently reviewing possible changes for the shared ride taxi system in 2017. Coordinated Plan was submitted to WisDOT a couple of months ago.
- Peggy shared that Marinette/Oconto submitted a 5310 application and are working on the 85.21. Changing some ways of providing service based on funding requirements.
- Ron shared that they are redefining administrative staff and duties. East Central approved TIP yesterday. Newest bus is a 2004 so looking at way to obtain new buses.
- Lisa shared that the TIP was approved earlier this month. The Coordinated Plan public hearing was on 9/27 with a draft to be out soon. The Brown County Plan isn't due until 2018, however with 2017 plans an update was needed. Green Bay Metro plans to hire a Mobility Manager in early 2017 with 8520/8521/5310 funds for all of Brown County and perhaps a travel trainer in late 2017. There is a Mobility Manager in Brown County now, however their focus is employment only. Curative Connections also hopes to expand the volunteer driver program to serve urban sprawl areas not served by public or para transit services.

7. Other Issues – None

8. Next Meeting Date and Location

January 11, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 400 Ahnaip Street, Menasha, WI

9. Adjournment

Lisa Conard motioned to adjourn at 11:01 a.m., second by Derek Muench, carried.