

**MINUTES  
NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, July 11, 2023  
East Central Regional Planning Commission Hosted Virtual Meeting**

MEETING ATTENDEES: Linda Spitzer & Dawn Gottinger (ADRC of Fond du Lac County)  
Nicole Davis-Dewald (ADRC of Winnebago County)  
Heena Bhatt (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)  
Lisa Conard, Ker Vang and Casey Krasselt (Brown County Planning Commission)  
Bobbi Craig-Hegna (Center for Independent Living)  
Pam Busch (Door County)  
Nikki Voight (Door-Tran)  
Adam BellCorelli and Brenna Root (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)  
Valerie Hoff (Enterprise Holdings)  
Meri Tawawili (Forward Service Corp.)  
Andrea Vlach (Green Bay Metro)  
Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services)  
Samantha Franda (Northeast Wisconsin CAP)  
Steve Tomasik (Oshkosh GO Transit)  
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)  
Rhonda Hannemann (United Way of the Fox Cities)  
Sarah Schneider (Valley Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)  
Nick Musson (GWAAR)  
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)

**1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Adam BellCorelli called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**2. Agenda Review, Repair and Approval**

**Moved** by Ker Vang, seconded by Derek Muench, carried without amendments.

**3. Review and Approval of January 10, 2023, NEWRATC Meeting Minutes**

**Moved** by Steve Tomasik, seconded by Heena Bhatt, carried without amendments.

**4. Public Input – None**

**5. Election of Officer Position – Secretary (October 2023 – April 2025)**

Lisa Conard nominated Meri Tawawili, who accepted the nomination. Lisa motioned that Meri become our new Secretary and receive assistance as needed, second by Heena Bhatt, carried.

**6. State and Federal Legislative Update (All) – None**

**7. Update on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (All) – None**

**8. Committee Member/Program Updates (All)**

Green Bay MPO staff update via email from Lisa Conard:

## DRAFT

- Staff is in the process of preparing the *2024-2028 Transit Development Plan for the Green Bay Metro System*. It is anticipated that a draft will be released in the late September/early October timeframe.
- Staff was happy to see that the new state budget included an increase for the State 85.21 - County Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance program.
- Staff has reached out to NEWCAP, FSC, and Door-Tran for program funding estimates for 2024. Although these projects are not housed within the Green Bay Urbanized Area, WisDOT has requested the Green Bay MPO staff include the projects in the annual Transportation Improvement Program for the Green bay Urbanized Area.

Heena Bhatt, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, shared that they had a public survey out for the Sheboygan County's Transportation Planning/Feasibility Study, and received over 400 results from the rural areas in Sheboygan County and are in the process of analyzing the results. She also shared the progress on the Transportation Access to Public Health Options Study, she will be sharing the website for that study as soon as she makes it public. She mentioned Jeff Agee-Aguayo, before he retired on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, completed the Public Transit - Human Service Transportation Coordination Plans for Florence, Oconto and Marinette counties and Bay-Lake RPC is waiting on WisDOT's approval for those plans.

Heena also shared the link to the RIDESHARE Program (<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/travel/road/rideshare/info.aspx>) initiative by WisDOT and encouraged people to explore it. She added that the Shared-Ride Taxi Service for the City of Marinette increased their fares by \$2 since July 2023. She mentioned that Bay-Lake RPC is looking to hire a Transportation/Community Development Planner.

Steve Tomasik shared that Oshkosh Go Transit's Fixed route ridership up 9.7%, Para Transit down 5.8%, Dial a Ride for Seniors down 42.9%, The Rural Over 60 Program is down 22%. The Go Connect service is averaging six riders per day, which is down from the 14 that were riding on Route 10. They have started the Transit Development Plan, which will help focus any changes / system improvements over the next 5 years

Steve also shared that they were awarded a 5339 Grant through the State of Wisconsin. Funds will be used to help finance the addition of a second platform that will accommodate 6-8 additional buses and will include a climate controlled waiting area / shelter and public restrooms.

Valerie Hoff, Enterprise Holdings, shared that they recently received a state contract to operate the van pool in Madison. Find out more at [www.commutewithenterprise.com](http://www.commutewithenterprise.com).

Adam BellCorelli with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission shared that the Safe Streets for All grant application is available now. Adam also shared that he is working on Title VI Plan updates and that the Waupaca County Catch A Ride program provided over 500 rides in its first 3 months of service, and has passed 2,000 rides at 6 months.". ECWRPC is also looking for a Transit Planner.

Sarah Schneider, Valley Transit, shared that the fixed route ridership is up, with a slight decline due to schools being closed for summer. Valley Transit will be breaking ground on August 1<sup>st</sup> for an office and transit center renovation project. Due to a sudden closure by the business that was providing the bus tracking app on July 1<sup>st</sup> this service is not available. They are working on getting set up with a new provider and hope it will be available soon.

Samantha Franda, NEWCAP, shared that their vehicle loan program, Work n Wheels, has been put on pause due to funding. Garage loans still being processed and promoting their medical mileage program. The Crivitz office has closed so Samantha is working out of the Oconto office.

## DRAFT

Rhonda Hannemann, United Way of the Fox Cities, the Connector is running pretty steady, still below pre-pandemic numbers.

Pam Busch, Door County, shared that they are excited to celebrate Rural Transit Day this year by hosting a driver picnic sponsored by the Door County Medical Center on July 13 and a Free Fare Day for Riders on July 17.

Nikki Voight, Door-Tran, shared that she is working on the 5310 Operating Grant application. Ridership is still down through all programs.

Linda Spitzer, ADRC of Fond du Lac County, reported that they are looking for a van driver. Recently submitted the 2023 Safety Plan and working with Adam BellCorelli on pre-plans for the 2024 Coordinated Plan. Elderly walk-on vans recently re-launched, however ridership continues to be below pre-COVID numbers.

Holly Keenan, Lutheran Social Services, shared that they are working on transition plans for the Winnebago Catch a Ride program due to funding and the decrease in service providers. The Older Adult Program is going strong with a good group of volunteers. The Volunteers like the option to choose rides. The Waupaca County service is going strong and has exceeded 2022 numbers. Cycling Without Age is very busy right now with 10 people riding today.

Derek Muench, Shoreline Metro, shared that Para Transit and fixed route services are up 17%. Derek is working with Heena Bhatt on the Transit Safety Plan and Asset Management Plan.

Brenna Root, East Central WI Regional Planning Commission, reported that she is working with a number of Counties on Coordinated Plan updates.

Bobbi Craig-Hegna, Center for Independent Living, reported that she is working on the 5310 grant and their Coordinated Plan. She also reported that the vans are operating six days per week and ridership is up.

Andrea Vlach, Green Bay Metro, shared that Essie Fehls has retired. The bus tracker app is being transitioned to a new provider.

Meri Tawawili, Forward Service Corporation, shared that the 2023 grant funding for the vehicle purchase and repair program has run out so there has been a decrease in clients they can assist. However, they are still processing some loans and using loan repayment funds. Received 228 applications so far this year with 32 of these being approved.

### 9. Other (All) –

**Website** - Adam BellCorelli asked that all members take a look at the <https://newrat.org/> to ensure their areas latest Coordinated Plan is on the site. If not, send it to Adam. Adam also suggested that the provider information be removed since it is outdated. Pam suggested keeping provider information since this was a priority at the start of NEWRATC. Further discussion will take place at the October meeting. In the meantime, please check the website for your area(s).

### 10. Next Meeting –October 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., East Central Regional Planning Commission (in-person & virtual). Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission members will be at a conference and unable to host.

### 11. Adjournment

**Moved** by Linda Spitzer, seconded by Derek Muench, motion carried. Adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Pam Busch, Secretary*