

**MINUTES**  
**NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**  
**Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission Hosted In-Person & Virtual Meeting**

MEETING ATTENDEES: Kathy Groeschel (ADRC of Calumet County)  
Kim Novak (ADRC of the Lakeshore)  
Linda Spitzer (ADRC of Sheboygan County)  
Nicole Davis-Dawald & Beth Roberts (ADRC of Winnebago County)  
Elisabeth Stockton (ADVOCAP)  
Jeff Agee-Aguayo (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)  
Ker Vang (Brown County)  
Bobbi Craig-Hegna (Center for Independent Living)  
Nikki Voight (Door-Tran)  
Adam BellCorelli (East Central WI Regional Planning Commission)  
Andrea Vlach (Green Bay Metro)  
Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)  
Steve Tomasik & Jim Collins (Oshkosh Go Transit)  
Paul Woodward (Running Inc./Brown Cab)  
Derek Muench (Shoreline Metro)  
Rhonda Hannemann (United Way of Fox Cities)  
Sarah Schneider (Valley Transit)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)  
Lisa Conard (Brown County Planning Commission)  
Chris Garcia (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission)  
Pam Busch (Door County)  
Nick Musson (GWAAR)  
Melissa Annoye (Kewaunee County)

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

Jeff Agee-Aguayo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

**Moved** by Nikki Voight, seconded by Kim Novak, carried without amendments.

**3. Review and Approval of January 11, 2022, NEWRATC Meeting Minutes**

**Moved** by Linda Spitzer, seconded by Adam BellCorelli, carried without amendments.

**4. Public Input – None**

**5. State and Federal Legislative Update (All)**

Adam BellCorelli discussed the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Carbon Reduction Program project solicitation.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo discussed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Surface Transportation Program (STP) special FFY 2022 funding cycle and its urgency.

Derek Muench discussed the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 5 emphasis on allocating CARES Act and ARPA funds and developing a plan for using these funds. Steve Tomasik commented that with most area transit systems buying new buses at the same time (between VW and CARES Act funding being provided), there was concern that everyone would need replacement buses 12 years down the road. Adam BellCorelli wondered if there had been discussions to use CARES/ARPA surplus funds to institute fare assistance programs that have been successful at other transit agencies across the country.

**6. Update on Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (All)**

Nikki Voight stated that a social worker at the Door County Hospital commented that Veyo was much more responsive than was the previous provider (MTM).

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

Nikki Voight stated that with ridesharing for Door-Tran's volunteer program, masking was optional, with the choice to mask being up to rider or driver.

Ker Vang indicated that he was currently monitoring the Section 85.21 transportation service provider in Brown County.

Bobbi Craig-Hegna noted that she was working with Veyo as they get started as the statewide service provider.

Nicole Davis-Dawald commented that Winnebago County has fewer challenges related to the provider, but does have an influx of rural riders to get to dialysis.

Kathy Groeschel stated that in Calumet County, drivers are still following federal guidelines, with paid van drivers taking dialysis riders to their appointments.

Adam BellCorelli discussed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and data regarding traffic fatalities, and indicated that East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was hiring a planner.

Rhonda Hannemann noted that the United Way Fox Cities was participating in the Ride United statewide program, and commented that she would share a flyer regarding this program with the group. This began as an access to vaccines program, but carried on to June 2022.

Sarah Schneider stated that ridership is inching up at Valley Transit, adding that she has been doing expos and public facing events. Sarah Schneider thought that increased gas prices were likely behind this increase in ridership.

Steve Tomasik indicated that at GO Transit, ridership was up 26%, with Route 10 being up 18%, ADA ridership being up 59%, and with an increase in student ridership. Unfortunately, there have also been issues with fights. An open house is coming up, the transit center renovation is underway, and masks are being provided by transit. Steve Tomasik was looking forward to April 18<sup>th</sup> when the mask mandate might end.

Linda Spitzer noted that at the Sheboygan County ADRC, they had a new LTE Transportation Scheduler, but there has been a slow reopening to volunteer transportation. Three new volunteer drivers have joined the ADRC recently.

Meri Tawawili commented that at the Forward Service Corporation, they have been processing vehicle loans and training new staff. Forward Service Corporation has been very busy, with 100 applications for purchase and repair loans, and with 12 of these approved. In addition, mobility managers are being trained.

Kim Novak stated that at the ADRC of the Lakeshore, they are looking for drivers, and recently got a Maritime Metro Transit (MMT) bus stop/passenger shelter approved for the ADRC office and are waiting for installation of the passenger shelter.

Jeff Agee-Aguayo noted that at the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (BLRPC), three chapters of the next long-range transportation plan (due in late April of 2023) have been written. Regarding the transportation inventory chapter of that plan, Chris Garcia is completing the bicycle and pedestrian transportation network sections. There will also be long-range transportation plan tasks in the areas of travel forecast modeling and air quality conformity. The BLRPC is also providing technical assistance to local communities as they apply for various local programs under the BIL. Finally, later this month, the BLRPC will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Derek Muench indicated that fixed-route ridership was up 40% and paratransit ridership was up 50% from last year. Derek Muench added that Shoreline Metro was launching mobile payments and technologies applied to self-scheduling. Derek Muench concurred with Steve Tomasik with the hope that mask mandates will be ending in a few days.

Sandy commented that John Meissner of the Options for Independent Living staff passed away in October 2021, adding that she will be taking on John's role until new staff can be brought on.

**8. Other (All)**

Linda Spitzer wondered if any of the transportation agencies in the group offered CPR certification. Nikki Voight stated that Door-Tran offers it but does not require it. Adam BellCorelli noted that Make the Ride Happen offers it.

**9. Next Meeting – July 12, 2022, at 9 a.m. East Central Regional Planning Commission (in-person & virtual)**

**10. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Steve Tomasik, seconded by Sandy Popp, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Pam Busch, Secretary*