

Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 – 12:00 PM

TCRPC Conference Room, 456 Fulton Street, Suite 420, Peoria, IL

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Jill Goforth called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Present Not Present

Rural Area Subcommittee

- Debbie Daykin**, Marshall-Stark Transportation
- John Redlingschafer**, Tazewell County Board
- Andrew Rinehart**, Tazewell County Board
- Robert Mueller**, Stark County Board
- Barb Long**, Fulton County Rural Transit (shared seat)
- Shelly Entrekin**, Fulton County Rural Transit (shared seat)
- Mary Patton**, AARP, Peoria County
- Mike Hutchinson**, Woodford County
- Jonathan Gauerke**, Association for the Developmentally Disabled of Woodford County
- Kraig McCluskie**, Galesburg Transit
- Susan Lindsey**, KCCDD
- Mark Rothert**, Peoria County
- Travis McGlasson**, Marshall County Board
- Doug Manock**, Fulton County Board
(Open, Stark County)

Urbanized Area Subcommittee

- Renée Razo (Lee Linwood alt.)**, Central Illinois Agency on Aging
- Connie Schiele**, paratransit user
- Josh Moore**, Greater Peoria Mass Transit District
- Jeannine McAllister**, Advocates for Access
- Dawn Harper**, EPIC
(Open, 2 seats)

Others present

Jill Goforth, TCRPC
Julie Main, City of Galesburg
Ben Gauwitz, Advocates for Access
Mark Nash, MV Transit
Al Stanek, CityLink
Barb Byrne, Western Illinois Agency on Aging
Chris Mitchell, Disability Advocate
Angel Marinich, MV Transit

Approval of the November 5, 2015 Minutes

Approval of the minutes was put on hold until the next meeting, as there was not a quorum present.

Provider and Agency Updates

CityLink/CityLift

Josh Moore reported that the MDT/AVL software was installed into CityLift vehicles. Mark Nash stated that the software went live on February 8th after several weeks of training. The software was procured from Mobilitat, and replaces their Trapeze software. The technology will allow for more streamlined and efficient dispatching and scheduling of trips.

Al Stanek introduced himself as the new General Manager of CityLink. Mr. Stanek understands that there have been issues with the quality of the CityLift service, particularly with the vehicles. At one point, ten vehicles were out of service. Mr. Stanek is working with the service provider, MV Transportation, to work out these issues. Mark Nash explained that MV Transportation is partially addressing the vehicle issues by bringing in a technician from MV Transportation's Green Bay location. Mr. Stanek also reported that CityLift may have a spare vehicle to lend out to agencies as needed on a temporary basis.

Peoria CountyLink

Angel Marinich explained that CountyLink is looking into the possibility of becoming a pilot project for the usage of digital tablets in their vehicles. The tablets work with the Trapeze dispatching system. Ms. Marinich also reported that one of the CountyLink vehicles got stuck in the snow storm that occurred on February 4th. Fortunately, a local farmer pulled the vehicle out. Without his help, the driver and passenger would have had to wait 2-3 hours for a tow truck. Ms. Marinich also reported that CountyLink will be hosting the regional driver training at their facility in March.

Paratransit Users

Chris Mitchell explained that she has recently begun to ride the CityLift service more often, and expressed her satisfaction with the quality and extensive knowledge of the drivers. Connie Schiele expressed that she has seen a difference in the dispatching and scheduling since the implementation of the new MDT/AVL software. Ms. Schiele explained that the atmosphere on the vehicles is much calmer now that information is not constantly being communicated through radios.

Western Illinois Agency on Aging (WIAA)

Barb Byrne reported that WIAA will be issuing a competitive RFP for senior transportation in the near future. Ms. Byrne noted that Knox County is the only HSTP Region 5 County that is currently within the WIAA district.

Galesburg Transit

Kraig McCluskie reported that walls are being put up on their maintenance facility next week. Additionally, Mr. McCluskie stated that their Illinois Jobs Now grant, which funded maintenance equipment, will be wrapped up in the near future. Mr. McCluskie stated that because this winter has been milder than last winter, their ridership has been up.

EP!C

Dawn Harper reported that EP!C has experienced some bugs with the new MDT/AVL system that CityLift has installed. Additionally, Dawn stated that EP!C has had several vehicle break downs due to the cold weather.

Association for the Developmentally Disabled of Woodford County (ADDWC)

Jonathan Gauerke reported that the construction of the ADDWC CILA group home is now complete. ADDWC will be moving clients into this home in early April. The construction of this group home will allow for all ADDWC clients to be located in Eureka.

Marshall-Stark Transportation

Debbie Daykin reported that Marshall County hired a new Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM). She started in mid-December, and is working out well. She is using the Marshall-Stark Transportation offices as her office. Ms. Daykin also reported that Marshall-Stark Transportation has had to close down 5 days this year due to the weather.

HSTP Coordinator Updates

Jill Goforth went over the CVP delivery schedule. Ms. Goforth explained that the awards package for CY 2014 CVP still has not been approved. This is due to the spending freeze mandated by Executive Order 15-08 which halted the awarding of all contracts and grants. Because the grant is mostly federally funded, IDOT is hopeful of its eventual release. Due to this delay, the CY 2015 CVP Call for Projects will likely also be delayed.

Ms. Goforth informed the group that she will be coordinating a Regional Driver Training, scheduled to take place on March 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ms. Goforth will send out additional information soon.

Ms. Goforth reported that she has been working with others to coordinate a celebration to honor the 25th anniversary of the passing of the ADA legislation. The event is tentatively scheduled for October 2015, and will focus on how individuals with disabilities can access the community. Planning is in its infancy stage. More information will be shared at a later date.

Ms. Goforth reminded the group that the RTAC annual spring conference will be held April 1st and 2nd in Springfield. The deadline to book a hotel with the group rate is March 17th.

Long Range Transportation Plan Presentation

Ms. Goforth explained to the committee that Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has just finished a draft of its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Though the plan only covers transportation projects and issues in Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties, all Region 5 HSTP counties are indirectly affected, as many individuals from these areas travel to the Peoria area for medical appointments and social activities. Ms. Goforth then gave a presentation on what the LRTP is, what is included in the LRTP, and reviewed some of the goals that pertain to the HSTP committee.

Discussion of Goals and Objectives for HSTP Plan Update

Ms. Goforth referred the group to the HSTP Region 5 goals hand-out, and explained that the goals have been revised with the intention of making them more specific than the current HSTP Region 5 goals. Ms. Goforth asked the committee to split into two groups and discuss the goals and objectives presented in the hand-out.

Two main suggestions came out of these discussions. First, the group recommended adding a goal about working with IDOT to make CVP vehicles available that accommodate wheelchairs that are wider or heavier than the capacity of standard wheelchair lifts. Second, it was suggested that the objective about building and maintaining an email listserv be more specific (e.g. How will we build our email list?).

Additionally, Dawn Harper asked for suggestions on how to accommodate the transportation needs of immigrants who do not yet have a social security number, as a social security number is a requirement for all individuals who wish to ride the CityLift service. Josh Moore said he would be able to work with Ms. Harper to resolve this issue.

Other

There were no comments.

Adjournment

Debbie Daykin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Connie Schiele. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held April 8, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

—Submitted by Jill Goforth