

Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 – 12:00 PM

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

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Maggie Martino called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

RURAL AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Name	Organization	Representing	Present	Absent
Shelly Entrekin*	FCRC/FCRT	Fulton	X	
Barb Long*			X	
Doug Manock*	Fulton County Board	Fulton		X
Audra Miles*	Fulton County PCOM		X	
Susan Lindsey	KCCDD	Knox	X	
Kraig McCluskie	Galesburg Transit	Knox	X	
Diana Bradstatter	Marshall-Stark PCOM	Marshall		X
Travis McGlasson	Marshall County Board	Marshall		X
Mary Patton	AARP	Peoria		X
Mark Rothert	Peoria County Asst. Admin.	Peoria		X
Debbie Daykin	Marshall-Stark Transport	Stark		X
Robert Mueller	Stark County Board	Stark		X
Nancy Proehl	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell	X	
Andrew Rinehart	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Jonathan Gauerke	ADDWC	Woodford	X	
Mike Hutchinson	We Care	Woodford	X	
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EP!C	Agency	X	
Jeannine McAllister	Advocates for Access	Agency	X	
Josh Moore	CityLink	Provider	X	
Renee Razo	Central Illinois Agency on Aging	Agency	X	
Lee Linwood*				X
Connie Schiele	Paratransit user	User		X
Don Rulis	CWTC	Agency		X
<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>			

*Shared seat

Others present

Maggie Martino, TCRPC
 Hannah Martin, TCRPC
 Greg Cassidy, TCRC
 Chris Mitchell, Volunteer
 Julie Main, City of Galesburg

Dedra Mannon, City of Galesburg
Andrew Dwyer, CityLink
James Byron, Chillicothe Township

Approval of the November 4, 2015 Minutes

Motion by John Gaurke to approve the November 4, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Mike Hutchison.

Provider and Agency Updates

EP!C

Dawn Harper is glad to be back after a five-month leave of absence. The agency is struggling to provide transportation for individuals at the Rest Care group home in Pekin. They do not have enough vehicles for this operation.

Tazewell County Resource Center (TCRC)

Greg Cassidy agreed with Dawn Harper regarding transportation struggles relating to the Rest Care facility. He also reported they received their last van, and were awarded two paratransit vehicles from the FY15 CVP program.

Association for the Developmentally Disabled of Woodford County (ADDWC)

Jonathan Gauerke was happy to say the transfer from CountyLink finally went through and they received the van in late December.

CityLink

Josh Moore alerted the group to CityLink's efforts to tweak their service areas, especially in some of the outlying communities. Pekin is especially interested.

Fulton County Rural Transit (FCRT)

FCRT is trucking along, according to Barb Long. They have been awarded a much needed vehicle in the FY15 CVP program.

WeCare

Mike Hutchison was happy to report that the tri-annual IDOT review of WeCare with the team from RLS Assoc. went well.

Chillicothe Township

Jim Byron reported that there is growing interest in bus service for senior citizens and disabled persons in Chillicothe Township. Operating only on a donations-only fare, their funds currently exceed their expenses, thanks to an especially generous donor.

Advocates for Access

The agency has participated in additional training with CityLift, according to Jeanine McAllister. With some help from CityLink and community foundation grants, they're able to fund the construction of ramps on private property. They have a large volunteer event to construct ten of these ramps in one day!

KCCDD

Susan Lindsey reported that her agency is having difficulties finding fulltime drivers. She attributes the lower pay and physical demands as deterrents for prospective employees.

City of Galesburg

Galesburg transit operations are happily relocated in their new building. Dedra Mannon reports they have issues meeting demand now that a local nursing home no longer provides transportation services. They may be bringing on dispatch software to improve efficiencies. Current operations rely on Laserfish program and a lot of MS Excel to handle their 3,400 passengers.

Julie Main also expressed frustration with insurance costs as they have doubled for their fixed route buses.

Galesburg Transit

Kraig McCluskie echoed the frustration of other providers regarding a shortage of drivers, especially those with a CDL. Galesburg Transit is also currently in the first approval process for purchasing two hybrid electric buses.

Tazewell County

Nancy Proehl suggested possibly approaching Jennifer Daly at Greater Peoria Economic Development Council to get some assistance in filling these much needed driver positions in our region.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging (CIAOA)

Renee Razo announced their previous executive director, Joanne Thomas, has retired. The position has been filled by Keith Rider. CIAOA has been experiencing large droves of benefit access persons with applications to renew. The process can take up to six weeks to complete with necessary documents. If possible, the agency would prefer to handle these applications by appointment rather than walk-ins, as the state budget has left the office short-staffed.

Chris Mitchell, Volunteer

Though she doesn't ride fixed route service, Chris praised CityLink for being very responsive to her questions. She thinks passengers could be more aware of issues with entrances regarding vehicle accessibility. She expressed appreciation for drivers' efforts especially for facing the elements when helping passengers to the entrance of their destination. She wishes more people would make an effort to listen to drivers and their issues.

HSTP Coordinator Updates

Maggie Martino introduced Hannah Martin as the new HSTP Coordinator. As of January 1, Hannah joined Tri-County as a fulltime transportation planner and will be taking on all HSTP activities. Hannah looks forward to learning more about transit and tackling its challenges in our region.

Discussion of Goals and Objectives for HSTP Plan Update

With the staff position for HSTP Coordinator finally filled, the update of the Human Services Transportation Plan is a top priority for Region 5 committees. Hannah and Maggie presented the Goals and Objectives portion of the plan. The committee had no further recommendations for revision. Most of the committee was present at this time and approved the Goals and Objectives last year when they were first presented by Jill Goforth, the previous HSTP Coordinator.

Other

A flyer was distributed to the group with information on the RTAC Spring Conference taking place this April in Springfield. There was also a schedule of the FTA webinar series addressing the recently released ADA Circular. The second webinar of the series began at 1pm following the HSTP meeting. All present were invited to attend in Tri-County's conference room.

Adjournment

Johnathan Gauerke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Hutchison. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 30, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

—Submitted by Hannah Martin