

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, August 15, 2023

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: ZOOM

PRESENT: Nicole Davis-Dawald (Winnebago County Aging Resource Supervisor), Rob Paterson (Council Chair), Holly Keenan (Lutheran Social Services – Make the Ride Happen, Winnebago Catch a Ride), Steve Tomasik (Transit Operations Manager for Go Transit City of Oshkosh), Susan Garcia Franz (Winnebago County Health Department), Sara Schneider (Valley Transit), Brenna Root (ECWRPC), Kim Biedermann (ECWRPC)

1. **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS** – **Nicole Davis-Dawald** called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Nicole welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by committee members in attendance.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Nicole stated that a county board member has received some complaints which have been referred to the coordinated plan meeting for specialized transit occurring on September 6th from 12:00-2:00 PM at the downtown YMCA. Meeting information will be posted at bus terminals and on social media. **Susan Garcia Franz** will go to locations to get more individuals to fill out surveys. **Brenna Root** shared that other counties have done outreach on social media, newsletters, and other mailing lists. The survey can be completed online or in the office.
3. **PUBLIC TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION COORDINATED PLAN UPDATES FOR 2024-2027 (COORD PLANS): Brenna Root (ECWRPC)** reported that East Central is working with the seven other counties in our region on coordination plans. The plan is updated every five years. A community meeting will be held September 6th from 12:00-2:00 PM at the downtown YMCA. Survey information will be shared at the meeting from 1) current riders and 2) community members not currently utilizing services. East Central holds quarterly meetings and will need to adopt a plan at their October meeting. The deadline to submit plans to WisDOT is in November.
4. **MAKING THE RIDE HAPPEN & WINNEBAGO CATCH A RIDE UPDATES:** **Holly Keenan** reported having recruited some volunteer drivers for their older adult program the second and third quarters of this year. The Catch a Ride Program has funding through the end of the year. Because funding for 2024 is questionable, employers, riders, and other partners will be sent an informative letter that the program as a whole is being looked at. Holly reported that other counties in our region take part in transportation projects; whereas Winnebago County currently does not "take a seat at the table." Rides are currently being limited to those of shorter distances due to being supplemented by voucher dollars. Holly will be writing the Wisconsin Employee Transportation Grant in the fall which will tie into all of this, but also needs local match to leverage those funds. The United Way interview went well and hopefully will yield some fund match. Holly and Steve will again be doing some bus training at World Relief.

5. **VALLEY TRANSIT UPDATES:** Sara Schneider reported that Valley Transit is beginning an administrative office expansion. The software provider discontinued the bussing app they had been using so Valley Transit is adjusting to teaching riders to use Apple Maps and Google Maps to find bus stations and for trip planning. New software is currently being installed into the busses along with bring back the bus tracking mechanism which is a real-time resource for riders to know exactly when the next bus will be arriving.

6. **GO TRANSIT UPDATES:**

Steve Tomasik reported the following updates:

- No mechanical or IT breakdowns.
- Fixed route ridership is slightly up.
- Paratransit programs, senior ridership, and Dial-a-Rides are all down.
- Agency-purchased fares for individuals and the access to job program ridership is up.
- Adam reported being in the middle of the transit development plan and has surveys available. The next transit meeting for stakeholders is being held Thursday.
- The funding for microtransit after March remains uncommitted. Adam reports having started around nine rides per day and now in the last month this has decreased to an average of 2.5 per day. Outreach efforts include posting information in the transit center, on social media, and several press releases.

Members discussed that a large number of refugees have recently settled in the area who could benefit from transportation services and perhaps this should be advocated for at an upcoming World Relief meeting.

7. **ANY OTHER AGENCY UPDATES**

Susan Garcia Franz reported work is being done on mapping of the complexity of the transit system between the Fox Cities and Oshkosh along with information on program access and funding. Steven Tomasik discussed the possibility of the county managing the rural programs and helping refugees with their transportation needs. Susan stated with the new Community Health Assessment coming out, they will be doing their best to get community engagement and will also go to the Oshkosh Food Pantry to do more surveys. Suggestions: resume Route 10 as there was higher ridership when that route was run hourly, run Route 10 more frequently with an additional bus or two to decrease time waits, have World Relief be more vocal about the refugee transportation issues.

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE** – 11/21/2023 at 1:30 PM. The meeting will be regarding the 85.21.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Nicole-Davis-Dawald, Human Services Department