

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan
Implementation Task Force

DATE: January 22nd, 2014

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Crystal Lake City Hall

100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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1. **Call to Order** – Scott Hennings (MCDOT)
 2. **Public Participation/Open Comment Period**
 3. **Transit Grant Program**
 - Veterans Assistance Commission – Mike Iwanicki
 - Senior Care Volunteer Network – Sarah Ponitz
 4. **MCRide Update**
 5. **Funding Program Updates**
 - McHenry County JARC/NF project status
 - Senior Grant project status
 6. **McHenry County Healthy Community Study**
 7. **2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update**
 - Next Steps
 8. **Future Structure of the ITF**
 - Discussion
 9. **Other Business**
 10. **Next ITF Meeting**
Next meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
 11. **Adjournment**

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Minutes

McHenry County Transit Plan
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DATE: January 22, 2014
TIME: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Crystal Lake City Hall
100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Attendees

McHenry County Division of Transportation: Scott Hennings, Jason Osborn
Pace: Dan Dembinski, Mary Donner, Kisha Hearn
Pioneer Center: Tom Riley
Metra: Rick Mack
Senior Services Associates: Bee Rettinger
Bureau of Blind Services: Susan Dalton
City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell
City of Harvard: Dave Nelson
City of Woodstock: Paul Ruscko
City of McHenry: Douglas Martin
Woodstock Transportation Commission: Andrew Celentano
Area Agency on Aging NE IL: Donna Copeland Hill
McHenry County Administration: John Labaj
RTA Board Member from McHenry County: Blake Hobson

The meeting started at 2:00 pm.

Scott Hennings from the MCDOT began the meeting by asking that everyone introduce themselves and opened the floor to public comment. McHenry County's RTA board representative Blake Hobson introduced himself and told the group that he was looking forward to participating in the ITF. Rick Mack from Metra talked about how the extreme cold has created problems keeping the switch gears functioning. Mary Donner from Pace mentioned that even with all the snow, Pace buses were still running on schedule.

Scott Hennings provided a brief overview of the MCRide program and mentioned that he was asked by the RTA to join an advisory group of paratransit professionals from around the Chicago region known as the "Transit Access Advisory Committee". He talked about the first meeting he attended on January 21st and told the group he would keep them informed of new information as it becomes available. One thing watch is that the RTA is considering eliminating the ADA certification center in Libertyville, meaning that if McHenry County residents wanted to get certified, they would have to travel to Chicago

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or suburban Cook County. Scott Hennings told the group he would find out more about the certification centers and report back to the group at the next meeting.

Jason Osborn from the MCDOT then discussed the changes to Federal funding for MCRide. He explained that the JARC (Job Access and Reverse Commute) and New Freedom Federal operating assistance funding was replaced with a program called Section 5310. McHenry County and the municipal partners for MCRide applied for 5310 funding from the RTA and, if awarded funding, would begin spending the money for people with disabilities in October of 2014. Mr. Osborn told the group that additional reporting on our disabled riders may be necessary to claim 5310 funding, and that to use the money for senior trips they must be at least 65 years of age. Ms. Copeland Hill told the group that NE IL Area Agency on Aging has the ability to determine the number of individuals in McHenry County between the ages of 60 and 65 and could get provide that number at a later date.

Mr. Hennings next explained to the ITF that the McHenry County Department of Health is about to release the “McHenry County Healthy Community Study”, which will be available on line on Saturday January 25th. He encouraged everyone to complete the survey, which asks about the availability and quality of public transportation services in McHenry County.

Next, a discussion ensued about the presence of Pace bus shelters in the County. Ms. Donner explained that Pace has been working with local communities to install shelters along the fixed bus routes, with advertising revenue covering the cost of installation. So far, the City of McHenry has several shelters, Woodstock will be receiving some soon, but so far Crystal Lake hasn't been interested. Mr. Hobson inquired about getting a bus shelter at the County Courthouse/Administration building, to which Mr. Labaj explained that the advertising content has been an unresolved issue. Mr. Hobson went on to say that marketing efforts for the fixed routes could be funded through a CMAQ grant (as was done in DuPage County).

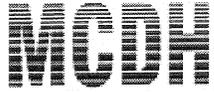
Finally, Mr. Celentano from the Woodstock Transportation Commission told the group about how they are working with high school students to improve the City's transportation system while providing valuable experience to the students. He said the students have worked on the location of future bike paths and fixed bus routes, how to improve the concrete used in building transportation infrastructure and the feasibility of a bike rental program in Woodstock. He encouraged other cities to look into doing similar programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26th, 2014.

Scott Hennings

From: Debra Quackenbush
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 8:13 AM
To: Debra Quackenbush
Subject: Take the "Healthy McHenry" community survey, online Jan 25



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2014

McHenry County Department of Health

2200 N Seminary Avenue
Woodstock IL 60098

Contact: Debra Quackenbush
815-334-4456; cell 815-236-3238

Take the "*Healthy McHenry*" survey, Jan 25

WOODSTOCK III. – McHenry County residents have the opportunity to improve the quality of life in their communities by filling out an anonymous and confidential opinion survey designed by local health and human service providers. As part of the 2014 McHenry County Healthy Community Study, these providers would like your feedback on the different aspects of living and working in McHenry County to identify trends and to guide community planning efforts to meet local needs and future growth. Earlier County studies were conducted in 2006 and 2010 whose results can be found on the Department of Health's webpage www.mcdh.info.

Residents can access the 2014 survey at the same webpage, link to "*healthy mchenry*", from January 25 to February 15. They will be asked to rate the quality and availability of services in their community, such as public transportation, bike/walking paths, jobs and safe neighborhoods, as well as health care issues and insurance options. A paper version of the survey, both English and Spanish, is also being distributed by these providers for those without computers. For those taking the paper version, a self-addressed, stamped envelope will be provided so there is no cost to you. All answers received will be combined with other responses to ensure confidentiality.

This is a great opportunity for County residents to have their voices heard. We urge everyone to complete the survey whether or not they use the services. Results of the Healthy Community Study will be presented at a community forum at McHenry County College on May 21 from 9am-12pm. Direct any questions about the survey to healthymchenry@gmail.com or Debra Quackenbush, McHenry County Department of Health at 815-334-4456.

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