

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan
Implementation Task Force

DATE: March 26, 2013

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: McHenry County Division of Transportation
16111 Nelson Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

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1. **Call to Order** – Scott Hennings (MCDOT)
 2. **Public Participation/Open Comment Period**
 3. **MCRide Update – Scott Hennings**
 - Negotiation of new Pace contract
 - Combining Pace’s Midday Intercommunity and Southeast Service
 - Possible coordination opportunities with Lake County
 4. **Funding Program Updates – Jason Osborn**
 - New Federal funding- Section 5310 Program
 - Federal JARC/NF project status
 - McHenry County Senior Grant project status
 5. **2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Scott Hennings**
 6. **2014-2018 Transportation Program Discussion**
 - Volunteer Driver and Transit Enhancement Program
 - Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
 - Discuss future agenda items
 7. **Future Structure of the ITF– Scott Hennings**
 - Discussion of ITF Bylaws
 8. **Other Business**
 9. **Next ITF Meeting**
Next meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
 10. **Adjournment**

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Minutes

McHenry County Transit Plan
Implementation Task Force

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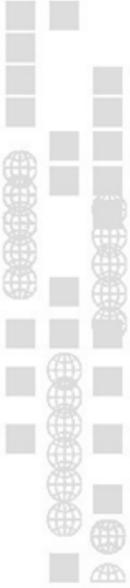
Attendees

McHenry County Division of Transportation: Scott Hennings, Jason Osborn
Pace: Dan Dembinski, Mary Donner, Kisha Hearn, Sally Ann Williams
Pioneer Center: Tom Riley
Metra: Rick Mack
Dorr Township: Bob Pierce
McHenry County Council of Mayors: Chalen Daigle
City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell
City of Harvard: Dave Nelson
City of Woodstock: Paul Ruscko
City of McHenry: Douglas Martin
Village of Johnsburg: Claudett Peters
Village of Huntley: Lisa Armour
Area Agency on Aging NE IL: Donna Copeland Hill
RTA Board Member from McHenry County: Blake Hobson
McHenry County/Algonquin Township: Anna May Miller
Resident: Larry Wilson

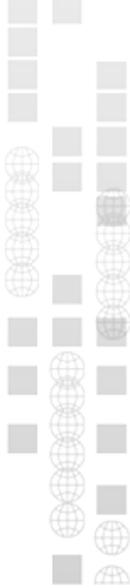
The meeting started at 2:00 pm.

Scott Hennings from the MCDOT began the meeting by asking that everyone introduce themselves and opened the floor to public comment. After introductions, Mr. Hennings gave an overview of the MCRide program, including a timeline of major milestones in the program's history. For the benefit of new ITF attendees, he also reviewed the service area, service hours, and other policies of the MCRide program. Next, he presented ridership statistics for 2013 which showed relatively steady ridership of about 7,000 trips per month. Of the 85,000 total trips in 2013, 25,000 were in Crystal Lake, 18,000 were in McHenry, 13,000 were in Woodstock, and the rest (29,000) were between the cities. He next presented a graph showing the Unique riders in 2013 (2,573 riders).

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force



Jason Osborn from the MCDOT talked about the need to negotiate a new Pace contract later this year. He told the group that MCRide was awarded additional Federal dollars to expand the program and that MCDOT staff has been reaching out to municipalities and townships to gauge their level of interest. Mr. Hobson, McHenry County's RTA representative, asked about MCRide's current fare box recovery ratio. Mr. Osborn responded that currently the program receives about 9% of total revenue from fares. Mr. Hobson then asked about the feasibility of "shuttle bugs" to carry passengers from the train stations to their place of employment. He talked about their prevalence in Lake County, and that they could work well here in McHenry County.



Mr. Hennings then walked the group through the status of the 2040 Transportation Plan, which was adopted by the County Board on March 4, 2014. He talked about the top transit projects in the plan, which includes the UP-NW Metra upgrades, Milwaukee District-West extension to Huntley and Marengo and new bus routes running down IL-31, Randall Road, and Algonquin Road. He also talked about the bicycle and pedestrian section of the plan and talked about how non-motorized travel is inherently linked with public transportation. Mr. Mack from Metra then briefed the group, in detail, about the status of the UP-NW project. He said he was happy to see the County is very supportive of the project but mentioned that the biggest hurdle to overcome is funding.



Next, Mr. Osborn talked about the County's 2014-2018 Transportation Program. He talked about how the MCDOT has planned \$100,000 per year for the "Volunteer Driver and Transit Enhancement" program and \$100,000 per year for the "Community Bicycle and Pedestrian" program. Mr. Hennings talked about we could better connect these two County programs with the RTA's new "Access to Transit Improvement Program". The RTA is looking to fund small scale projects (under \$1 million) such as sidewalks, crosswalks, shelters, bike parking and signage. Mr. Hobson mentioned that the RTA also has funding for transit oriented development (TOD) plans that McHenry County municipalities should explore.



Finally, the group discussed the future structure of the ITF and talked briefly about the proposed bylaws for the advisory committee. Ms. Miller, of Algonquin Township and the McHenry County Board mentioned that she would prefer that the Chair of the ITF is a representative of the whole of McHenry County. Mr. Hobson of the RTA was mentioned as a great candidate for this position. MCDOT staff confirmed that the bylaws would be modified to reflect this desire.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

The next meeting of the ITF is scheduled for May 28th, 2014.

McHenry County Implementation Task Force (ITF)

Scott Hennings
Transportation Planner

Jason Osborn, AICP
Principal Transportation Planner

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Participation/Open Comment Period**
- 3. MCRide Update**
- 4. Funding Program Updates**
- 5. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update**
- 6. 2014-2018 Transportation Program Discussion**
- 7. Future Structure of the ITF**
- 8. Other Business**
- 9. Next ITF Meeting**
- 10. Adjournment**

MCRide Update

- **MCRide Overview**
- **Negotiation of a new Pace contract**
- **Combining the Pace Midday Intercommunity and Southeast Service with MCRide**
- **Possible coordination opportunities with Lake County**

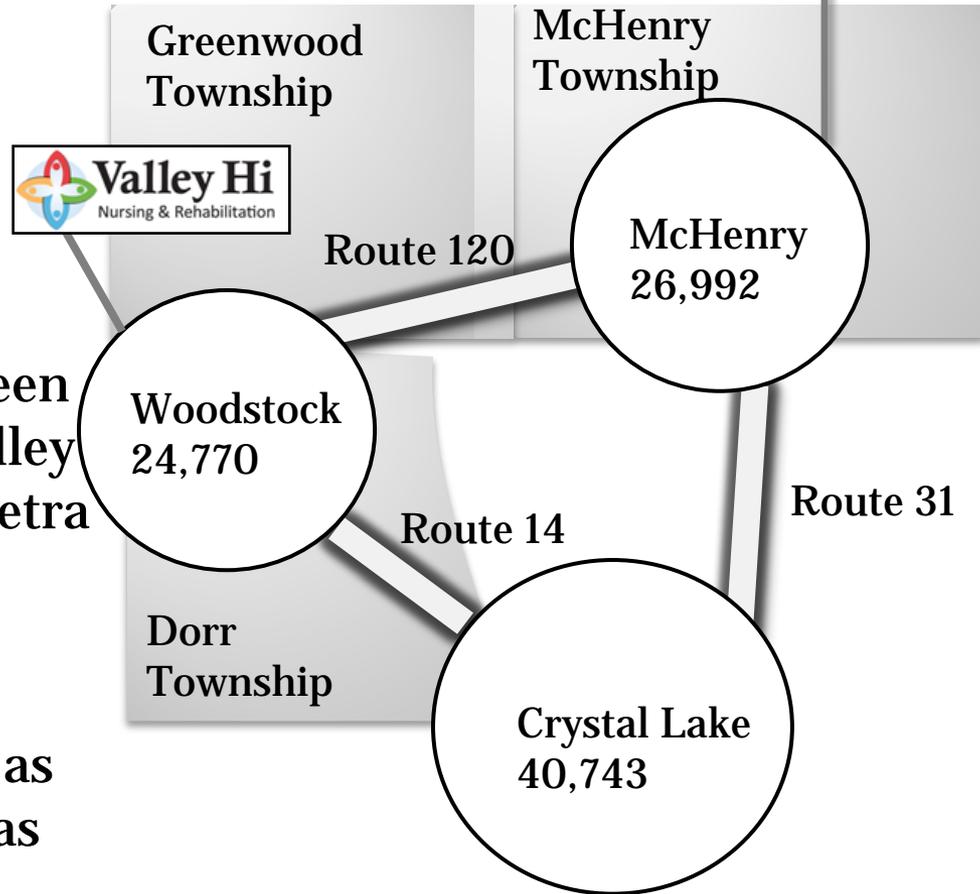
Transit Timeline

- 2005- Transit Plan Adopted
- 2006- Transit Plan Implementation Task Force Appointed
- 2008- Senior Grant Commission Created
- 2008- RTA Sales Tax Allocation to Collar Counties created
- 2010- County Pilot Program Supported with Senior Grant Money
- 2012- MCRide created supported by Senior Grant, federal JARC and NF funding
- 2012- Greenwood Township Added to MCRide Service Area
- 2014- McHenry County 2040 Transportation Plan Adopted

Existing MCRide Service

Service Area:

- **General public** can travel within and between the cities, as well as Valley Hi and the Fox Lake Metra station
- **Seniors and people with disabilities** can travel in the same area as general public, as well as anywhere within McHenry, Greenwood, and Dorr Townships





MCRide

• Service Hours:

- M-F, 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Sat., 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

• Trip reservations should be made the day before, but sometimes can be made the day of the ride

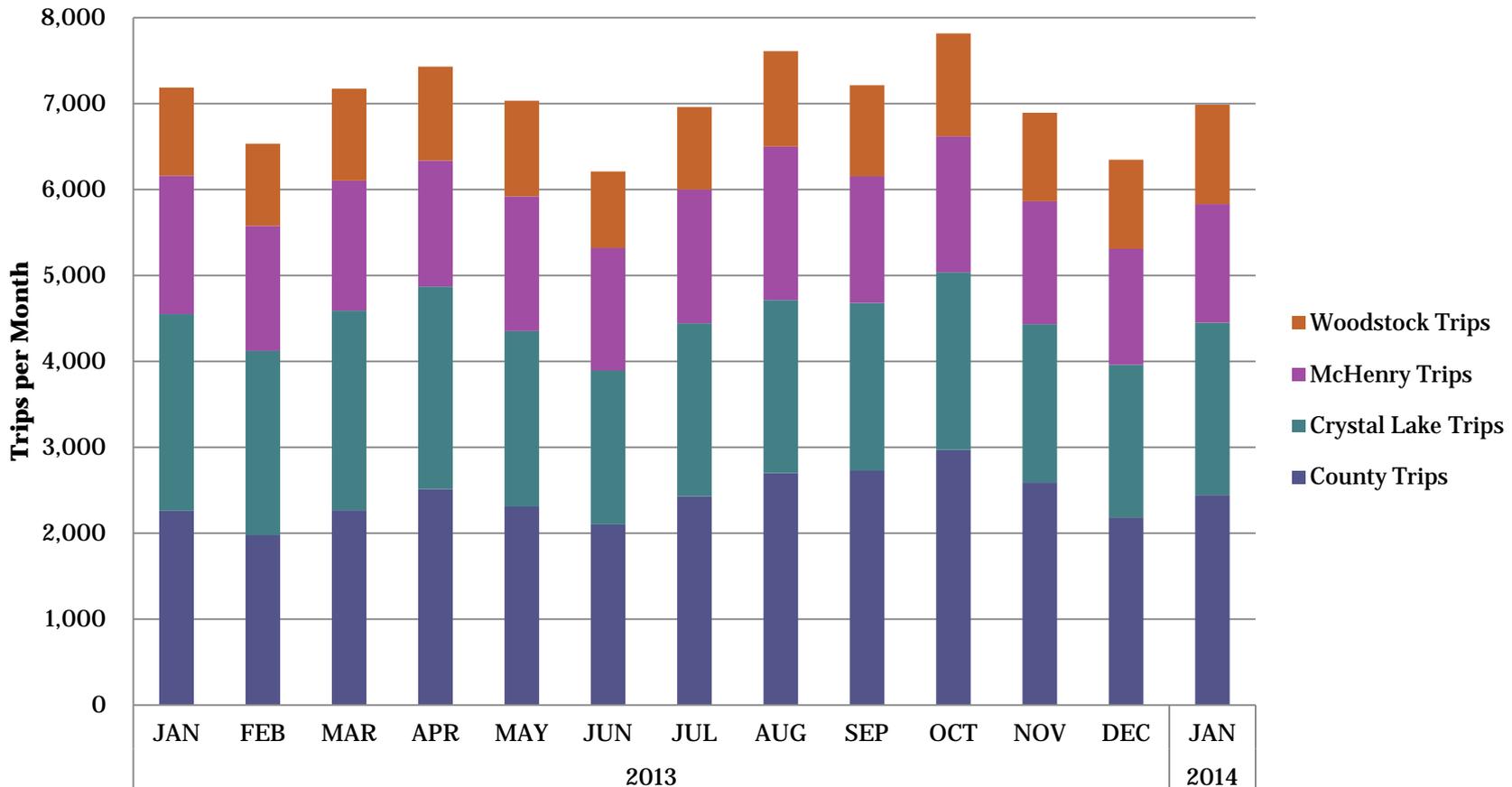
• Transportation provided for anyone, for any purpose

| MCRide Base Fare | First 5 miles of your trip |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| General Public | \$2.00 |
| Senior (60+) | \$1.00 |
| Person with a Disability | \$1.00 |

(*plus 25 cents per mile for each additional mile after the first 5)

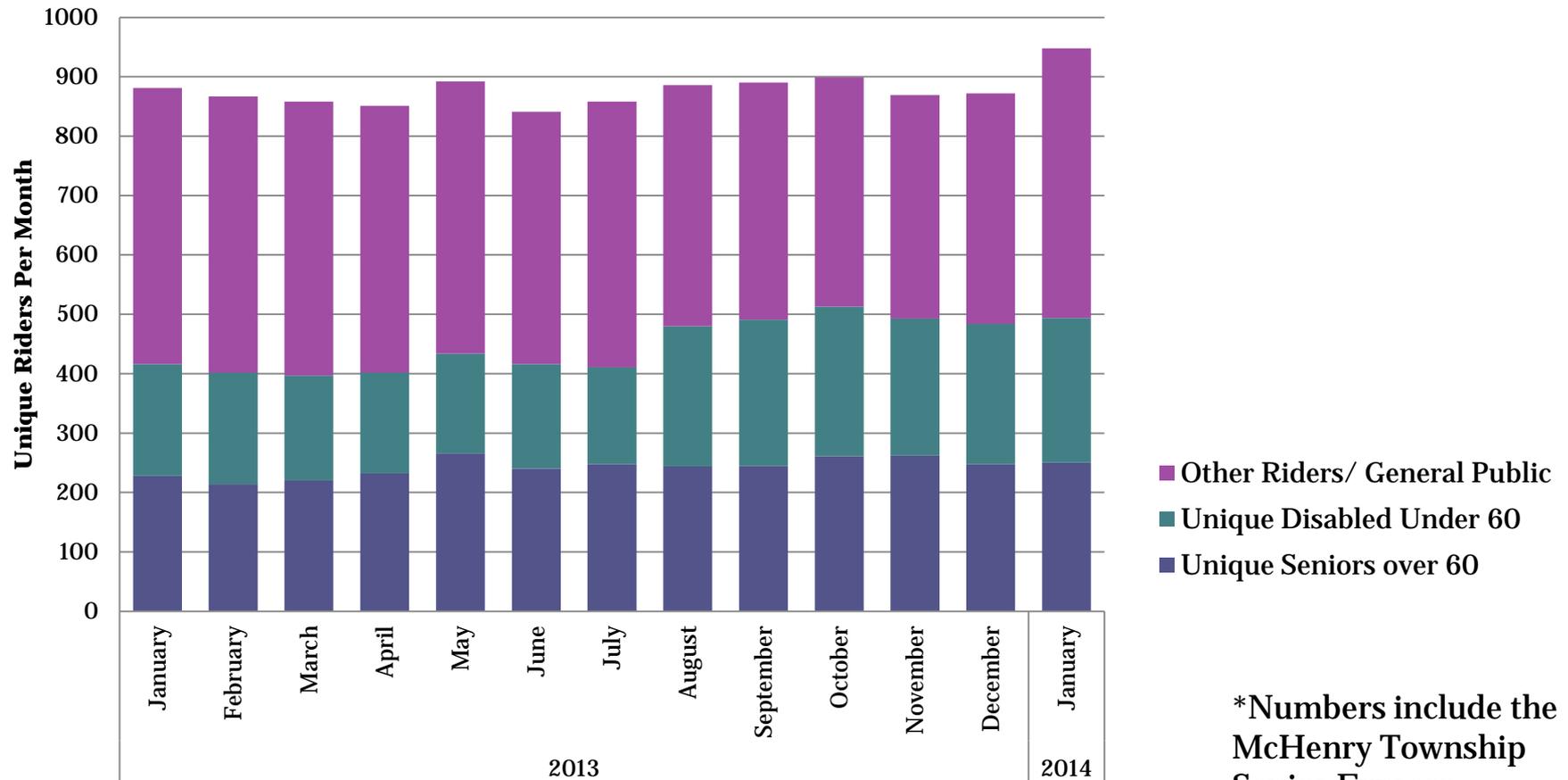
MCRide 2013 Ridership

25,000 trips in Crystal Lake
18,000 trips in McHenry
13,000 trips in Woodstock
29,000 trips between communities
85,000 total trips in 2013



Unique Riders by Month

In 2013 there were 2,573 different individuals who used MCRide:
622 seniors, 376 people with disabilities under 60, and 1,575 general public

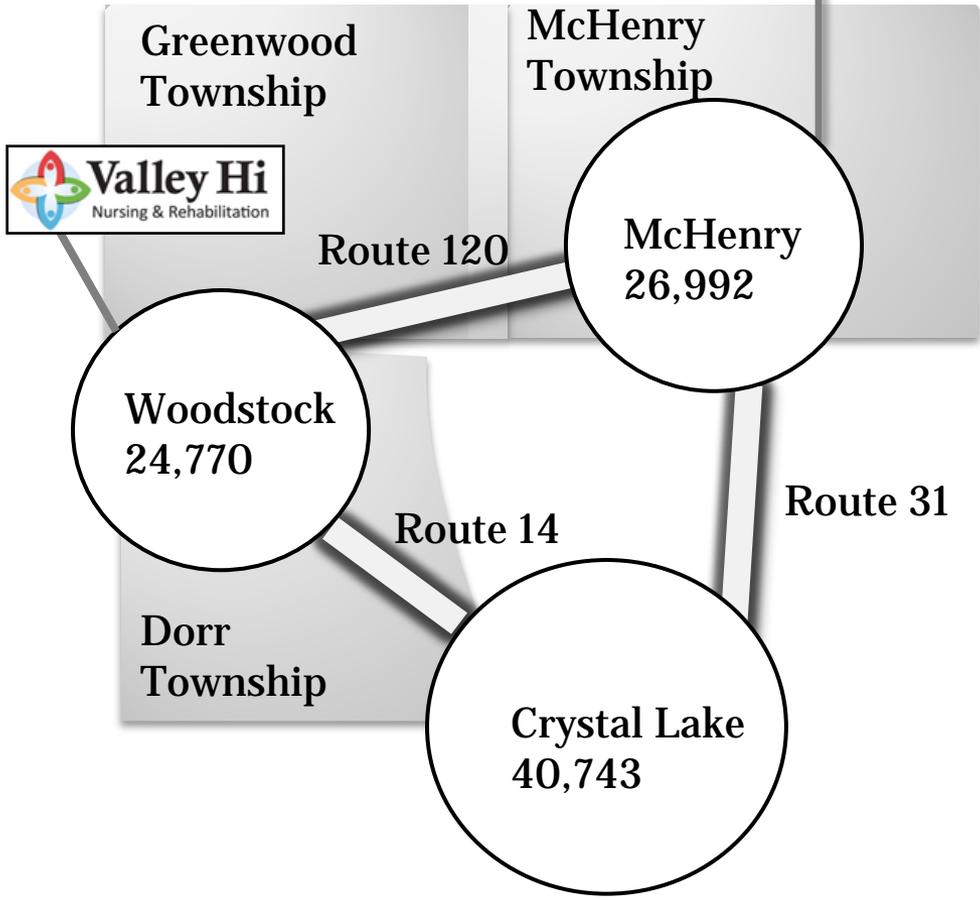


*Numbers include the McHenry Township Senior Express

Negotiation of New Pace Contract

- **2040 Plan calls for coordination and expansion**
- **Granting bodies are encouraging us to do more**
- **MCRide was recently awarded additional Federal operating assistance (Section 5310)**
- **Pace and County working to coordinate other Pace services with MCRide**
- **Reaching out to Municipalities and Townships to gauge their level of interest**

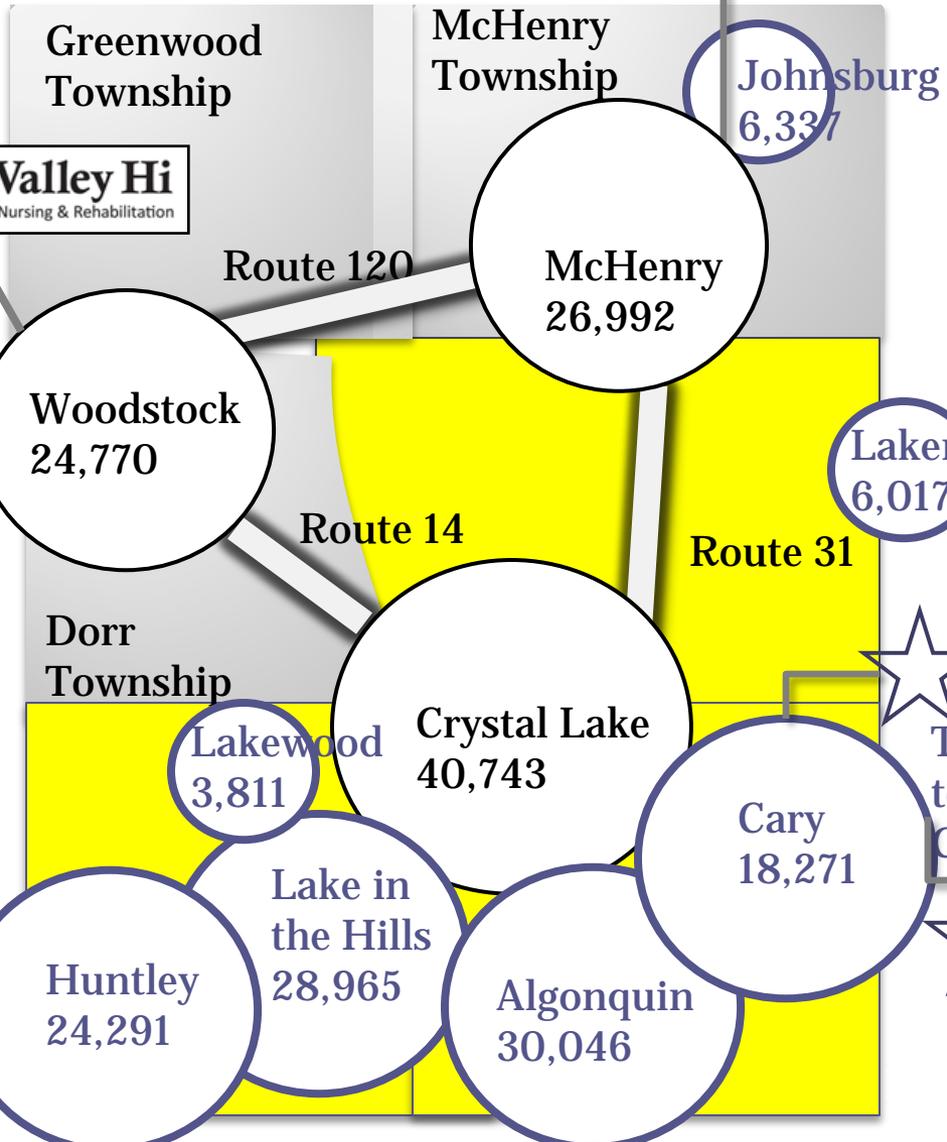
Existing MCRide Service





Harvard
9,447

Possible 2015-2016 Service Area



Transfers to Lake County

Possible 2017-2018 Service Area



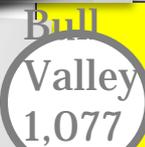
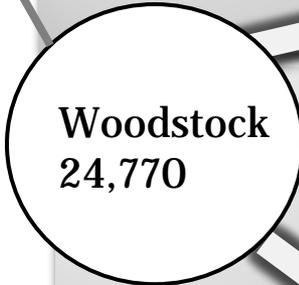
Greenwood Township



McHenry Township



Route 120



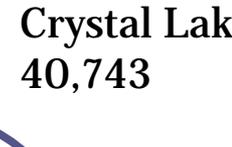
Route 31



Route 14



Dorr Township



Funding Program Updates

- **New Federal funding- Section 5310 Program**
- **Federal JARC/NF project status**
- **McHenry County Senior Grant project status**

Funding Program Updates

JARC/New Freedom Program

- Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) subsidized work trips
- New Freedom subsidized trips for seniors and people with disabilities
- Reduced financial risk for Municipal partners
- New Freedom already spent down
- JARC will likely be gone by June, 2014

Federal Section 5310 Program

- Section 5310 funds used to subsidize trips for seniors and people with disabilities
- **Awarded \$300,000 per year for two years** (\$600,000 total)
- Requires 50% local match
- Expansion may require additional 5310 funding

Senior Services Grant Update

- **\$77,000 Awarded to MCRide in 2014**
- **MCDOT staff, along with municipal partners, recently gave a presentation to the Senior Services Grant Commission regarding future transit coordination**
- **MCRide expansion would require additional SSG funding to offset costs**

McHenry County 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan- Adopted 3/4/2014

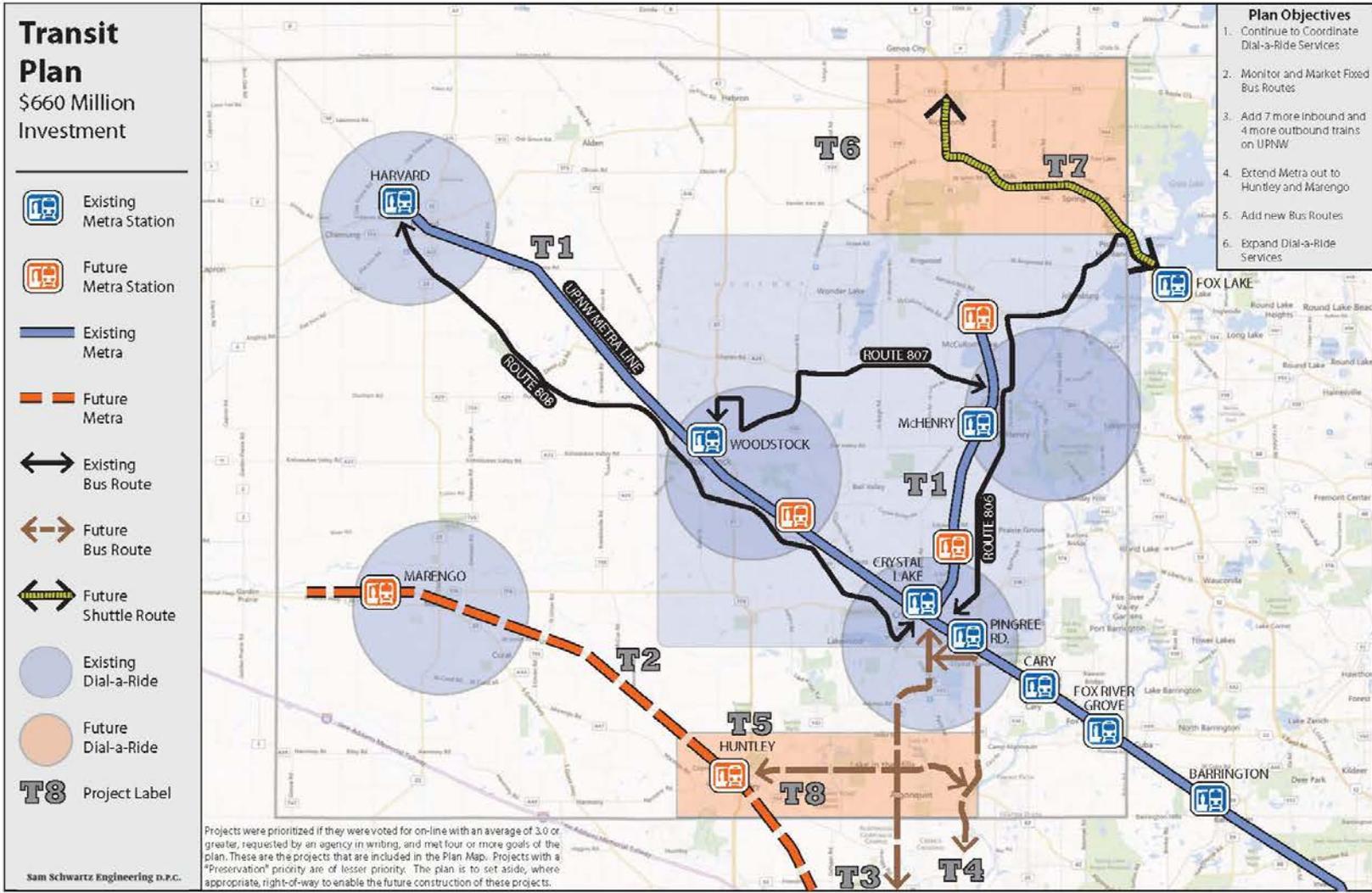


Figure 80: 2040 Transit Services Map



McHenry County 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan- Adopted 3/4/2014

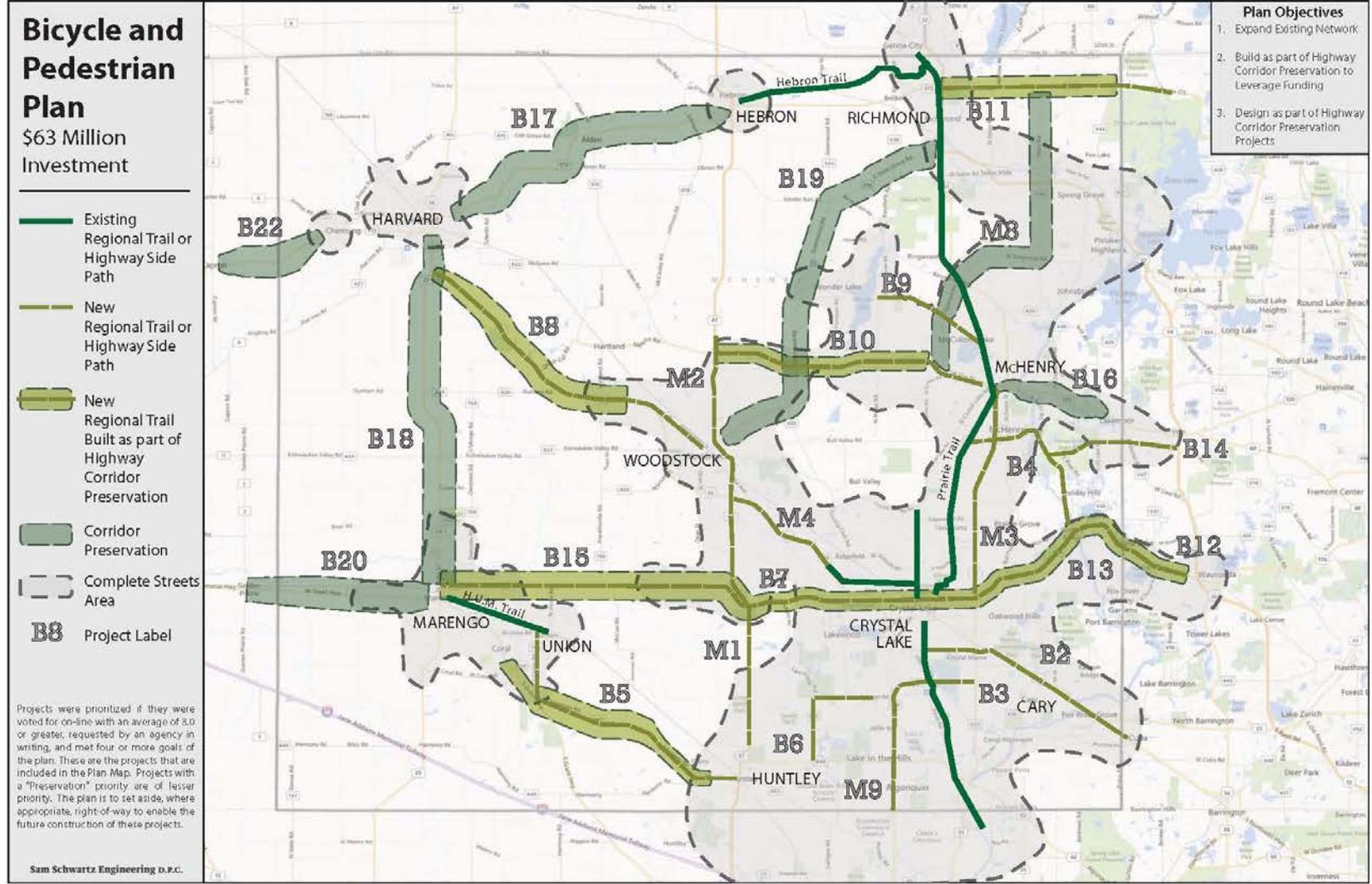


Figure 66: Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

2014-2018 Transportation Program

- **Volunteer Driver and Transit Enhancement Program**
- **Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**
- **Discuss future agenda items**

Volunteer Driver and Transit Enhancement Program

- For coordination and expansion of transit services in the County
- Currently funding transportation services for seniors by the Senior Care Volunteer Network (\$56,000) and fuel and vehicle expenses for the Veteran's Affairs Commission (\$5,000)
- \$100,000/year budgeted from RTA Sales Tax

Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

- **Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Program's main goal is to improve access to transit**
 - **Focus on the area surrounding Metra Stations and Pace Bus Routes**
 - **Fill in missing gaps (sidewalks, crosswalks, ADA)**
- **Programmed \$100,000/year from RTA Sales Tax**
- **If desired, ITF will have a role in recommending projects for consideration**

Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

SIDEWALK CONNECTORS

BUS SHELTER PADS & BENCHES

CROSSWALKS

PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL HEADS

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

BICYCLE PARKING

ADA ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

OTHER PROJECTS

ACCESS TO TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Setting Ideas in Motion

Regional Transportation Authority

The RTA will consider other projects not specifically mentioned above. Eligible projects must stem from recommendations contained in a Community Planning study.

- The RTA's Access to Transit Improvement program is designed to increase access to the transit system through small scale capital improvements. These improvements will help to increase ridership and make the system more accessible for users, particularly persons with disabilities, older adults, and occasional riders.
- Eligible projects include small-scale capital improvements that stem from recommendations contained in a Community Planning study.
- Projects under \$1,000,000 are desired

Future Structure of the ITF

- Draft Bylaws for the ITF will be on the **April 2nd** Transportation Committee Agenda for approval
- Important considerations:
 - Would you like to be a member of the ITF?
 - Should we reach out to others to become members?
 - Bylaws state that the ITF shall consist of at least fifteen (15) voting members
 - Chair and Vice Chair of the ITF?
 - What should be the principal focus of the ITF?

Other Business



Next ITF Meeting: ???at 2pm
Location: MCDOT

