

# McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

## Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan  
Implementation Task Force

**DATE:** September 25, 2013

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Crystal Lake City Hall

100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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** – Scott Hennings
5. **2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update**
  - Letters Received
  - Direction from Transportation Committee of the County Board
  - Next Steps
6. **Future Structure of the ITF Discussion**
  - Membership
  - Bylaws
  - Scope of Work
7. **Funding Program Updates** – Jason Osborn
  - McHenry County JARC/NF project status
  - Senior Grant project status
8. **Other Business** – Scott Hennings
  - Volunteer Driver Program as included in County Highway Improvement Program
9. **Next ITF Meeting**

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
10. **Adjournment**

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## Minutes

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**TIME:** 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Crystal Lake City Hall  
100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

### Attendees

McHenry County Staff: Scott Hennings, Jason Osborn  
Senior Care Volunteer Network: Sarah Ponitz, Tom Aquilina  
Pace: Dan Dembinski  
Pioneer Center: Jeff Kurth  
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 Celentanu

The meeting started at 2:00 pm.

Scott Hennings from the MCDOT began the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves and the floor was opened for public comment. After no public comment Sarah Ponitz from Senior Care Volunteer Network gave an update to the group on her volunteer driver program. She mentioned that they recently had some staff changes at SCVN and that they were working to transfer their computer system to make the program more efficient.

Next Mr. Hennings gave the group an update on the MCRide program. Ridership on MCRide has remained constant overall, with a slight increase in the amount of intercommunity trips and a slight decrease in the number of the trips in-town. Mr. Hennings mentioned that MCDOT has received numerous calls from Spanish-only speaking individuals trying to schedule a trip for MCRide. A discussion ensued regarding whether Pace is providing adequate translation services at the call center. Mr. Hennings then talked about how the MCDOT has received 26 letters for the ongoing 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. He mentioned that if anyone from the ITF was still interested in writing a letter there is still time to do so.

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Jason Osborn from the MCDOT then talked about how the Transportation Committee of the County Board has a desire to formalize the structure of the ITF. He explained that with the Volunteer Driver and Transit Enhancement Program and the Community Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Program, which were adopted in the 2013 Highway Improvement Program, the Transportation Committee wants to ensure that the makeup of ITF is representative of the County at large and accountable to the TC. Mr. Hennings handed out draft by-laws for the restructured group and explained that they were modeled on the Stormwater Management Commission's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Osborn then asked the group what they thought about formalizing the ITF and each member gave their opinion. **The overall opinion of the group was unanimously in support of further formalization of the ITF** and some of the comments made are included below:

- It is important to continue the inter-agency cooperation that led to MCRide and the ITF should be a diverse group of transit professionals to achieve specified outcomes.
- The ITF should take on a more "regional" transit perspective.
- For those who work exclusively with seniors, additional transit investment is more important than bicycle infrastructure.
- ITF is a good place to ensure that we are maintaining and building upon the transit system in McHenry County.
- Transit and bicycle/pedestrian issues are linked (bikes on buses) so that is a good addition to the group's responsibilities.
- The ITF has been valuable in learning what transit services are available, the upcoming changes to the system, and networking with other transit professionals.
- Municipalities are receiving requests for bicycle infrastructure on a regular basis and it would be good to incorporate this mode with the ITF.
- Formalization of the ITF will allow the County to fund projects in rural areas that pose unique challenges.
- The explosive growth of the senior population is the most pressing issue for the ITF to consider. They should be proactive, not reactive, in meeting this need.
- While a formal structure is beneficial, we must ensure that the group is free flowing and responsive to changes in membership.
- Look at including large employers, hospitals, and others in the ITF.
- Formalization will allow for a united front in advocating for transit funding.

Mr. Osborn concluded the meeting by talking about the RTA's Human Services Transportation Plan and Federal operating assistance for MCRide. He also mentioned that the County Senior Services Grant Commission awarded MCRide funding for 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.