


McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force



DATE: January 27, 2010

TIME: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.


LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building
Conference Room C

1. Call to Order

2. Public Participation/Open Comment Period

3. Transit Grant Program Progress Report

- McHenry County / Pilot program
- Centegra and Pioneer Center
- City of Marengo
- Faith in Action of McHenry County
- Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association
- Veterans Assistance Commission



4. Pilot Program Progress Report

Service start date is February 13, 2010.
Registration Summary

5. Other Business

- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Unified Work Program will have a call for projects coming due on March 5, 2010.
- Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom grants (JARC/NF grants) – the RTA Board will review methodology at February 2010 meeting and there will be a call for projects in April 2010. The RTA is considering changing the grant program to favor currently funded systems.

6. Next Steps

Service/data gathering for grant recipients

Pilot program startup


Service review and future direction: Vanpool program, taxi voucher program, fixed route review

7. Next ITF Bimonthly Meetings

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

Following meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment



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Minutes

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DATE: January 27, 2010

TIME: 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.

LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building
Conference Room C

Attendees

McHenry County Staff: Jason Osborn, Sarah Lutz, John Labaj, Jeff Young

Algonquin Township/McHenry County Board: Anna May Miller

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning: Russell Pietrowiak

City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell

City of Marengo: Josh Blakemore

City of McHenry: Doug Maxeiner

City of Woodstock: Roscoe Stelford

Dorr Township: Bob Pierce

Faith In Action: Howard Rigsby

McHenry Township: Frank DeVita

Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging: Donna Copeland Hill

Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association: Jim Wiseman

Pace/McHenry County Board: Mary Donner

Pace: Sally Ann Williams, Tim Dilsaver, Tom Groening

Pioneer Center: Tom Riley

Thresholds: Richard Schlottman

TranSystems: Larry Deeter

Sarah Lutz called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Lutz opened the floor for public participation or any general comments. She shared a brief announcement about the People in Need Forum coming up on January 30 at the McHenry County Community College, a forum for service agencies to share information. Representatives from the County and from Pace will man a booth for the pilot program at the People in Need Forum's Expo.

Hearing no further public participation or comments, Ms. Lutz continued to the Transit Grant Program Progress Report. Beginning with the McHenry County / Pilot program, Ms. Lutz reported that the pilot program has almost 500 people registered, with fairly even representation from the three partner cities and McHenry Township. Ms. Lutz indicated that about half of registrants reported that they had some form of disability. The registration is also fairly evenly distributed between age groups, with the groups

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of “Over 65” and “Ages 49 to 64” each being about 30% of all registrants. Ms. Lutz indicated that recent outreach to seniors may lead to growth in registrations in that age category.

Ms. Lutz then provided a report on the Centegra and Pioneer Center application for grant funds. Because of difficulties in coordinating the service as presented in the application, Centegra withdrew its request to participate in the program.

Josh Blakemore from the City of Marengo provided a report on their progress in getting service started. The City was working through contract review and expected to meet with Pace in the near future to hammer out the final details of the service expansion.

Howard Rigsby from Faith in Action of McHenry County provided a report that his agency was facing problems in getting their data gathering system up and running. The final bugs were being worked out and a first report was expected shortly.

Jim Wiseman from Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA) said that they encountered a few struggles with setting up their data gathering and reporting system, but they had all been ironed out. NISRA recently submitted their first data and will submit a report in the very near future. Mr. Wiseman mentioned that they had 280 individuals registered.

Ms. Lutz provided a few short comments about the Veterans Assistance Program, as no representative was present. The VAC has been using their Pace Locally Based Service van for several months now for trips transporting veterans to and from the VA Hospital in North Chicago.

Anna May Miller from Algonquin Township Road District described that they had been operating an additional hour of service in the afternoon since December. Only a few people had taken advantage of the additional service availability. Ms. Miller also discussed difficulties in getting riders to register. Options for increasing the number of registered riders include filling out registration forms for those who had not registered or another push for riders to register.

In other business, Jason Osborn invited the group to begin thinking about the next steps for implementing the Transit Plan in McHenry County. He pointed out that one area indicated for future transit service is the southeastern area of McHenry County, where service is currently sparser than other areas. Ms. Miller indicated that there continues to be County Board support for transit planning, for data gathering, and for moving forward implementing the Transit Plan.

Mr. Osborn briefly introduced the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning’s (CMAP) Unified Work Program, which will have a call for projects coming due on March 5, 2010. In the past, funds have been limited for this program and the focus has been on larger scale regional projects. Mr. Osborn pointed out that past McHenry County projects have not been seen as regional in scale and have not been

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selected for the program. Russell Pietrowiak from CMAP said that in some cases county-wide projects, such as long-range plans, have been chosen but that the funds for the program are limited.

Mr. Pietrowiak also introduced the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) Community Planning and Subregional Planning programs as an opportunity for local transit planning grants. He provided the example of Will County doing a paratransit study for the entire County.

Mr. Osborn continued with a discussion of the RTA Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom (JARC/NF) grants. These programs will be likely have slightly revised selection criteria from previous years. The proposed new criteria will award additional points to programs that have received funding before and are meeting their goals as stated in previous applications. The shift would allow programs to be funded for longer than the previously-established three-year limit on funding. It was also discussed that recipients of planning grants may have enhanced chances of receiving an operating grant.

Mr. Pietrowiak provided information that the RTA Board will review the grant programs' methodology at their meeting on February 18, 2010 and will issue a call for projects after that with a June due date. Mr. Osborn suggested that Division of Transportation staff would put together several draft grant proposals for the JARC/NF program for implementing the McHenry County Transit Plan. Staff would then present these drafts to this body (the Implementation Task Force) for review, comment, and direction at future meetings.

The next meeting of the Implementation Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building – Conference Room A. The following meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 also at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Administration Building.

Ms. Lutz adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.