

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

DATE: July 22, 2009

TIME: 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building
Conference Room A

1. Call to Order
2. Public Participation
3. Presentation of Submitted Applications and Staff Preliminary Recommendations
4. Group Discussion of Applications and Recommendations
5. Grant Program Accountability
6. Grant Program Timeline
7. Next Steps
8. Next Meetings
9. Adjournment

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Minutes

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

DATE: July 22, 2009

TIME: 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building
Conference Room A

Attendees

McHenry County Board: Ken Koehler

McHenry County Staff: Jason Osborn, Sarah Lutz, Joe Korpalski, Wally Dittrich, Peter Austin, John Labaj

McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission: Mike Iwanicki

TranSystems: Larry Deeter

Dorr Township: Bob Pierce

Algonquin Township: Derek Lee

City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell

City of Woodstock: Roscoe Stelford

Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association: Brian Shahinian

Pioneer Center: Tom Riley

Centegra Health System: Daniel Byars, Jack Slaughter

City of Marengo: Josh Blakemore

Faith In Action: Howard Rigsby

McHenry Township: Frank DeVita

Pace: Mary Donner

Jason Osborn called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Each attendee introduced him or herself by name and agency. Mr. Osborn opened the floor for public participation or any general comments and none were brought forward.

Mr. Osborn pointed out that the County received a wide range of applications, that it was a great inaugural batch, and thanked everyone for their interest in the program. He then asked representatives of each agency that had submitted an application to give a short overview of their application and current services. Short comments were made by Howard Rigsby of Faith in Action, Derek Lee of

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Algonquin Township Highway Department, Josh Blakemore from the City of Marengo, Tom Riley from Pioneer (for Centegra and Pioneer's application), Brian Shahinian from NISRA, and Mike Iwanicki from the Veterans Assistance Commission. Mr. Osborn offered a short summary of the pilot coordination program. Ken Koehler offered additional comments discussing why the pilot was important in providing mobility for County residents as outlined in the County Transit Plan. Mr. Koehler added that based on the current economic climate, the County may need to consider funding things not directly tied to coordination or expansion, such as replacement vehicles. He added that for the grant program, the focus is on data collection to help the County get a picture of what's going on with transportation services in the County.

Mr. Osborn opened the floor to any general comments on the application process including comments on scoring and the County focus on coordination and expansion. Mr. Shahinian from NISRA discussed the difficulty of considering expanding services when they are focused on simply maintaining services, which made it hard for them to fill out the application. Mr. Osborn noted that it is indeed difficult to look toward the future and to focus on coordination when times are tough, as they are now.

Mr. Osborn then began walking through the applications in greater detail. Regarding Centegra's application, Mr. Koehler asked whether Centegra or Pioneer expected a demand for Sunday medical or work trips. Daniel Byars from Centegra noted that they do offer some medical services on Sunday and Mr. Riley said that some of their clients work on Sunday as well. Both Mr. Byars and Mr. Riley added that they were trying to expand services (Centegra Patient Express, Pioneer clients, and PADS) but at the same time did not want to offer something that would not be used. They indicated that this would be a process of trying to figure out the cost-effectiveness of all transportation services and that services could be adjusted if necessary. Mr. Koehler asked whether Pioneer's PADS clients would be served by the transportation from their grant application. Mr. Riley indicated that some PADS clients would be served.

Mr. Osborn continued with the City of Marengo's application, which offered a menu of options for expanding service. Mr. Osborn indicated that the grant program should probably not be the primary local funding source for any transportation service. Mr. Koehler asked if the Marengo service carried school traffic, and Mr. Blakemore indicated that it does not.

For the Veterans Assistance Commission application, Mr. Iwanicki noted that they were planning on retiring one vehicle and replacing it with a larger vehicle. There was some discussion as to whether this could be defined as an expansion or not. Mr. Koehler noted that any agency that has made grant requests for vehicles would have been required to set up a replacement policy for those vehicles. Mr. Koehler went on to make general comments about vehicle requests, stating that if there were no other options or requests available, the County might consider funding vehicle replacements but that it would not be a first priority. Mr. Shahinian noted that NISRA does have a vehicle replacement policy that is a combination of NISRA's dollars and anticipated grant money or contributions.

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Mr. Osborn provided a brief description of the pilot program. Mr. Koehler added that Pace is excited about this project as well because nobody likes the empty buses driving around the county.

Mr. Koehler added some additional comments regarding program intent. He indicated that the program is not intended to fund vehicles because that would then lead to requests for driver funds and gas needs, with no defined source for those funds. He indicated that there is a need to balance expansion of hours with expanding fleets of vehicles to provide transportation services.

Mr. Osborn then led discussion of recommendations for funding, with some changes based on this meeting's comments. Mr. Osborn noted that the City of Marengo's grant will be an amount to be determined, but not to exceed the local share for the program. Marengo will be working with Riley and Marengo Townships to determine what service expansion option would benefit their users the most. The recommendation for funding NISRA's application was reduced to the amount requested for data collection, based on the County's desire to focus on data collection and coordination rather than maintaining existing services. The recommendations are summarized in the table below. No further comments were received regarding recommendations.

Lead Agency	Level of Coordination	Year 1 Request	Recommendation
Algonquin Township	Tier 2	\$20,940	\$20,940
Centegra	Tier 2	\$49,000	\$49,000
Pilot Project (Crystal Lake, McHenry, Woodstock, Dorr Twsp, McHenry Twsp, Pioneer Center)	Tier 2	\$275,000	\$275,000
City of Marengo	Tier 2	Various	TBD, not to exceed local share of \$33,600
Faith in Action of McHenry County	Tier 2	\$29,268	\$29,268
NISRA	Tier 1	\$43,000	\$8,500
Veterans Assistance Commission	Tier 2	\$32,500	\$32,500
Total			\$445,826

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Mr. Osborn continued with a brief discussion of the next steps. He noted that staff will put together a recommendation for the Transportation Committee and the Finance Committee of the County Board regarding appropriations for this grant program. After approval by both committees, a resolution will move forward to the County Board. In addition, staff will begin work on crafting intergovernmental agreements necessary for distributing the grant awards.

Mr. Koehler emphasized that County staff will work closely with all agencies receiving grants to provide further information about data requirements and collection. There was also brief discussion that Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) may be a possibility for Algonquin Township Highway Department's data collection, though MDTs were not specified in their application.

Mr. Osborn indicated that the Implementation Task Force would meet again on September 23, 2009 at the same time (2:00) and in the same place (County Administration Building, Conference Room A). The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.