

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

DATE: September 22, 2010

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building, Conference Room A
667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

-
1. **Call to Order** – Sarah Chadderdon (McHenry County DOT)
 2. **Public Participation/Open Comment Period**
 3. **Transit Grant Program Progress Report** – Sarah Chadderdon (McHenry County DOT)
 - Algonquin Township – Anna May Miller (Algonquin Township Road District)
 - City of Marengo – Josh Blakemore (City of Marengo)
 - Faith in Action of McHenry County – Howard Rigsby (FIAMC)
 - Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association – Jim Wiseman (NISRA)
 - Veterans Assistance Commission – Mike Iwanicki (VAC)
 - McHenry County / Pilot program – Jason Osborn (McHenry County DOT)
 4. **Other Business**
 - RTA Funding Programs: Report on Applications – Jason Osborn (McHenry County DOT)
Comment period open until September 24, 2010
 - Senior Services Grant: Report on Application – Jason Osborn (McHenry County DOT)
 5. **Next ITF Bimonthly Meetings**

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
Following meeting: Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
 6. **Adjournment**

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Minutes

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

DATE: September 22, 2010

TIME: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Woodstock
Conference Room A

Action Items

1. Convene partners for integrated and coordinated service to begin discussion of agreement needed to expend federal funds – Jason Osborn and Sarah Chadderdon
2. Finalize and confirm information on transit map – Jason Osborn and Sarah Chadderdon

Attendees

City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell

City of Marengo: Josh Blakemore

City of McHenry: Doug Martin

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning: Russell Pietrowiak

District 155 Cary-Grove: Barb Goeske, Lisa Sterne

Grafton Township: Betty Zirk, Pam Fender, Linda Moore

McHenry County Board: Ersel Schuster

McHenry County Staff: Jason Osborn, Sarah Chadderdon, Joe Korpalski, John Labaj

McHenry Township: Frank DeVita

Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association: Jim Wiseman

Pace: Mary Donner, Brad Logan, Sally Ann Williams, Tim Dilsaver

Pioneer Center: Jeff Kurth

Veterans Assistance Commission: Michael Iwanicki

Jason Osborn from the McHenry County Division of Transportation called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The attendees all introduced themselves.

Sarah Chadderdon from the Division of Transportation began the Transit Grant Program Progress Report by presenting the September 2010 Transit Grant Program Summary, provided as a handout at the meeting. Ms. Chadderdon mentioned that many services have seen growth over the reporting time period.

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Pam Fender from Grafton Township inquired about Marengo's dial-a-ride service. Brad Logan from Pace said that ridership is about 300 trips per month. Josh Blakemore from Marengo indicated that the service covers municipal and some township areas around Marengo.

Mary Donner from Pace asked about the Veterans Assistance Commission's increase in ridership. Mike Iwanicki from the VAC said that recent growth is in line with overall growth in demand over the last six years. In addition, each year ridership increases until the fall, when it drops off over the winter. He added that the ridership seems on track to tie or surpass 2008 ridership. Mr. Iwanicki shared that 17 veterans took part in a ceremony honoring veterans at a Kane County Cougars game. Mr. Iwanicki will provide some pictures from the trip (see below).



Jim Wiseman from NISRA explained NISRA's partnerships for additional vehicles needed for transportation for summer camps. NISRA offers summer day camps at nine locations in June and July and all-day Friday field trips. These programs are in addition to the typical seasonal recreation programs. To accommodate the temporary increase in demand for transportation services from these programs, NISRA dedicated four of its vehicles to summer day camp and contracted with Barrington Transportation Services for five buses and with SEDOM Transportation Services for one bus. For the summer programs, NISRA does not have as much need for accessible vehicles because many of their registrants are ambulatory. *[NOTE: NISRA does use a number of accessible vehicles for other recreation programs. In September 2010, they added a fourth accessible activity bus to their fleet to replace a 14-*

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

passenger van.] NISRA may look into increasing these types of contracts to match outside vendors' buses to geographically appropriate programs. NISRA used a similar partnership with Transportation Joint Agreement out of District 47/155 in the past, but that agency did not allow outside service contracts this year.

Mr. Osborn provided an update on the pilot program and described that the costs for the call center are still being negotiated between McHenry County and Pace. In addition, registrations continue at the rate of about 2-4 a day. Mr. Logan added that he has seen the capacity denials increasing lately for the service due to higher demand.

Barb Goeske commented that her students had experienced two denials in the past week. She asked what the policy is for advance call-ahead. Ms. Chadderdon explained that there are several services operating out of one call center, which can be confusing for staff and for riders. Different services have different call-ahead times. Mr. Osborn introduced a draft of a transit map that the County is putting together as the flip-side to an update of the County Highway Map. Mr. Osborn invited everyone to take a look at the draft and share any comments or corrections. Staff hopes that the map will provide useful information to the residents of McHenry County.

Mr. Osborn continued with an update of the RTA grants the County submitted. Applications were submitted to the Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom programs. These grants, if awarded, would consolidate and standardize the services of the pilot program. Also, possibilities for client sponsors for trips or for fare media will likely be explored as part of implementation. RTA staff provided a preliminary recommendation of one year's worth of funds (approximately \$800,000). The JARC/NF program is federally funded and the funds have been allocated from the federal government. The outlook for the McHenry County project is positive.

The County also applied for a subregional planning grant. The County's application received a preliminary recommendation of \$120,000 in grant funding. This program relies on RTA funding and may not find a place in RTA's budget. The RTA Board will meet in December to allocate funds for all of its grant programs. If the funds are not available for this program or if they are not awarded to McHenry County, the County will still work to study what it can for transit services in the County. One positive sign is that fixed route signs have been installed in Woodstock, and Pace representatives will be working to install ad shelters in the County. Ms. Donner explained that these shelters are an income producer for the municipality where they are located and also increase the safety and comfort of riders waiting for public transit.

Russell Pietrowiak from CMAP shared additional information about the JARC/NF programs. In this year's application process, there were enough funds to award everyone who applied. However, the selection committee didn't recommend awards to everyone who applied. Those agencies that received previous awards but had not implemented those projects were not recommended to receive funding in the current program, even if the application was for a different project. Also, Mr. Pietrowiak suggested

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

looking at other projects for examples, because there were several non-traditional projects that were recommended for funding. For example, a foundation requested JARC funding for a loan program to get cars for very low-income workers. The federal money would be used as a loan guarantee, not for loan payments. This type of program has been implemented in 43 communities around the country. The current list of recommended projects can be found at www.rtachicago.com under Initiatives/Funding Programs.

Mr. Osborn explained that to access the federal funds (JARC/NF), the consolidated and integrated service will require registration. Depending on the funding source, program-eligible trips are taken by workers at or below 200% of poverty or by people with disabilities. In addition, an Intergovernmental Agreement between the pilot program partners will be necessary. The County will convene that group and begin working on an agreement shortly. Ms. Goeske said that right now her students use a generic registration, but she would be willing to work with individual students to get them registered. Ms. Chadderdon said that the County will work with the McHenry County Transition Force to individually register all students who might use the service as soon as the federal grant registration requirements are finalized. There will be a comprehensive registration program for anyone who might use the service.

Mr. Osborn provided an update on the pilot program application to the Senior Services Grant program as discussed at the previous meeting. The Senior Services Grant Commission recommended approval of the pilot program application at \$200,000 and the County Board approved the award at its meeting on September 21, 2010. The Senior Services Grant funding provides funding for senior trips in the pilot program.

Mr. Pietrowiak mentioned that the Pace call centers that support many transit operations have received heavy investment from the RTA to get up and running with the understanding that they will not need long-term federal government funding. The funds for this year's RTA grant programs will be available in the spring of 2011, and it is encouraged that funds are expended as soon as possible. For the following call for projects that will occur in late summer of 2011 for a 2012 fund award, projects applying for additional years of funding must demonstrate how well they are meeting the targets they set on their 2011 application. Applicants can apply three times for the same program, and can ask for multiple years of funding. Beyond next year, changes in the funding may occur with reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. Mr. Pietrowiak urged everyone to speak to their representatives in Congress about the importance of this funding. Even if there is no highway reauthorization bill, the JARC program will have a call for projects next year because the fund balance remains at about \$4 million.

In response to the previous meeting's discussion regarding clusters of transit origins and destinations, the County produced a map showing Transportation Origins and Destinations for several services. Mr. Osborn shared the map which includes data for the dial-a-rides in Crystal Lake, McHenry, and Woodstock, the pilot program, McHenry Township Senior Express, Faith in Action, NISRA, and Pioneer Center's Pace Routes. This map is the first look at this type of data for McHenry County and will receive

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

regular updates. Mr. Logan said that for boarding and alighting information for the fixed routes, Pace's planning department may have conducted a survey of the fixed routes in McHenry County.

Ms. Chadderdon recently learned about the Hebron Community Bus Service and the Village President gave her some basic details, which she shared with the group. The service began around 2002 with a partnership between the school district and the Village of Hebron. It uses an accessible bus and makes up to two trips per week to surrounding areas including McHenry, Lake Geneva, and Woodstock. It also makes special event trips on occasion. The service is open to the general public, 16 years or older, but is mostly used by seniors. The Village pays for the driver and fuel and the school district provides the vehicle. Anyone interested in finding out more can contact the Village Clerk at Village Hall (815-648-2353).

Also, a website with past ITF minutes and agendas and helpful links is now available online. This web page is housed on the McHenry County Division of Transportation's website under the County Transit Plan and will serve as a repository of information for this group. The direct web link is www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/dot/Pages/TransitPlanITF.aspx.

The next meeting of the Implementation Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building – Conference Room A. The following meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Osborn adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Action Items From July 2010 Meeting

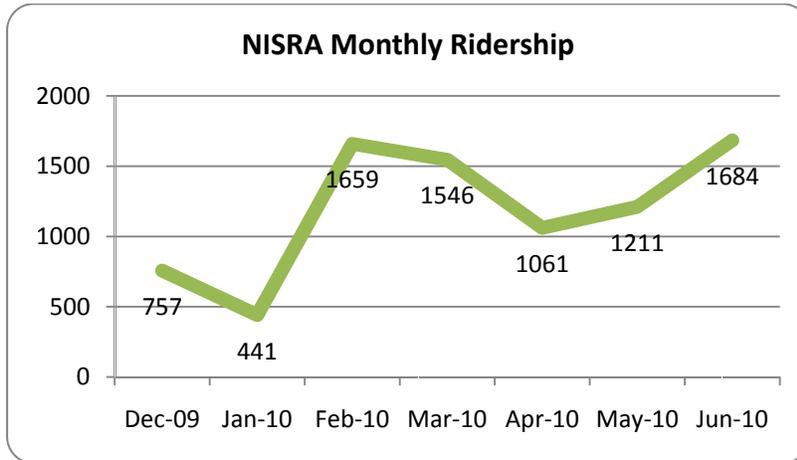
1. COMPLETE - Increase visibility of Implementation Task Force through web presence and inclusion in township/municipal websites and newsletters – Sarah Chadderdon
2. COMPLETE - Add origin/destination cluster analysis to Transit Grant Program Summary – Sarah Chadderdon
3. COMPLETE - Submit grant application on behalf of pilot program to Senior Services Grant Commission – Jason Osborn

Transit Grant Program Summary – September 2010

Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association

Full trip data received for Dec 09-Jun 10

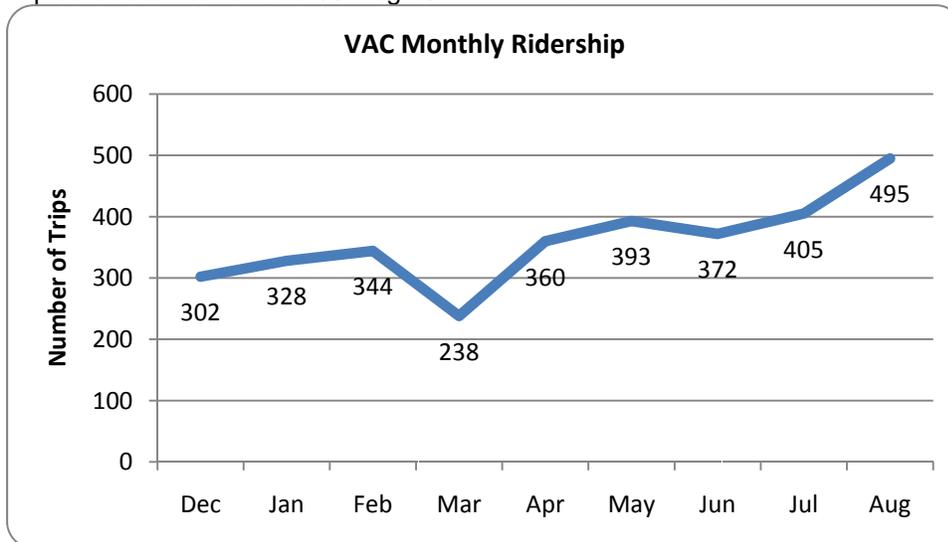
Average daily ridership is 55 and the range is 2 to 175 riders per day. The average ridership also varies by day of week.



Average Trips per Day	
Sunday	40
Monday	46
Tuesday	41
Wednesday	61
Thursday	31
Friday	77
Saturday	77

Veterans Assistance Commission

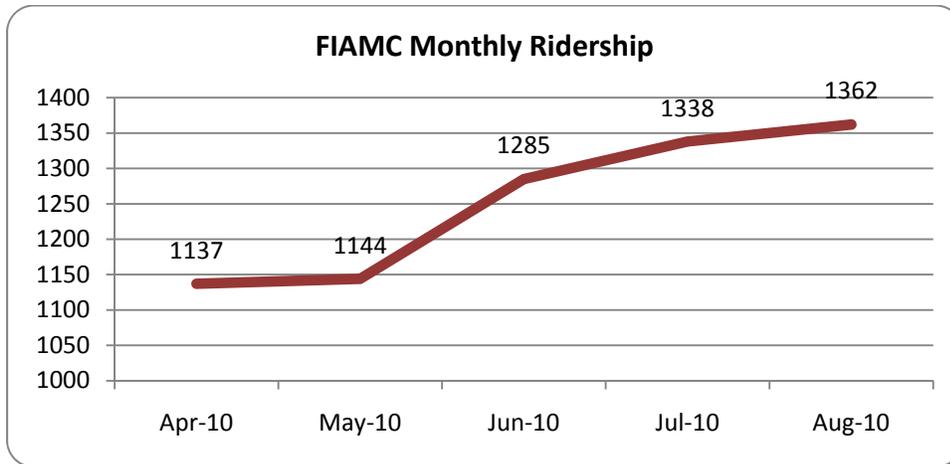
Trip data received for Dec 09-Aug 10



- Average of 360 trips per month
- Average daily ridership is 11 and the range is 4 to 26 trips per day. Transportation is provided mostly on weekdays, and Thursday is the most common day for service.
- 87% of trips are for seniors 55 and over
- The service uses 4 pickup points – veterans access points on their own or arrange rides through Faith in Action. From April through August 2010, pickup points were accessed as follows:
 - Woodstock - 45%
 - Crystal Lake - 26%
 - McHenry West - 25%
 - McHenry VFW - 5%

Faith in Action of McHenry County

Corrected data received for April through August of 2010.



- 17% of trips were to locations outside of McHenry County including Elgin, Carpentersville, and Barrington
- Volunteers provide an average of 41 trips per day, and the range is 1 to 90 trips per day.

Average Trips per Day	
Sunday	4
Monday	45
Tuesday	46
Wednesday	58
Thursday	59
Friday	59
Saturday	17

Trip Purpose	
Education	0.1%
Employment	3.2%
Medical	81.9%
Shopping / Personal	11.3%
Social / Recreational	3.5%

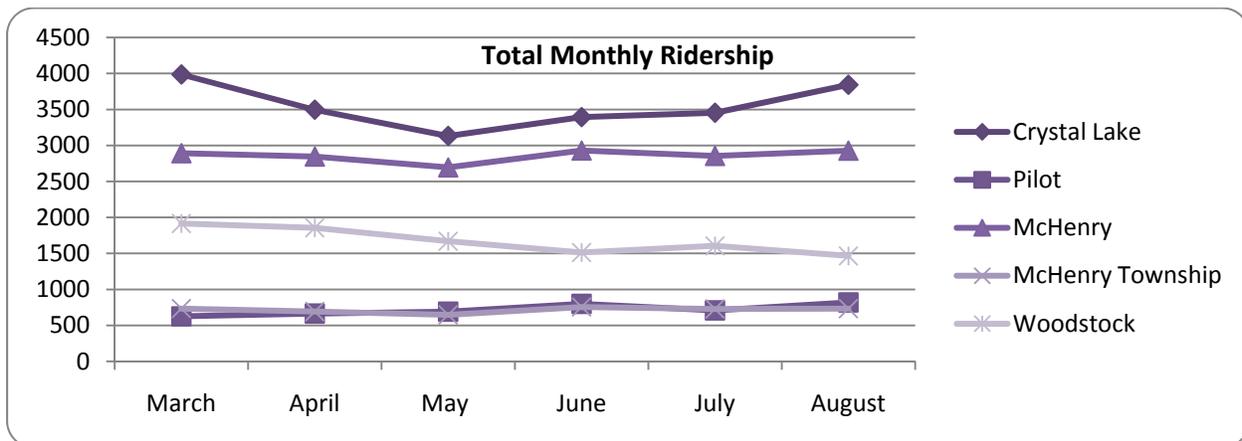
City of Marengo

Additional service hours began on August 2, 2010, allowing one additional hour per weekday and 4 hours on Saturday. In the first month of additional hours of service, four trips were taken, all during the Saturday hours of service. Three out of the four trips were for work.

Pilot Program

*All August 2010 data referred to in this report is preliminary data.

Total Monthly Ridership	March	April	May	June	July	August*	Average
Crystal Lake	3986	3496	3132	3393	3454	3842	3551
Pilot	626	665	691	799	709	819	718
McHenry	2893	2846	2695	2929	2855	2928	2858
McHenry Township	734	693	647	756	728	733	715
Woodstock	1916	1855	1669	1513	1605	1466	1671
All Services	10155	9555	8834	9390	9351	9788	9484



Fare Type Summary*	Crystal Lake	Pilot	McHenry	McHenry Township	Woodstock	All Services
General Public	46%	98%	23%	1%	23%	35%
Disabled	30%	0%	45%	2%	38%	32%
Senior	16%	0%	27%	97%	23%	25%
Student	5%	0%	0%	0%	12%	4%
FREE	3%	2%	5%	0%	3%	4%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

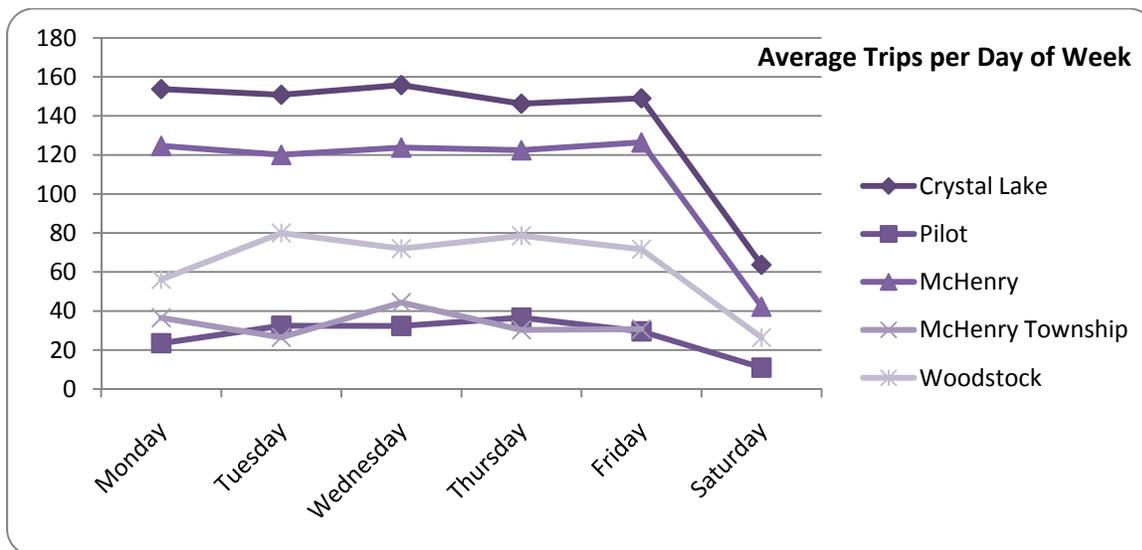
* Fare type data from March 2010 – August 2010

Capacity Denials	April	May	June	July	August*	Average
Crystal Lake	8	6	6	15	9	9
Pilot	10	20	23	21	15	18
McHenry	2	6	5	4	7	5
McHenry Township	18	12	19	14	3	13
Woodstock	4	10	8	14	21	11
All Services	42	54	61	68	55	56

Call takers have been requesting trip purpose since May 1, 2010. About 62% of travelers have reported their trip purpose since May.

Trip Purpose	Percent of Those Reporting
Medical	11%
School	6%
Senior Services	3%
Shopping/Personal	28%
Social	27%
Work	25%

Average Trips per Day of Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Crystal Lake	154	151	156	146	149	64
Pilot	23	32	32	37	30	11
McHenry	125	120	124	122	126	42
McHenry Township	37	26	44	30	31	
Woodstock	56	80	72	79	72	26
All Services	395	410	427	414	406	143

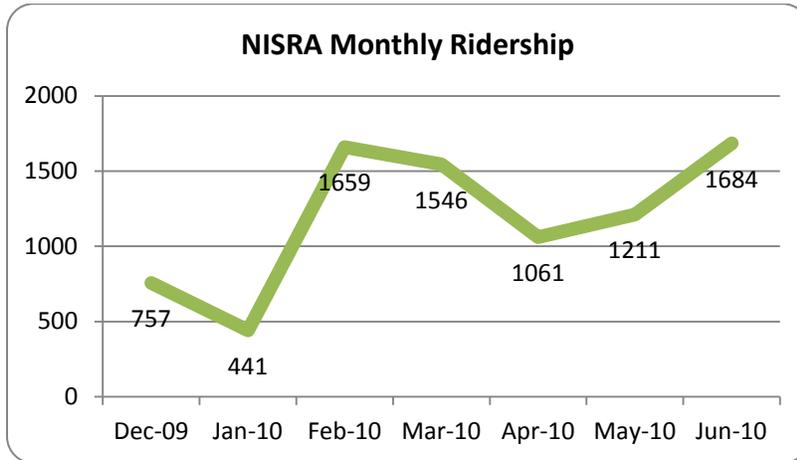


Transit Grant Program Summary – September 2010

Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association

Full trip data received for Dec 09-Jun 10

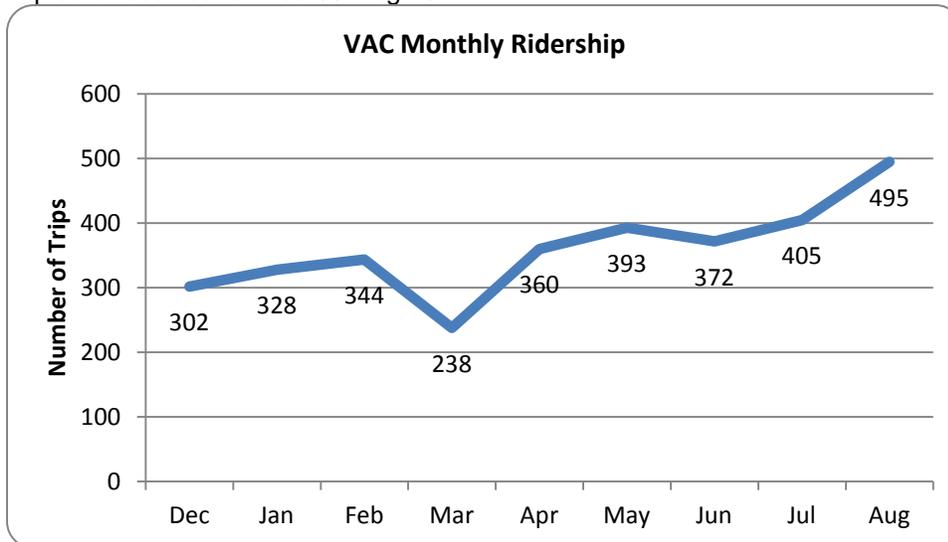
Average daily ridership is 55 and the range is 2 to 175 riders per day. The average ridership also varies by day of week.



Average Trips per Day	
Sunday	40
Monday	46
Tuesday	41
Wednesday	61
Thursday	31
Friday	77
Saturday	77

Veterans Assistance Commission

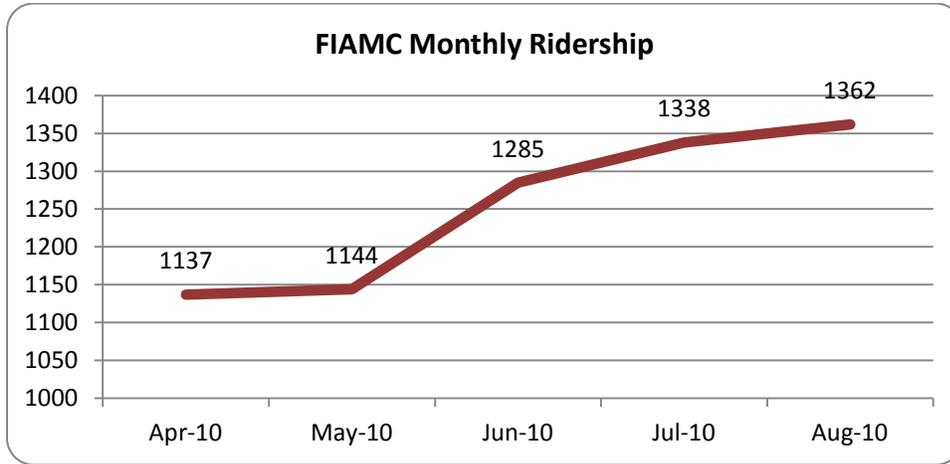
Trip data received for Dec 09-Aug 10



- Average of 360 trips per month
- Average daily ridership is 11 and the range is 4 to 26 trips per day. Transportation is provided mostly on weekdays, and Thursday is the most common day for service.
- 87% of trips are for seniors 55 and over
- The service uses 4 pickup points – veterans access points on their own or arrange rides through Faith in Action. From April through August 2010, pickup points were accessed as follows:
 - Woodstock - 45%
 - Crystal Lake - 26%
 - McHenry West - 25%
 - McHenry VFW - 5%

Faith in Action of McHenry County

Corrected data received for April through August of 2010.



- 17% of trips were to locations outside of McHenry County including Elgin, Carpentersville, and Barrington
- Volunteers provide an average of 41 trips per day, and the range is 1 to 90 trips per day.

Average Trips per Day	
Sunday	4
Monday	45
Tuesday	46
Wednesday	58
Thursday	59
Friday	59
Saturday	17

Trip Purpose	
Education	0.1%
Employment	3.2%
Medical	81.9%
Shopping / Personal	11.3%
Social / Recreational	3.5%

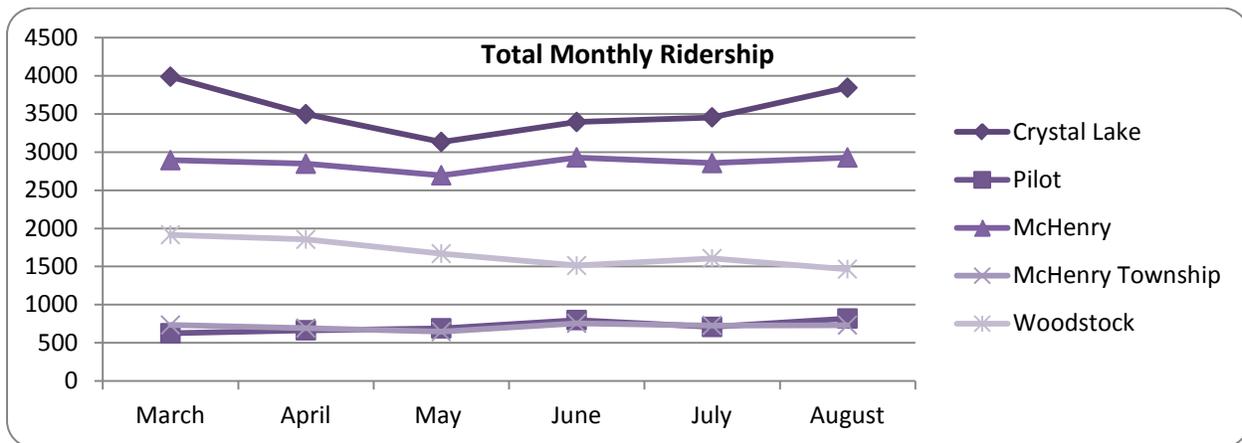
City of Marengo

Additional service hours began on August 2, 2010, allowing one additional hour per weekday and 4 hours on Saturday. In the first month of additional hours of service, four trips were taken, all during the Saturday hours of service. Three out of the four trips were for work.

Pilot Program

*All August 2010 data referred to in this report is preliminary data.

Total Monthly Ridership	March	April	May	June	July	August*	Average
Crystal Lake	3986	3496	3132	3393	3454	3842	3551
Pilot	626	665	691	799	709	819	718
McHenry	2893	2846	2695	2929	2855	2928	2858
McHenry Township	734	693	647	756	728	733	715
Woodstock	1916	1855	1669	1513	1605	1466	1671
All Services	10155	9555	8834	9390	9351	9788	9484



Fare Type Summary*	Crystal Lake	Pilot	McHenry	McHenry Township	Woodstock	All Services
General Public	46%	98%	23%	1%	23%	35%
Disabled	30%	0%	45%	2%	38%	32%
Senior	16%	0%	27%	97%	23%	25%
Student	5%	0%	0%	0%	12%	4%
FREE	3%	2%	5%	0%	3%	4%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

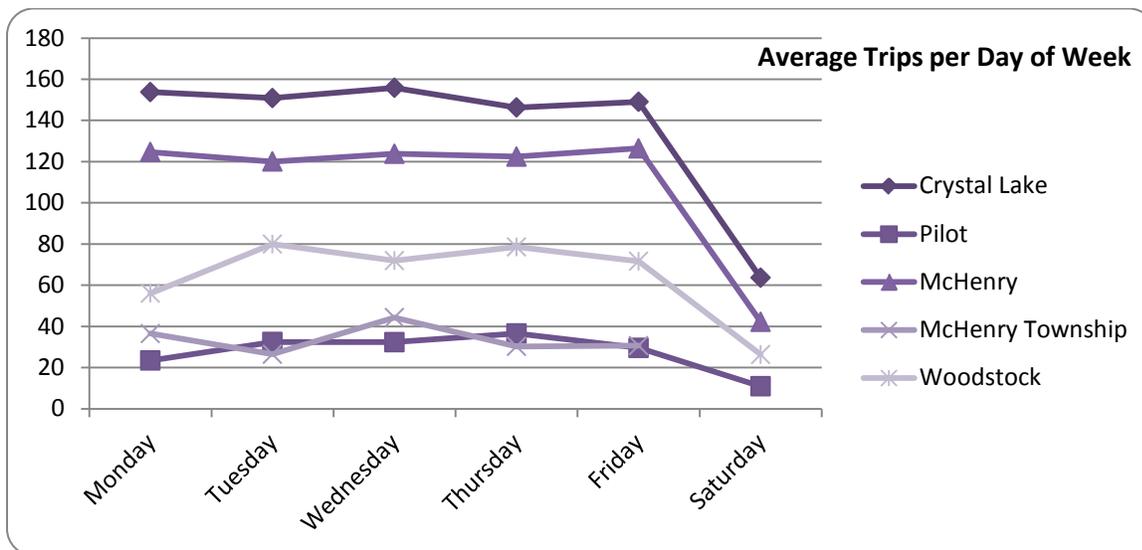
* Fare type data from March 2010 – August 2010

Capacity Denials	April	May	June	July	August*	Average
Crystal Lake	8	6	6	15	9	9
Pilot	10	20	23	21	15	18
McHenry	2	6	5	4	7	5
McHenry Township	18	12	19	14	3	13
Woodstock	4	10	8	14	21	11
All Services	42	54	61	68	55	56

Call takers have been requesting trip purpose since May 1, 2010. About 62% of travelers have reported their trip purpose since May.

Trip Purpose	Percent of Those Reporting
Medical	11%
School	6%
Senior Services	3%
Shopping/Personal	28%
Social	27%
Work	25%

Average Trips per Day of Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Crystal Lake	154	151	156	146	149	64
Pilot	23	32	32	37	30	11
McHenry	125	120	124	122	126	42
McHenry Township	37	26	44	30	31	
Woodstock	56	80	72	79	72	26
All Services	395	410	427	414	406	143



Grafton Township Update

The Board of Grafton Township did unanimously vote to raise rates to our riders. We were at \$1 per local ride, one way, and they are now \$2 per one way ride. The longer rides, such as going to locations along Randall Road and to the Woodstock hospital were \$4. and are now \$5. one way. The rates are the same for all of the Del Webb residents, whether they are in Grafton/McHenry or Rutland/Kane Counties because of financial consideration from Village of Huntley.

The Board did not expand the bus service at this time, to connect with any Pace locations. We had talked about expanding to Spring Hill Mall (a Pace connector), the Two Elgin hospitals and the local doctors offices near them and some locations in McHenry County to connect with Pace Pilot Program or other Townships. That may come up again in the next few months.

NISRA Update

NISRA offers 16 Summer Day Camps at 9 locations beginning June 14th through July 29th. The camps are held Monday – Thursday with participants having an option of utilizing a pick up with transport to camp and then drop off with transport to a location in one of the thirteen communities/Park Districts served by NISRA. In addition, for 7 Fridays in a row, NISRA offers all day fieldtrips. To accommodate the increase in demand for transportation services, NISRA dedicated four of its' vehicles to Summer Day Camp and contracted with Barrington Transportation Services for 5 buses, and contracted for 1 bus from the SEDOM Transportation Services. The Summer Day Camp program and Friday Field Trips were in addition to the typical seasonal recreation programs offered.

Hebron Community Bus Service

Began around 2002 with a partnership between the school district and the Village of Hebron. Uses an accessible bus and makes up to 2 trips per week to surrounding areas including McHenry, Lake Geneva, and Woodstock. Also makes special event trips on occasion. Open to the general public, 16 years or older, but is mostly used by seniors. Village pays for driver and fuel and the school district provides the vehicle. Can contact the Village Clerk at Village Hall (815-648-2353) or the Alden-Hebron School District for more information.