

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan
Implementation Task Force

DATE: September 28, 2011

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

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1. **Call to Order** – Jason Osborn (MCDOT)
 2. **Public Participation/Open Comment Period**
 3. **Transit Plan Steering Committee**
 - Discuss the Role of the ITF in On-going Planning Efforts
 - Establishing a Steering Committee for the Transit Plan
 4. **Transit Grant Program**
 - County service update – Jason Osborn
 - Algonquin Township Road District – Anna May Miller
 - City of Marengo – Josh Blakemore
 - Faith in Action – Thomas Aquilina
 - Veterans Assistance Commission – Mike Iwanicki
 5. **Funding Program Updates**
 - McHenry County JARC/NF project status – Jason Osborn
 - County Fiscal Year 2012 Funding
 6. **Other Business**
 7. **Next ITF Bimonthly Meetings**

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Following meeting: TBD
 8. **Adjournment**

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Minutes

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Attendees

City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell

City of McHenry: Doug Martin

City of Woodstock: Roscoe Stelford

Dorr Township: Bob Pierce

Faith in Action of McHenry County: Tom Aquilina

McHenry County Staff: Jason Osborn, Wally Dittrich, Brittany Graham

McHenry County Deputy Administrator: John Labaj

Metra: Rick Mack

Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging: Donna Copeland Hill

Pace: Brad Logan, Mary Donner, Dan Dembinski, Sally Ann Williams

Resident: Andrew Celentano

IDOT: Amy Welk

Pioneer Center: Tom Riley

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

Jason Osborn from McHenry County summarized the scope of work for the Transit Plan and provided a copy to everyone. He mentioned that the RTA thought it would be a good idea for an assigned group to undertake the technical reviews of transit plan documents. This will be the Transit Plan Steering committee. The proposed steering committee includes Amy Welk (IDOT), Rick Mack (Metra), Chalen Daigel (Council of Mayors), Anna Moeller, (Council of Governments), Lorraine Snorden (Pace), Tom Riley (Pioneer Center). Mr. Osborn then asked if there was anyone to add to or take off the current list. Everyone agreed on the proposed steering committee members.

Mr. Osborn provided an update on the County's planning process including finances and public input. Public input has been gathered from a variety of events including the

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County Fair and the Huntley Fall Fest. The public comments will be merged with county staff's analysis of current and future trends.

Donna Copeland Hill asked what RTA is doing for Livable Communities. All crossings need to be made safe. Mr. Osborn stated that it was important to look at transportation from a senior's perspective, which will cover the needs of all county residents. Staff has put together a memo on seniors and transportation and will send it to Donna Copeland Hill.

Mr. Osborn explained how the transit component of the plan will study the operations of the fixed routes and evaluate how these routes can be modified to reduce demand on the demand response systems. The City of McHenry is seeing an increase in ridership. They had their highest ridership in August.

Mary Donner from Pace pointed out that a video segment on the McHenry County Dial-A-Ride is on pace.com in the YouTube section.

A project update was provided from Thomas Aquilina from Faith in Action. Rhonda Anderson, the executive director resigned. Sarah Ponitz will be the new executive director. He pointed out that the senior population is continuing to increase, social security has not increased in two years, and health care and insurance costs are increasing. The senior population is struggling. Faith in Action wants to expand their database.

Deputy County Administrator John Labaj provided an update on the Senior Grant Commission. The commission recognizes that transit is a very important service for seniors.

A project update from Mike Iwanicki was provided. Jason Osborn then mentioned that Marengo has a change at their call center. Now, riders need to call the day before their needed trip. The number of trips has decreased, but the change has decreased the service costs. This service will continue to be tracked. Pace mentioned that a contract renewal is coming up and they need to talk with Marengo.

Jason Osborn gave an update on funding programs. They will move forward with a single contract in October to allow more flexibility in vehicle use and reduce costs. \$800,000 of federal funding could then be used. Jason Osborn also stated that the pilot program is now called MCRide.

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The meeting concluded at 3:00 with a reminder of the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the usual meeting site of the McHenry County Administration Building in Woodstock.