

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda

McHenry County Transit Plan
Implementation Task Force

DATE: February 9, 2011 (rescheduled from February 2, 2011)

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 (MCDOT)
2. **Public Participation/Open Comment Period**
3. **Transit Grant Program**
 - FY 2011 appropriations process – Jason Osborn (MCDOT)
 - FY 2010 Summary – Sarah Chadderdon (MCDOT)
4. **Program Evaluation Discussion**
 - Pilot Program/Expanded Dial-A-Ride performance measures – Sarah Chadderdon (MCDOT)
 - Transit Grant Program – Sarah Chadderdon (MCDOT)
5. **Funding Program Updates**
 - Subregional Planning Grant project management plan and project status – Jason Osborn (MCDOT)
 - JARC/NF project status – Jason Osborn (MCDOT)
6. **Other Implementation Activities**
 - Taxi and transit voucher program discussion – Jason Osborn (MCDOT)
7. **Other Business**
 - People in Need Forum report – Sarah Chadderdon (MCDOT)
8. **Next ITF Bimonthly Meetings**

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Following meeting: Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
9. **Adjournment**

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Minutes

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Action Items

1. Identify physical improvements would improve the transportation system and access to it – ALL
2. Identify taxi companies operating in McHenry County – ALL

Attendees

City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell

City of McHenry: Doug Martin

Dorr Township: Bob Pierce

Faith in Action of McHenry County: Rhonda Anderson

Illinois Bureau of Blind Services: Susan Dalton

McHenry County Staff: Jason Osborn, Sarah Chadderdon

McHenry County Board: Ersel Schuster

McHenry Township: Frank De Vita

Metra: Rick Mack

Pace: Mary Donner, Dan Dembinski, Bill Martin

Pioneer Center: Irene Jagla

Thresholds: Rich Schlottman

Sarah Chadderdon from the McHenry County Division of Transportation called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The attendees all introduced themselves. During open comment, Mary Donner from Pace gave a brief update on a booth staffed by Pace and the McHenry County DOT at the People in Need Forum on January 29 at McHenry County College. During the event, Pace and McHenry County were able to share information about transit options in the County with many human service providers and individuals in need of transportation.

Rhonda Anderson from Faith in Action reported an upcoming month-long Celebration of Older Americans. Faith in Action is partnering with Senior Services Associates and Family Alliance this May. There will be a kickoff event on the first Monday in May at Senior Services Associates in Crystal Lake. A calendar for the rest of the month is being developed. One program will encourage individuals to choose a senior to serve.

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Turning to the Transit Grant Program, Jason Osborn from the McHenry County Division of Transportation indicated that a resolution appropriating funds for the 2011 fiscal year is going to the two committees and the County Board on February 15. Earlier committee meetings had been cancelled due to the blizzard. In addition, DOT staff presented an evaluation and informational presentation on the pilot program to the County Board on February 1. The County Board was very engaged and interested in how it was performing.

Ms. Chadderdon provided a handout and brief descriptive summary and evaluation of the Transit Grant Program for 2010. The first year of the transit grant program was focused on data collection and service coordination and expansion. Six of the seven projects that were awarded funds met their established goals for service coordination or expansion and data collection. The remaining project's sponsors withdrew their application. The data collected from all participating projects was previously unavailable and will be useful to inform future planning efforts.

Mr. Osborn discussed the cycle of planning, funding, and operating transit service while evaluating service throughout the cycle. The RTA subregional planning grant the County is spearheading will continue this cycle and a consultant could be under contract potentially by May. The Implementation Task Force will be a key partner in the process, especially in reaching out to constituents and other agencies. Mr. Osborn challenged the ITF to answer the question "What physical improvements would improve the transportation system and access to it?" Transportation and transit plans can help target investments to areas that would improve system performance. The goal is to identify locations where investments in infrastructure have the most benefit.

Ms. Anderson explained that one barrier their transportation volunteers have is that they are transporting seniors who don't necessarily have handicap placards. When dropping off seniors and assisting them into the building, they aren't able to access handicap parking. Doug Martin from the City of McHenry noted that the placards and parking restrictions are covered by the Illinois Accessibility Code.

[Mr. Martin provided the following information after the meeting:

- *It looks like an individual person can apply for a disabled person identification card, plates or placard. From what I can tell they need to have a drivers license or State I.D. as well as a physicians certification. I am not sure if they need to have a disabled person I.D. to obtain a permanent placard and may want to check with the State. Application online: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x164.pdf*
- *Placards can be issued to organizations that transport persons with disabilities free of charge and expire on April 30, 2014. No physician signature is required for an organization placard. Contact the Sec. of State to find out if they qualify to obtain a placard and how they go about doing this.*
- *Links that may be useful:*

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- *Quick Reference Guide to the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities.*
www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/vsd687.pdf
- *Persons with Disabilities Certification for Parking Placard.*
www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/vsd62.pdf
- *Contact information:*
Secretary of State, Persons with Disabilities License Plates/Placard Unit
501 S. Second St., Rm. 541
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-2709 or 217-782-2434 or 217-782-3166]

Mr. Osborn also asked the ITF to help in gathering information about taxis that operate in McHenry County. Though taxi companies must register in municipalities where they are based, they often cover more than one municipality. The ITF can help by noting any taxis they see operating, including any that have accessible vehicles.

Ms. Donner reported that a bus shelter with advertising at Family Services in McHenry was approved by the McHenry City Council. In addition, four or five existing “bubble shelters” in McHenry will be replaced by new ad shelters. (For examples of ad shelters, go to <http://www.duo-gard.com/project-gallery/bus-shelters>.) Future ad shelters can be explored at high traffic locations such as at the courts in Woodstock. In some cases, municipalities waive the permitting fees because these shelters are provided through intergovernmental cooperation. Pace pays for the construction of the shelter and concrete pad. In McHenry, a waiver of the off-site advertising prohibition was necessary and was made possible because of community event advertising policies for the shelters.

Many individuals participating in the ITF are involved with finding trip solutions for people in the County, Mr. Osborn noted. On a regular basis, this meeting provides an opportunity for everyone to share solutions they’ve found. Together, the group can create a mobility guide for transit users in the County.

Regarding the RTA’s Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom grants programmed for the further coordination and integration of the pilot program, Mr. Osborn reported that the County Board Chairman will meet with the Mayors and City Managers for participating cities in the near future. Future discussions for that project will explore vouchers on the service. McHenry Township, Pioneer Center, and other agencies indicated a need for vouchers. Mr. Osborn brought up the possibility of coordinating Pioneer’s contracted routes with Pace’s fixed routes. Dan Dembinski from Pace said that if that was successful, it could lower costs and create additional availability for other services.

Mr. Osborn also noted that taxi vouchers have been discussed in the past and continue to be explored as an option. Ms. Anderson shared that Faith in Action had used a small grant to provide taxi vouchers as an emergency ride home option. However, their volunteers proved to be so reliable that they did not see much demand for the vouchers. Bill Martin from Pace commented that Ride in Kane and Ride DuPage both use taxis to provide overflow capacity complementing the dial-a-ride program. Both

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services operate 24 hours a day, and in addition to overflow services in the daytime, taxis are the only overnight providers from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. They have several taxi providers that have accessible vehicles for Kane and DuPage. Taxi services do provide a fairly large share of trips for Ride in Kane and are often used for longer trips in lieu of having a bus tied up for those longer trips.

For future meetings, reports from partners such as Metra or the Illinois Bureau of Blind Services will be encouraged and scheduled. In addition, regular installments of ridership information will be sought on a wider variety of transit services, including Pace fixed routes and Metra.

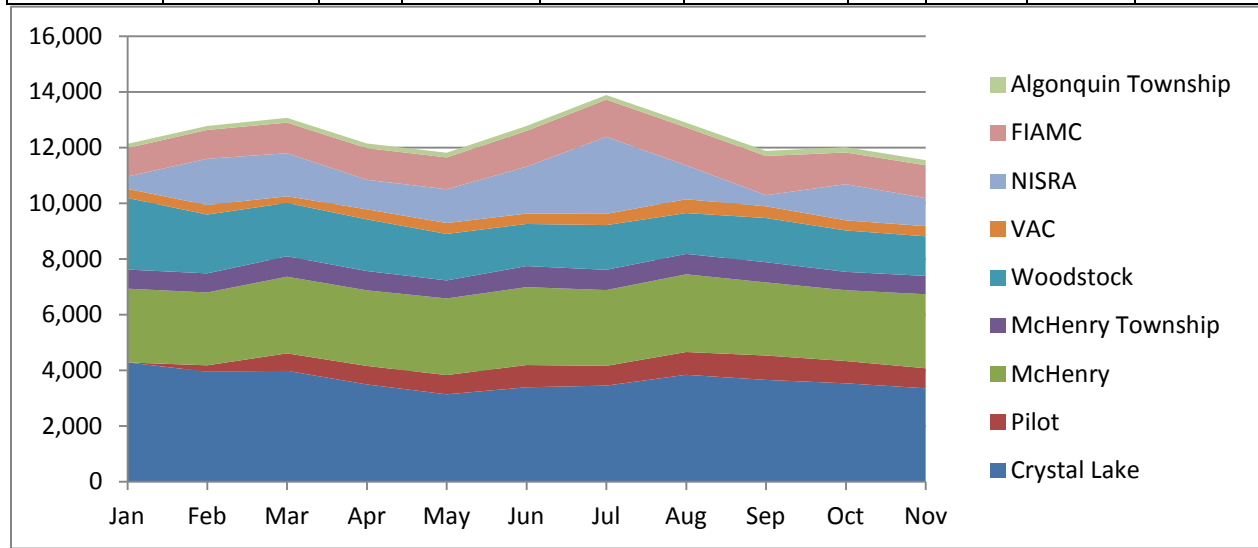
Action Items From November 2010 Meeting

3. IN PROGRESS – Bring Year 2 Transit Grant Program forward to County Board – Jason Osborn and Sarah Chadderdon
4. IN PROGRESS – Continue work towards initiating RTA Subregional Planning Grant – Jason Osborn and Sarah Chadderdon
5. IN PROGRESS – Continue work towards coordinated contract for pilot program – Jason Osborn and Sarah Chadderdon
6. COMPLETE (also in progress) – Evaluate pilot program – Jason Osborn and Sarah Chadderdon
7. IN PROGRESS – Explore options for pilot program name – Jason Osborn
8. Find out whether hold music is played on phones at Pace call center – Pace staff
9. Meet with school districts' Transition group to promote dial-a-ride – Pace staff
10. IN PROGRESS – Analyze capacity and denial issues on the pilot program – Sarah Chadderdon

2010 Transit Grant Program Summary – February 2011

Total Monthly Ridership

| | Crystal Lake | Pilot | McHenry | McHenry Township | Woodstock | VAC | NISRA | FIAMC | Algonquin Township |
|-----|--------------|-------|---------|------------------|-----------|-----|-------|--------------|--------------------|
| Jan | 4,287 | | 2,648 | 686 | 2,572 | 328 | 441 | 1,023 | 149 |
| Feb | 3,953 | 229 | 2,617 | 686 | 2,111 | 344 | 1,659 | 1,036 | 142 |
| Mar | 3,986 | 626 | 2,753 | 734 | 1,916 | 238 | 1,546 | 1,100 | 170 |
| Apr | 3,496 | 665 | 2,715 | 693 | 1,855 | 360 | 1,061 | 1,137 | 167 |
| May | 3,141 | 691 | 2,752 | 647 | 1,669 | 393 | 1,211 | 1,144 | 169 |
| Jun | 3,394 | 799 | 2,797 | 756 | 1,513 | 372 | 1,684 | 1,285 | 177 |
| Jul | 3,454 | 709 | 2,722 | 728 | 1,605 | 405 | 2,765 | 1,338 | 162 |
| Aug | 3,842 | 819 | 2,790 | 733 | 1,466 | 495 | 1,218 | 1,362 | 171 |
| Sep | 3,659 | 875 | 2,626 | 726 | 1,586 | 422 | 398 | 1,407 | 183 |
| Oct | 3,536 | 800 | 2,543 | 660 | 1,487 | 363 | 1,298 | 1,139 | 191 |
| Nov | 3,358 | 719 | 2,658 | 658 | 1,423 | 364 | 1,009 | 1,178 | 184 |



Total Registered Riders

| Pilot Program | NISRA | FIAMC | Algonquin Township |
|---------------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| 1,489 | 597 | 367 | 54 |

City of Marengo

One additional hour of service on weekdays (from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.) and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon began on August 2, 2010.

During the additional hours of service, the following trips were taken:

- August: 4 trips (4 Saturday)
- September: 9 trips (2 weekday, 7 Saturday)
- October: 13 trips (3 weekday, 10 Saturday)
- November: 22 trips (6 weekday, 16 Saturday)