

McHenry County Transit Plan Implementation Task Force

Agenda


DATE: January 14, 2015
TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building
Conference Room A
667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

1. **Call to Order** – ITF Chair
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Minutes Approval**
4. **Public Comment**
 - High School Senior Projects in Woodstock – A Celentano
5. **Subcommittee Reports**
6. **Old Business**
 - MCRide Update – Scott Hennings (MCDOT)
 - ITF Transportation Priorities
7. **New Business**
 - Approve 2015 Meeting Schedule & Locations
 - McHenry County Strategic Plan Review
 - Taxi Voucher Research Update
 - 2015 People in Need Forum
 - Transportation Program Overview Presentation
 - *Tom Riley (Pioneer Center)*
8. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting (tentative): March ~~25~~, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m.

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Minutes




DATE: January 14, 2015
TIME: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: McHenry County Administration Building
Conference Room C
667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

Attendees




Regional Transportation Authority Director: Blake Hobson
City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell
City of McHenry: Derik Morefield
Pace: Mary Donner, Kisha Hearn, Dan Dembinski
Metra: Rick Mack
Senior Care Volunteer Network: Sarah Ponitz
Senior Services Associates: Valerie Usalis, Deborah Danitz
Pioneer Center: Tom Riley
Illinois Bureau of Blind Services: Susan Dalton
McHenry County Bicycle Advocates: Eberhard Veit
McHenry County Council of Mayors: Janell Jensen
McHenry County Division of Transportation: Scott Hennings, Kirsten Mellem
Public: Joseph Holtorf (Grafton Township Trustee), Andrew Celentano (Woodstock Transportation Committee), Donna Copeland Hill (Northeastern IL Agency on Aging), Ronald Ecklund (CoC), James Kearns (Grafton Township Supervisor), Jane Dorfner (Veterans Assistance Commission), Shawna Price (Home of the Sparrow), Jaki Berggren (Visit McHenry), Lisa Armour (Village of Huntley)



Mr. Hobson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A motion was made to approve the minutes and they were approved unanimously. Mr. Hobson asked if anyone from the audience wanted to make a public comment. Mr. Celentano from the Woodstock Transportation Committee provided background on a partnership between Woodstock High Schools and the Woodstock Transportation Committee projects. Students in the past have done research for a semester or two on transportation issues in Woodstock, culminating in a report and presentation to city officials. Student engagement has resulted in scholarships to colleges in IL and greater interest in STEM fields. Mr. Celentano suggested that this partnership may be extended to the ITF and MCC students. A copy of Mr. Celentano notes is attached.

Next, Mr. Hennings, Principal Transportation Planner from MCDOT gave an update on the MCRide dial-a-ride program. He informed the group that the Village of Lakewood and Nunda Township have been added. Trips have continued to increase, the cost per trip



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has decreased, and fare box recovery is at 10%. The expansion of the MCRide service is set for March 2, 2015. The City of Harvard, Village of Huntley, City of Marengo, Village of Johnsburg, Village of Ringwood, Grafton Township, and Marengo Township will be joining the service. The final MCRide resolution will be before the County Board on February 3, 2015 at 9am.

Questions came from the group regarding the marketing efforts for expansion. Ms. Donner informed the group that information will be distributed to all the partner communities for inclusion in their community newsletters. Mr. Hennings, Ms. Mellem, and Ms. Donner will be attending the People in Need Forum, where face-to-face outreach will be done to all the service organizations in McHenry County. Mr. Hennings informed the group that marketing will rely heavily on the established methods of communication between the partner communities and their constituents, as well as a press release and email blast to include the brochure and rider's guide.

Another question came from the group regarding the number of additional buses that will be added to the service area in regards to the expansion. Ms. Hearn, from Pace, provided the total number of vehicles dedicated to the MCRide service as 18.

Next, Ms. Mellem provided a little background on the Title VI Program request from the RTA. Part of the compliance requests the members of the ITF, an appointed committee, to self-identify their racial or ethnic heritage by making a tally mark in the box. This information will be included in the Title VI Program document that will be provided to the RTA, no one will be linked to their answer.

Mr. Hennings and Ms. Donner presented the news that a new bus route will be added in McHenry County, the Pace Route 809 from Richmond to Fox Lake. This route is a commuter shuttle between downtown Richmond and the Fox Lake Metra station; making two runs in the morning and two runs in the evening. A motion was made to write a letter of support for Route 809 to the Transportation Committee. The motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Donner abstained.

Next, Mr. Hobson gave an update on the ITF Transportation Priorities list, which was requested by Chairman Hobson at the November, 2014 ITF meeting. Mr. Hobson met with the MCEDC and the Metra Executive Director. Estimates to the list were provided by Mr. Hennings from various data sources and previous reports. Mr. Hobson asked the committee to fill in the "Importance To:" column with a 0 – 5 rating and to send your input to Mr. Hobson in the next two weeks.

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Next, Mr. Hennings presented the 2015 Meeting Schedule & Locations to the committee. Meetings will now be the second Wednesday of odd months. A motion was made to approve the new schedule and it was unanimously approved.

Next, Mr. Hennings gave an update on the McHenry County Strategic Plan. This is to make the ITF aware of the goals set out by the County Board.

Next, Ms. Mellem presented a memo to the ITF committee members regarding taxi voucher research requested by the Transportation Committee. Ms. Mellem requested information from the members with their experience with and/or knowledge of taxi voucher subsidy programs and how it may be applied to McHenry County. Further discussion and a recommendation for the Transportation Committee will be solicited at the next ITF meeting.

Next, Mr. Hennings informed the group of the People in Need Forum on January 31, 2015 at the MCC from 8am – 12noon. Ms. Donner and Mr. Hennings will be on a panel discussing transportation options in McHenry County. All committee members are encourage to attend and inform their constituents of the event.

The next part of the agenda is to acquaint members with the organizations represented on the committee. Mr. Riley provided a brief overview of Pioneer Center and their transportation needs. Pioneer Center is a non-profit organization that provides direct services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, behavioral health services and counseling, and homelessness services. Many of the issues concerning transportation are for disabled, low-income, homeless or at-risk clients. Transportation is needed to/from medical appointments, jobs, grocery stores, day centers, church shelters, community activities, and residences. Future needs include Pace routes in underserved areas: Huntley and Richmond, more evening/weekend service, expanded MCRide service area, and collaboration between organizations. A copy of the handout provided by Mr. Riley is attached.

Next, Mr. Hobson mentioned that the ITF may choose to change their name to better reflect the role as an advisory committee to the County Board Transportation Committee. Ideas should be brought forth at the March ITF meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ms. Donner and a second by Mr. Mitchell at 3:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the ITF is scheduled for March 11, 2015 at 2:00pm.

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Notes from Andrew Celentano: 1/14/2015

Andrew Celentano, Chairman of the Woodstock Transportation Commission. The following views are mine and do not represent either the Commission or the City of Woodstock.

In 2010 at a McHenry Transportation Committee meeting students presented a project regarding the Calhoun Street rail crossing. It was received so well I asked the teacher for a presentation at the Woodstock Transportation Commission. We took off from there.

The commission drew up a list of over 20 projects. All were real and could, in some iteration, be implemented in the future.

Two years later the projects became a graded class under Project Lead the Way, a national program for Science Technology Engineering and Math students. That was done by Stephen T Thompson the leader of the program at Woodstock High.

The commission's liaison, Jeff Van Landuyt of Woodstock's public works, has been vital to the process.

Woodstock High has done several projects. One of which was the creation of a Woodstock centric bus system. The report which was used by one of the students to secure a \$15,000 scholarship to Bradley and another to get a one year internship to Berlin, Germany plus entrance into Purdue.

The projects require a power point presentation at a Transportation Commission meeting and a write-up. We also ask for their comments on the processes and have made several changes based on those comments. Other projects included bike paths, a bike rental program, reconfiguration of a sloping sidewalk to be ADA compliant, and recently a five way roundabout at Madison and South Streets which will be entered in a federal competition.

Two projects done by the Marian Central engineering club: road stripping for pedestrian crossings on route 14 and an improved sidewalk system made of recycled plastic. On their own they found a manufacturer of solar aggregate that glows in the dark for paths and sidewalks. They also had a manufacturer's representative at the meeting who agreed to install a test strip in town.

Inclusion of local experts to come and answer questions including: police, trucking company owner, city manager, fire chief, MCDOT engineer, PACE, Mr Eberhard Viet, a transportation consultant and others. All of whom were pleasantly surprised at the interest and knowledge of the students. We look forward to working with Woodstock North when they come on line with PLTW in a year or two.

The city of Wheeling is moving forward with interaction with its high school and the city of New Hyde Park in New York is also looking into the process. Both are very interested. Our local state representative has express interest in investigating state interaction with McHenry College for bigger projects. Last night the Woodstock Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to help students work on a conservation area.

Questions.



4100 Veterans Parkway -McHenry, Illinois 60050
(815) 344-1230 - www.pioneercenter.org

- Pioneer Center has been serving McHenry County since 1959
 - Three Divisions – 32 Programs
 - Over 4800 clients served last year
 - 23 facilities – including 18 Residential – located throughout County
 - In operation year round – Residential 24/7 – Day Programs 7a.m. -8 p.m. M-F
- Client Transportation
 - Disabled, low-income, homeless or at-risk
 - Majority either do not have license, vehicle and/or financial difficulties
 - Transportation needed to/from:
 - Treatment and vocational facilities
 - Medical, dental or related healthcare appointments
 - Jobs, employment (interviews) or educational opportunities
 - Grocery stores, Walmart, Target or related stores
 - Community inclusion activities or life skills training
 - Social events, recreational opportunities, outings or church
 - PADS church shelters or Day Center
 - Residence (community home or apartment, group homes)
- Type of Transportation:
 - Pioneer Center Vehicles
 - Para-transit vehicles and vans
 - Programs – Residential, Community, Vocational & PADS
 - Staff Drivers – PADS & CES
 - PACE
 - Route busses
 - McRide
 - Contracted PACE routes
 - Metra
 - Townships (Richmond, McHenry)
 - Staff Transportation (mileage reimbursement)
 - Parent/Caregiver (or have own vehicle)
- Transportation Assistance
 - PACE discounted passes (Ventra card)
 - Metra/PACE/McRide tickets
 - Gas cards
 - Limited funds towards vehicle repairs/maintenance
- Future Needs or Possible Solutions:
 - Additional PACE routes in underserved (Huntley, Richmond) areas
 - More evening and/or weekend service (McRide and/or PACE)
 - Expanded McRide service area
 - PACE Advantage Van Program
 - Collaboration