



MCHENRY COUNTY
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)
MINUTES • MAY 11, 2016

Public Meeting

Conference Room A

2:00 PM

667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Hobson at 2:00 PM.

A. Roll Call

Regional Transportation Authority Director: Blake Hobson
City of Crystal Lake: Brad Mitchell
City of McHenry: Doug Martin
City of Woodstock: Jeff Van Landuyt
McHenry Township: Craig Adams
Dorr Township: Bob Pierce
Greenwood Township: Barbara Klasen
Pace: Mary Donner
Metra: Rick Mack
Senior Care Volunteer Network: Sarah Ponitz
Pioneer Center: Tom Riley
Lake County Center for Independent Living: Jenny Farley
McHenry County Division of Transportation: Scott Hennings
McHenry County Health Department: Michael Hill
McHenry County Planning and Development Department: Dennis Sandquist
Continuum of Care to End Homelessness: Ronald Ecklund

B. Introductions

Scott Hennings introduced the new MCDOT Transportation Planner Sidney Kenyon. Mr. Kenyon will take over all responsibilities related to the Planner position in regards to support and administration of the Public Transportation Advisory Committee.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

Minutes of the previous PTAC meeting in November of 2015 were not yet prepared for approval, and were so resolved to be approved in the July committee meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were given.

IV. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES - NONE

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. RTA Presentation

Patricia Fitzgerald, McHenry County's Mobility Outreach Coordinator, presented on the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) programs for people with disabilities and older adults. She informed the committee on the requirements of new applicants to RTA programs, regional paratransit programs and rider eligibility, and the changes that will be made to RTA's mobility outreach programs. Ms.

Donner inquired about which programs have been moved online, to which Ms. Fitzgerald responded that the Benefit Access Program is the only program that receives online applications. Ms. Fitzgerald also discussed the revival of RTA's Travel Training Program, how the program teaches senior citizens individuals with disabilities to ride transit and navigate the Chicago metropolitan region, and how to refer interested individuals to apply for the program. Mr. Hobson commented that he appreciated how the reorganized Mobility Outreach programs will address a need to educate and accommodate senior citizens and persons with disabilities on how to utilize public transit in McHenry County. He also expressed his thanks to the McHenry County Health Department for allowing Ms. Fitzgerald to borrow office space for RTA Mobility Outreach services. Mr. Hobson inquired when Ms. Fitzgerald would begin her activities in McHenry County. She responded that the date was uncertain, but that some programs like Travel Training, as well as outreach efforts, had already begun. Mr. Ecklund asked how seating arrangements are made regarding disabled persons on transit vehicles, and whether or not drivers could enforce wheelchair seating rules. Ms. Fitzgerald responded that, officially, people do not need to move for handicapped persons on transit vehicles. Mr. Hobson expressed his appreciation that Ms. Fitzgerald presented to the Committee. Mr. Ecklund asked how to schedule a presentation, to which Ms. Fitzgerald responded with open times and her plans to attend upcoming County meetings.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. MCRide Status Report

Sidney Kenyon of MCDOT presented a status update on MCRide's ridership, costs, and revenues through April of 2016. Mr. Kenyon informed the committee that ridership overall was in-line with 2015 figures. 38% of trips were arranged for work purposes, with half of those work trips being taken by persons with disabilities. 49% of all trips were taken by riders with disabilities, and senior citizens were over 20% of riders. Mr. Kenyon informed the Committee that costs per trip had increased by \$1.50 since February of 2015, while revenues were \$1,200 below farebox intake over the same time period. Over time, monthly trips have varied while total mileage is in-line with expectations. Mr. Riley inquired about the reasons for fluctuations in costs per trip, to which Mr. Kenyon responded that fluctuations in trip length and fuel costs are some factors that contribute to those changes. Mr. Hennings also added that it is difficult to pinpoint specific reasons for trip costs and per mile cost changes. Mr. Hobson asked about the number of distinct riders, to which Mr. Hennings responded that numbers for 2016 were in-line with expectations. Mr. Ecklund expressed his appreciation for the level of detail regarding the current MCRide status reports and commented that the knowledge put forth was relevant for understanding how the service impacts the general public. He asked if Mr. Kenyon would attend Continuum of Care meetings, to which Mr. Kenyon responded that he would keep up with meetings as much as possible. Ms. Klasen asked if expansion of MCRide to accommodate all residents for townships that are currently not participating in the program had been considered by MCDOT. Mr. Hennings responded that the Division had not yet brought a proposal to the County Board for approval, and offered his and Mr. Kenyon's assistance in assessing what the costs would be to accommodate the general public in additional townships. Mr. Hobson commented that Ms. Klasen should contact her County Board members to inform them of the need for MCRide expansion.

B. Pace Route 550 Status Report

Mary Donner provided an update regarding the ridership of the Pace Route 550 in McHenry County, in the month of December. Ms. Donner noted that trips in which boardings and/or alightings that took place in McHenry County were all that was presented in the facts. Mr. Hobson asked if riders in McHenry County could be counted twice, to which Ms. Donner responded yes. She noted that new routes take some time to gain ridership, and its extension and schedule changes will eventually expand ridership to larger numbers. Ms. Donner informed the Committee that the new Bus on Shoulder Program will increase ridership on feeder routes like Route 550, and explained how the Program operating along the Jane Addams Tollway section of Interstate 90 would operate to the

County's benefit. Ridership on Route 550 in McHenry County currently gets approximately 150 riders per day.

C. MCRide-Lake County Transfers

Mr. Hennings informed the Committee that the McHenry County Division of Transportation would be pursuing the creation of transfer points between MCRide's service area and Ride Lake County's service area in order to facilitate trips between the two counties. At this time the partnership process between the two services was underway and would be finalized later in the summer.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reelection of Officers

A committee member motioned to nominate Mr. Hobson to be reelected the Committee Chair, to which Mr. Hobson declined. Mr. Riley nominated Ms. Donner, Mr. Mack seconded the nomination. Mr. Riley commented that he would be interested in Vice Chair of the Committee. Ms. Donner nominated Mr. Riley for Vice Chair, Mr. Ecklund seconded the nomination. Both motions passed by acclamation.

B. TNC Pilot Program

Sidney Kenyon of MCDOT updated the Committee on the progress MCDOT's Shared Use Mobility Pilot Program. Mr. Kenyon informed the Committee of the agreement in progress in which the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation Authority would partner with the McHenry County Division of Transportation to provide subsidized last-mile transportation services to supplement the MCRide Program for spontaneous trips. Mr. Kenyon described how the program would be administered, whom it would be provided for, how it would be implemented, and when it would be launched. Mr. Martin asked which types of businesses would be eligible to compete for a bid and what distinguishes a taxi program from a Transportation Network Company (TNC). Mr. Kenyon provided clarification regarding the distinctions between taxi companies and TNC's, and whether or not a taxi company could compete for a bid. Mr. Riley asked if MCDOT had previously spoken with companies like First Transit, to which Mr. Hennings responded that they had not yet. Mr. Riley asked if this program was in response to a lack of interest on behalf of taxi companies, to which Mr. Hennings responded that Pace was currently reaching out to taxi companies in the area to work with First Transit to provide those rides via the MCRide Program. Mr. Hobson asked if the proposed Pilot Program would supply rides outside of MCRide service hours, to which Mr. Hennings responded that the Division of Transportation was waiting for direction from the Transportation Committee for what the hours of service would be. Ms. Farley asked if the Pilot Program would be able to guarantee rides after MCRide service hours and if customer service would be provided when service breaks down, to which Mr. Kenyon responded that those details were still being worked out. Mr. Ecklund asked if the federal regulations would make it difficult to meet deadlines to obtain funding for the program, to which Mr. Hennings explained the generality of the proposed timeline to meet deadlines. Ms. Klasen asked if the Pilot Program would serve needs that are currently not served by MCRide, to which Mr. Hennings and Mr. Kenyon explained that they were waiting for guidance from the Transportation Committee.

C. Senior Services Grant

Scott Hennings informed the Committee that MCDOT would not be submitting for the Senior Services Grant for Fiscal Year 2017.

D. MCDOT Five Year Program

Mr. Hobson tabled discussion of the MCDOT 2016-2020 Five Year Transportation Program to the next meeting.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Mary Donner asked if the Committee would consider changing the date to a different Wednesday in July. Mr. Hennings responded that he would send out a survey to the Committee members to find a suitable time for the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hobson, seconded by Ms. Donner. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.