

COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 29, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Wiley, Chairman, Provena St. Mary's Dialysis; Rob Hoffmann, River Valley METRO Mass Transit District; Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Cheryl Lockwood, NE Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Mike Bossert, Bob Scholl, George Washington, Richard Campbell, Bonnie Schaafsma and Mike Lammey, Kankakee County; Donna Kelly, Illinois Department of Employment Security; Patrick McCarthy, Illinois Central School Bus, and Aimee White, Herald.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM, welcoming all. Everyone present then introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Chairman Wiley asked for any Public Comment. There were no public comment forms filed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the July 28, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Scholl made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Lockwood. Motion carried.

AGENCY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

Ms. Lockwood gave a presentation on the maturing of Illinois, a project undertaken by her office. She gave the following facts:

- By 2030 the population 65 and older will be 71.5 million in the US, 20% of the American population.
- The number of people 60 and older in Illinois will go from 2 million in 2006 to 3.6 million in 2030, or 20% of all Illinois citizens.
- The number of people over age 85 in Illinois will grow by 109% from 2000 to 2030 to 402,311, or 11% of the over 60 population.
- Minority population over 60 will increase by 220% from 2000 to 2030 to just under 1,000,000.
- The over 60 population in the collar counties will increase 82% from 2000 to 2030 to 649,891.
- By 2030 the population over 60 in Kankakee County will increase 95% from 2005 levels.
- The population of the US over 65 years old in 2005 was 36.8 million, an increase of 3.2 million from 1995.

- The US population aged 45-64 who will reach 65 over the next two decades increased by 40% between 1995 and 2005.
- One in every eight Americans is an older American.
- By 2030, 1 in every five Americans will be an older American.
- Minority Americans will increase from 5.7 million in 2000 to 12.9 million in 2020.
- People reaching age 65 in the US have an average life expectancy of 18.4 years.
- Older women outnumber older men in the US by 6 million.
- Income from Social Security makes up 89% of the total income for American seniors.
- Ten percent of older Americans were below poverty level in 2005.
- In 2005, 5.3 older Americans were still in the work force.
- The educational level of older Americans is increasing. Between 1970 and 2005 the percentage of older Americans who had high school degrees had gone from 28% to 74%.
- 29% of the senior population have disabilities.
- In 2004, 71% of the senior population were still living at home, and 8% are in assisted living. Only 21% are in nursing facilities.
- Only 46% of American communities have begun planning to address the needs of the increasing senior population.
- Few communities have undertaken comprehensive assessments of what it would take to make their communities “elder friendly”.
- The Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging has picked five communities to perform assessments upon, one being the City of Kankakee. Part of the assessment is transportation, and the County Transportation Committee will be looked to provide information for that assessment.

Ms. Dick stated her belief that the disabled have been undercounted in every census of the population. Mr. Campbell stated his belief that the senior population is wary of any bureaucracy. Chairman Wiley thanked Ms. Lockwood for her presentation.

VETERAN’S TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

Mr. Bossert stated that there is a recognition that there is an issue with transporting veterans to Hines Hospital for treatment, but that details on the number continue to be elusive. A discussion followed about how best to obtain the information needed to attempt to provide service, with no clear conclusion. The committee asked that individuals who needed the transportation should contact Ms. Brutlag at METRO, (815) 935-1403 with specific needs. It was suggested that a letter be prepared on the issue to send to Senator Durbin and Congresswoman Halvorson.

REGION 6 RURAL HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN ISSUES:

Mr. Lammey reported that the Region 6 HSTP group had suggested that each County committee deal with the authorization issue. He stated that the Kankakee County committee was the extension of a user network meeting that had been meeting since 2005. He stated that Mr. Scholl, Mr. Bossert and he should meet to decide how to accommodate the authorization issue.

Ms. Dick stated that the County Board members who serve on the Region 6 Policy Committee were appointed by Resolution of the County Boards, but that the Technical Committee members were appointed by a different process in each County of Region 6.

CIRCUIT BREAKER PROGRAM:

Chairman Wiley stated her belief that the Circuit Breaker program of free transportation had been continued, but that she did not know what the new yearly color for the passes was. Mr. Hoffmann confirmed that the program had continued, but he could not remember the new color for the pass.

ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES:

Vice-Chairman Schoolman sent a report that detailed her experience with the legislators. She had intended having legislators on wheelchairs, but modified her program at the suggestion of State Representative Dugan, who gave the names of the appropriate persons at each of the local communities, and asked that Options contact those individuals. If answers and solutions were not received by that method, State Representative Dugan asked that she be contacted at that point.

OTHER ISSUES:

Ms. Dick reported that another round of JARC and New Freedom grants is rumored to be released by IDOT soon.

Ms. Kelly reported that IDES will be holding Job Fairs on October 8 and October 29, and stated that KCC has announced class scheduled for skills for October.

Mr. Campbell stated that Sears and K-Mart in Manteno have both discussed having earlier starts for the METRO service in Manteno. Mr. Hoffmann stated that no one has contacted METRO.

DISABILITY/AGING/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES:

Ms. Dick stated that social service agencies around the state are looking to reduce their operating budgets, and one of the first areas that are being explored is the provision of transportation services to their own clients. Ms. Dick reported that SHOWBUS has picked up contracts with a number of those agencies to provide transportation, and is looking for as many as can be accommodated with both staff and vehicles. She also stated that there are spend down issues that will continue to be serious.

Ms. Schaafsma stated that all of the grants funding her department had been renewed, although some were at reduced levels. She stated that regular flu shots were currently available, and that H1N1 shots will be available in mid October. She stated that mass clinics will be held, and stated that major employers might have to examine their sick policies to keep sick employees at home.

Mr. Campbell stated that he has received funding for eyeglasses and hearing aids, and will be able to provide assistance in those areas.

Ms. Wiley stated that she has had an increase in referrals to the ADA service from METRO, and thanked METRO for providing free rides for persons wanting to sign up for that service.

PROGRAM STATUS OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS:

Ms. Dick stated that the biggest concern was social service agencies losing funding for the provision of service.

Mr. Hoffmann stated that METRO ridership is continuing to increase, and that the previous two months each had ridership over 70,000 rides per month, a new record. He stated that a number of physical improvement projects are underway at METRO.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

No questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Wiley stated that the November meeting will be her last meeting as a member of the Committee, and thanked everyone for their support. She stated that she was changing employment, and would not be able to devote as much time to this issue as she had in the past.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Chairman Wiley then reviewed the meeting schedule planned for this Committee:

- November 2, 2009, at 10:00 AM, The Region 6 HSTP Meeting at the LifeCIL office in Pontiac.
- November 17, 2009 at 9:30 AM @ METRO Centre, Kankakee County Transportation Committee: Ms. Schaafsma presenting on the Kankakee County Health Department
- General Meeting Schedule – Last Tuesday of every other month at 9:30 A.M.
 - o September, November of 2010
- Meeting Location – METRO Centre

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wiley announced the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.