

Minutes
Kankakee County Transportation Committee
Audio/Video Meeting
Tuesday, March 30, 2021 @ 10:30 AM

Members in attendance: Laura Dick, SHOW BUS; Michelle Brutlag, METRO; Karen Smietanski, Veteran's Assistance Center of Kankakee County.

Others present: Jennifer Sicks, HSTP Coordinator; Ben Wilson, Geoff Olson, and Mike Mergenthaler, Kankakee County; One member from the public attended in person.

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Dick called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM, welcomed everyone, and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the committee.

Public Comment

One member of the public attended in person.

Approval of Minutes

Due to no quorum being present. The minutes of the Tuesday, October 29, 2019 meeting could not be accepted.

2021 CVP

Ms. Sicks informed everyone that IDOT would be doing CVP through BlackCat this Spring. Mr. Olson explained the BlackCat Portal as IDOT's new online grant management software for CVP applications.

HSTP Coordinator Update

Ms. Sicks said IDOT will be looking for each region to begin updating their HSTPs. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, IDOT has directed HSTP Coordinators to hold off on updating the HSTPs and vehicle inspections. There haven't been any recent meetings for Region 6 due to COVID-19 as well. IDOT will determine when they can resume.

Agency Transportation Needs, Interagency Coordination and Accessibility Issues

Ms. Brutlag said almost all the planned METRO ADA bus stop improvements have been completed. Only a couple more are remaining. She shared that METRO is requiring masks and distancing seating. They temporarily reduced hours to 7:00 PM, but offered a dial-a-ride service for riders that needed a ride between 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM, METRO's normal ending time. There have been no fares for the last year. The University Park route is currently suspended, while many riders began switching to the Midway service. In the beginning of the pandemic, there was some difficulty procuring cleaning supplies, but now they are able to track inventory and restock supplies more effectively.

Customer care supervisors have been providing rides to ensure social distancing. METRO's website was upgraded, it now has easier to find schedules, and the METRO Plus ADA

application is now available online. They are working on the new transfer station in downtown Kankakee. It will be the same location, but not on the street. It will be sheltered with heated sidewalks in winter. IDOT is reviewing the project.

Vice-Chairman Dick said SHOW BUS has been able to maintain a steady supply of cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment. Service has been able to double up on busier routes, but mainly because social service agencies have been closed making more buses available and allowing them to do general service. There will be a slow return to opening for social service agencies. The FTA mask mandate has helped in reminding and encouraging riders to wear masks. Social service agencies seem to slowly be reopening. Through public health departments, drivers have been able to get vaccinated, except in Kankakee County, where there has been difficulty contacting the Health Department via email. Fares have not been collected for the last year, and will likely continue that until transmission rates are low.

Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues

Mr. Olson said the bid packets for the bus shelter project is being put together for approval from IDOT.

Ms. Smietanski said IDOT has requested to have a 4-page survey filled out by the VAC. Their bus wasn't operating for a couple months, but it is now making trips to Hines every day.

Program Status of Transportation Providers

No update at this time.

Questions from the Media

None.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting

Mr. Olson said the next Region 6 HSTP Meeting will be May 18 or May 25, at 9:30 AM. The staff will send out a request to members depending on CTC. The next scheduled CTC meeting will be on June 29, 2021, at 10:30 AM.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Dick asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brutlag motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Smietanski seconded adjournment. Vice-Chairman Dick adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.