

Minutes

Kankakee County Transportation Committee

Audio/Video Meeting

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 @ 10:30 AM

Members in attendance: Laura Dick – SHOW BUS, Roger Hess, Karen Smietanski – VAC, Jeanette Tetreault – Thresholds.

Members of the public in attendance: Larry Kerkstra, Marta Perales.

Staff Members present: Rob Fischer, Geoffrey Olson, Ben Wilson.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:45AM

A quorum of committee members was not in attendance. Therefore, no formal committee action was taken. As there was a member of the public attending the meeting, Mr. Wilson asked the attending committee members for agency updates.

Meeting Minutes

As there was not a quorum in assembly, the previous meeting minutes were not approved.

Public Comment

There was no comment from the public.

SHOW BUS

Laura Dick reported that she is unsure of the timing of the next cycle of CVP (Consolidated Vehicle Procurement) applications. The agency is continuing to carry out standard transportation duties, and riders are doing well with wearing masks, which is in compliance with federal requirements, as well as social distancing as much as possible.

She added that some counties have frequent lock downs of group homes, and that senior transportation and similar programs are not yet returning to normal. She also mentioned a Partnership with AgeGuide, to address additional transit needs. SHOW BUS is working on increasing service in the Western portion of Kankakee County. Dick mentioned that Federal funding has been very beneficial; however, the additional federal requirements have been creating additional reporting requirements, which results in more needed staff time.

Thresholds

Jeanette Tetreault reported that she is appreciative of the transportation providers, and added that for the most part, her clients are wearing masks. She also spoke with Laura Dick about a potential rider from Western Kankakee County that possibly needs SHOW BUS.

VAC

Karen Smietanski reported to the committee that their bus is running well, and is going daily to Hines VA Medical Center. She added that the agency is Interested in a second vehicle, potentially a van. She believes this can help save on fuel costs, particularly as the price rises.

Kankakee County

Roger Hess had no updates for the committee.

Other Business

Mr. Wilson and the attending members had a brief discussion regarding electric vehicles. Laura Dick mentioned how electric vehicles could potentially be switched between rides, as the vehicles she has been looking at for her agency have an approximate range of 100 miles. She went on to add that charging stations can take up to 8 hours to charge the aforementioned vehicles, however, there are rapid charge stations which can take only 2 hours. The latter mentioned stations are quite costly, and IDOT would not provide funding for them. She continues to look into the matter. Larry Kerkstra also elaborated on the future of electric vehicles, as they pertain to public transit. He also added that he sees a potential pick up and drop off of passengers coinciding with the switching out of electric vehicles, for the purpose of maintaining their charge throughout trips with longer distances.

Media Questions

There were no questions from the media

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Kankakee County Transportation Committee is tentatively slated for March 2022.

Meeting adjourned

The meeting ended at 11:00 AM.