

1 **Minutes**

2 **Kankakee County Transportation Committee**

3 **Audio/Video Meeting**

4 **Tuesday, March 29th, 2022 @ 10:30 AM**

5 Members in attendance: Laura Dick – Show Bus, Roger Hess, Karen Smietanski – V.A.C, Jeanette  
6 Tetreault – Thresholds, Megan Wileman – AgeGuide, Amy LaFine – Kankakee County Health  
7 Department.

8 Members of the public in attendance: None.

9 Staff Members present: Ben Wilson, Rob Fischer

10 **Call to Order**

11 Meeting was called to order at 10:36AM

12 A quorum of committee members was not in attendance. Therefore, no formal committee  
13 action was taken.

14 **Meeting Minutes**

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

16 **Public Comment**

17 There was no comment from the public.

18 **Consolidated Vehicle Program (CVP) updates**

19 Mr. Wilson discussed the Consolidated Vehicle Program (5310) with committee members. He  
20 stated that there are applications for vehicles available through May 1<sup>st</sup>. However, Wilson  
21 added that there aren't vehicles available for purchase at this time. He added that the CTC can  
22 be the body that approves applications. Jeanette Tetreault mentioned Thresholds needing a  
23 replacement vehicle, and Laura Dick iterated that now is a good time to apply. Mr. Wilson  
24 added that if an organization performs even one trip in the rural area, they become eligible for  
25 the program.

26 **HSTP Coordinator Update**

27 None at this time. Also noted is that Chairman Butler is out of the state at this time.

28 **Agency Transportation Needs, Interagency Coordination and Accessibility Issues**

29 River Valley Metro did not have a representative available for comment. Laura Dick of Show Bus  
30 told the committee that the recent closing of two senior centers was disruptive and part of a

31 larger recent trend. She added that that while masks are still mandatory for riders until April  
32 18<sup>th</sup>, she feels the mandate has kept Show Bus “available to meet the legal limits and spirit of  
33 the Americans with Disabilities Act”.

#### 34 **Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues**

35 Jeanette Tetreault of Thresholds reiterated that her organization will soon need a replacement  
36 vehicle, due to high mileage. There were no representatives available for comments from  
37 Cornerstone Services, Options CIL, or Good Shepard Manner.

38 Amy LaFine of the Kankakee County Health Department reported that they have Tuesday and  
39 Thursday walk in vaccinations available. Lafine added that the walk-in traffic has decreased  
40 from a peak of around 1600 people per month to approximately 100 so far this month. She also  
41 added that the county is in a “moderate to low transition” with regard to infection rates from  
42 COVID-19. Positivity rates have decreased to a 1.07% rate as of March 29<sup>th</sup>, and that the county  
43 has an overall COVID-19 vaccination rate of 50.61%. She told the committee that communicable  
44 disease services are also reopening. Lafine added that she feels that the transport times  
45 available from providers, as well as the drivers themselves, have been very accommodating.  
46 Lafine believes that the routes should stay as they are.

47 Megan Wileman of AgeGuide told the committee that she is happy to partners with Show Bus.  
48 She added that there is a community dining program for people ages 60 and up which is  
49 scheduled to run until September of 2023. Interested parties should submit an application by  
50 April 15<sup>th</sup>.

51 Mr. Wilson, speaking for Kankakee County, said he “excited to be continuing transportation in  
52 Kankakee County” and told the committee that he is transitioning to being more involved in  
53 PCOM (Program Compliance and Oversight Monitor).

#### 54 **Program Status of Transportation Providers**

55 Laura Dick of Show Bus reported that overall ridership is still down from pre-pandemic levels, and there  
56 are still no fares being collected due to social distancing. She added that the federal money that has  
57 been allocated to them is helpful in offsetting those costs. Dick also told the committee about the  
58 funding received for a new transportation shed and vehicles. She reported \$700,000 being awarded for  
59 a shed, along with an additional \$360,000 for vehicles. She also mentioned to the committee that there  
60 has been much turnover in staff and that hiring new staff has been difficult. She hopes that having a  
61 facility available for training drivers to obtain a CDL with a passenger endorsement will make the hiring  
62 process simpler and added if anyone knows someone who is interested in a position with Show Bus,  
63 they should “send them (her) way”.

64 There was no update from River Valley Metro at this time.

#### 65 **New Business**

66 Mr. Wilson told the committee to think about potential replacements for Mr. Butler, who will  
67 be retiring soon.

68 **Media Questions**

69 There were no questions from the media

70 **Next Meeting**

71 The next meeting of the Kankakee County Transportation Committee is tentatively slated for  
72 August 30th, 2022. A meeting date will be set in April, in order to approve CVP applications.

73 **Meeting adjourned**

74 The meeting ended at 11:04 AM.