

1 **Minutes**

2 Kankakee County Transportation Committee

3 2nd floor – Kankakee County Administration Building

4 189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, Illinois.

5 Audio/Video Meeting

6 **Tuesday, January 31, 2023 @ 10:30 AM**

7 Members in attendance: Laura Dick – Show Bus, Jeanette Tetreault – Thresholds, Megan
8 Wileman – AgeGuide, Amy LaFine – Kankakee County Health Department, Roger Hess –
9 Kankakee County Board, Jennifer Capellano – Options Center for Independent Living, Ken
10 Munjoy – River Valley Metro, Carol Larson – Good Shepard Manor

11 Members of the public in attendance: None.

12 Staff Members present: Ben Wilson & Rob Fischer

13 **Call to Order**

14 Meeting was called to order at 10:30AM

15 A quorum of committee members was in attendance.

16 **Meeting Minutes**

17 A motion was made to approve minutes for the November 29th meeting, of which approval
18 was unanimous. Laura Dick added that additional CVP opportunities may become available
19 again in the near future, in regard to a mention of the Consolidated Vehicle Program being
20 previously discussed at the prior meeting.

21 **Public Comment**

22 There was no comment from the public.

23 **Consolidated Vehicle Program (CVP) approval**

24 Ben Wilson told the committee that the item will stay on the agenda in order to “keep dialogue
25 going so we can all share information as it is ongoing”. Laura Dick also mentioned that there is
26 an IDOT grant for the electrification of vehicle fleets, and that IDOT sent out a questionnaire to
27 agencies regarding electrification.

28 **HSTP Coordinator Update**

29 There was no update at this time. However, Laura Dick, Jennifer Capellano, and other
30 committee members wanted to make the HSTP Coordinator aware of complaints made
31 regarding managed care providers, as they relate to the transportation of clients.

32 Dick also mentioned that when the State of Illinois was handling ambulance scheduling, a lesser
33 number of clients were being stranded. Capellano voiced concern that some were “at risk of
34 losing eyesight or dying”, should managed care transport services not improve.

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

36 Ken Munjoy of River Valley Metro told the committee of new software being implemented in
37 order to provide riders with automated scheduling notifications via text or phone call. He
38 added that the agency will know how the software is working by the next committee meeting.
39 Munjoy also mentioned that letters were sent to riders in early January to let them know of
40 some route changes. He told the committee that some routes were streamlined and that new
41 routes were posted online and at shelters.

42 Laura Dick of Show Bus mentioned to the committee that her organization is a repository for
43 busses that need to be “parted out”, and that her office can be reached with regards to part
44 availability, as well as for lifts.

45 **Disability/Aging/Transportation Issues**

46 Megan Wileman of AgeGuide added that an advocacy breakfast will be held by the agency at on
47 March 13th at 10AM, which will feature a discussion of “issues and action items”. Good Shepard
48 Manor’s Carol Larson reported that “everything is going well”.

49 Amy LaFine of the Kankakee County Health Department told the committee that the
50 department is “fully open”, with walk-in services available Tuesday and Thursday from 9AM-
51 3PM for those in need, and added that there are no issues as they relate to transportation. On
52 behalf of Kankakee County, Ben Wilson added that matters pertaining to billing are “going
53 smooth”.

54 **Program Status of Transportation Providers**

55 Laura Dick of Kankakee County Rural Transit reported the hiring of a new driver in Kankakee.
56 She also discussed a series of vehicle maintenance issues, with a focus on the body control
57 module within her fleet’s vehicles. Dick added that the electrical issues can affect the safety
58 features, flashers, and lifts on the vehicles. She also added that the wiring costs incurred during
59 repairs can amount to thousands of dollars.

60 Dick mentioned that her organization has been proactive on replacing rocker cams, so as not to
61 damage cam shafts, and she encouraged listening for “ticking or tapping” as a cue to when a
62 replacement may be in order.

63 Ken Munjoy of River Valley Metro added that his garage keeps some body control modules on
64 the shelf in the event one goes bad in a vehicle. He added that Metro uses some parts from a
65 bus that was involved in an accident, as repair parts have been difficult to obtain.

66 Munjoy praised his mechanical staff, including “Ron”, who has been able to help Metro work
67 around some issues when parts have been scarce.

68 He added that a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Transit Center is scheduled for 10AM on
69 May 24th, and that the facility is nearing completion for public use.

70 **New Business**

71 None at this time.

72 **Media Questions**

73 There were no questions from the media.

74 **Next Meeting**

75 The next meeting of the Kankakee County Transportation Committee is slated for 10:30AM on
76 March 29, 2023.

77 **Meeting adjourned**

78 The meeting ended at 11:08 AM, with a motion to adjourn unanimously approved.