

Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 – 12:00 PM

TCRPC Conference Room, 456 Fulton Street, Suite 420, Peoria, IL

Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Introductions & Roll Call

Hannah Martin called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

RURAL AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Name	Organization	Representing	Present	Absent
Shelly Entrekin*	FCRC/FCRT	Fulton	X	
Barb Long*			X	
Doug Manock*	Fulton County Board	Fulton		X
Audra Miles*	Fulton County PCOM		X	
Susan Lindsey	KCCDD	Knox	X	
Kraig McCluskie	Galesburg Transit	Knox	X	
Diana Bradstatter	Marshall-Stark PCOM	Marshall		X
Travis McGlasson	Marshall County Board	Marshall		X
Mary Patton	AARP	Peoria	X	
Mark Rothert	Peoria County Asst. Admin.	Peoria		X
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	X	
Robert Mueller	Stark County Board	Stark		X
Michael Godar	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Mary Jo Holford	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Jonathan Gauerke	ADDWC	Woodford	X	
Mike Hutchinson	We Care	Woodford	X	
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EPIC	Agency	X	
Jeannine McAllister	Advocates for Access	CIL		X
Doug Roelfs	CityLink	Provider	X	
Renee Razo	Central Illinois Agency on Aging	Agency		X
Lee Linwood*			X	
Connie Schiele	Paratransit user	User		X
Don Rulis	CWTC	Agency	X	
Greg Cassidy	TCRC	Agency		X

*Shared seat

Also in attendance:

Hannah Martin, TCRPC
 Adam Duvall, Advocates for Access
 Lizette Tripur, DRS
 Julie Briner, MSW Projects
 Chris Mitchell, Volunteer

Ray Lees, TCRPC
Andrew Dwyer, CityLink

Approval of the November 29, 2016 Minutes

Motion was made by Kraig McCluskie to approve the November 29, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Susan Lindsey, and passed unanimously.

Provider and Agency Updates

EPIC

Dawn Harper reported that they will be expanding their host program into the Galesburg area, coordinating with KCCDD. They also expect to complete an overhaul of their fleet of 39 vehicles in the near future.

AARP

Mary Patton announced a session in Springfield for training regarding livable communities and an effort to branch out into housing.

Fulton County Rehabilitation Center & Fulton County Rural Transit

Fulton County is eagerly waiting for CVP awards to be announced for the 5310-funded vehicles. They believe a vehicle will be approved for the rural public transportation program.

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (CityLink, CityLift, CountyLink)

Andrew Dwyer, Director of Mobility, reported that the union contract agreement had been approved at last in January. He also shared that advertising on 50% of their fleet has been sold out. GPMTD will also be receiving 30 replacement paratransit vehicles this summer. Additionally, a grant for new radio equipment was recently approved with Beth McCluskey at IDOT- IPI being instrumental in that effort. Finally, sometime between April and May this year, the coordinated dispatch effort should be fully realized. Mr. Dwyer also reported from his attendance at the IPTA Board Meeting the week prior, that Quarter 2 DOAP payments can be expected to be paid by the state next month (March). Doug Roelfs, General Manager, also announced the recent deployment of two hybrid buses for their fixed route system. They expect two more later this year. The Northside Transfer Center project is starting to gain some ground again. CityLink will also be acquiring the technology on board fixed route buses to report realtime vehicle position and voice announcements within the next year.

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell reported they recently were able to finally replace a vehicle that had been totaled, thanks to county fund contributions.

WeCare

Mike Hutchison reported they have 2 replacement vehicles for each county approved (Tazewell and Woodford).

Galesburg Transit

Kraig McCluskie announced they will be receiving two hybrid vehicles, expected to arrive in August. They are also still trying to work with Knox College toward a student transit pass incorporated into semester fees. Their committee chair also wants to explore partnerships with “big box” stores in the area.

Chris Mitchell, Volunteer

In some of the worst weather this winter, Chris used CityLift and it was a very positive experience. She still has some end-of-trip concerns when it comes to winter weather, depending on her destination. Christ also reported that she has been engaged in conversations with ICC regarding public transportation’s role on campus.

HSTP Coordinator Updates

Coordinator Conference Call – November & January

Mike Healy of IDOT proposed the idea to have HSTP Coordinators assist in scoring Section 5310 CVP applications to help speed up the review process. This was an optional activity Ms. Martin as well as two other Coordinators volunteered for, provided they would not be grading applications from their own regions. This was a spark to review the full contract scope for HSTP Coordinators. Summaries of current responsibilities were collected and synthesized to provide a uniform job description for all Coordinators in the state in preparation for the next contract renewal (FY18-FY19).

Transportation Advisory Group – Statewide Plan for Independent Living

Two “mini-grants” of \$750 each were awarded to two centers for independent living in the Chicago Metro region for the transportation of individuals to public transportation advisory committees. Funds for this program were not completely exhausted. If the grant program is repeated, funds could ease the burden of transporting persons with disabilities from distant centers for independent living to HSTP meetings or other transportation advisory committees.

Centers for Independent Living in Region 5 with their counties are as follows:

Advocates for Access - Fulton, Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford

Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living – Knox (Henderson and Warren as well)

Illinois Valley CIL – Marshall and Stark (Bureau, LaSalle, Putnam, too)

5310 Program Reviews

Ms. Martin and Josh Mercer (Coordinator for Regions 4 & 7) received training from IDOT for carrying out 5310 Program Reviews. The training took place as a “walk-through” during a review for Snyder Village in Metamora, IL. Since then, Ms. Martin has completed an independent vehicle inspection and identified overdue program reviews in Region 5 which she will begin in the spring.

CVP

The next funding round is expected to be announced the beginning of March 2017.

Other

Ms. Martin introduced Ray Lees, the new Planning Program Manager at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. He is filling in the position recently vacated by Maggie Martino.

Presentation – Building Relationships with Public Officials

Ms. Martin gave a presentation she first witnessed herself at the National Rural and Intercity Bus Conference last October. The topic was focused on building relationships between transit and municipal or legislative officials in the community. The main strategies are summarized as follows:

- ✓ Know your elected official – both the ones that like transit and that ones that don't
- ✓ Be ready with a story – actual, positive experiences highlighting your successes
- ✓ Refine an elevator speech – 20-30 seconds, informative, direct, creates opportunity for longer discussions at a later time

Mary Patton has had some extremely relevant experience with these strategies when lobbying for AARP in the state capitol. She provided some great details regarding the employment of these strategies and the level of preparation needed to effectively carry them out.

Other

The Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC) is holding its annual conference April 5-6, 2017. Region 5 HSTP Committee will still meet the day before, Tuesday, April 4.

Adjournment

Johnathan Gauerke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Hutchison. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. at the offices of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

—Submitted by Hannah Martin