

Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 - 12:00 PM

Virtual meeting via GoToMeeting

Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, & Roll Call

Reema Abi-Akar called the meeting to order at 12:04 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	
Mark Rudolph	KCCDD	Knox	X	
Kraig McCluskie	Galesburg Transit	Knox		X
Diana Bradstatter	Marshall-Stark PCOM	Marshall	X	
Debbie Daykin	Marshall County Board	Marshall		X
Mary Patton	AARP	Peoria	X	
Andrew Dwyer	GPMTD - CountyLink	Peoria	X	
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	X	
J. Thomas Howes	Stark County Board	Stark		X
Brandon Hovey	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell	X	
Mary Jo Holford	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Tyler Rogers	ADDWC	Woodford		X
Lee Linwood	We Care	Woodford		X
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EPIC	Agency	X	
Adam Duvall	Advocates for Access	CIL		X
Angel Marinich	CityLink	Provider		X
Renee Razo	Central Illinois Agency on Aging	Agency	X	
Chris Mitchell	Paratransit user	User	X	
Don Rulis	CWTC	Agency		X
Greg Cassidy	TCRC	Agency	X	

Also in attendance:

Hannah Martin, TCRPC
 Brian Hiatt, MV Transit
 Mable Kreps, RTAC
 Clifford Williams, CIAOA

Audrey Barret, Snyder Village
 Ryan Berger, City of Galesburg
 Jim Bremner, Washington Township
 Mick Johnson, MV Transit

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the December 3, 2019 Minutes

Andy Dwyer moved to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes and Greg Cassidy seconded. Shelly Entrekin said that FCRC, not FCRT, received vehicles. This correction was noted. With this correction, the motion passed.

Provider and Agency Updates

FCRT

Shelly Entrekin reported that FCRT has two new vehicles.

City of Galesburg

Ryan Berger introduced himself; he is a planner for the City of Galesburg. He said that the city is now directly administering their transportation component, and that the city is looking to fill a transit manager position.

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell reported that ridership has picked up slightly.

AARP

Mary Patton said that AARP is looking at better safety procedures for nursing homes, with potential help from the state. There was some discussion regarding transportation from nursing homes to dialysis and medical procedures (non-elective surgeries). Brandon Hovey commented that this is an important concern due to family experience with older relatives needing medical transportation.

CityLink

Andy Dwyer responded to Mary's question regarding transportation from nursing homes for medical procedures. He said that the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District provides any trip requested. Initially, GPMTD reached out to some businesses to make sure they were open to make sure passengers weren't dropped off and waiting outside for nothing.

Andy reported that there is an RFP for Paratransit Service. There is a software board approval scheduled for the upcoming agenda. He said that social service client transportation is increasing, taking distancing issues into account. There are three major providers in the area (plus dialysis).

He said GPMTD is expecting capacity concerns at 35%. GPMTD has asked these social service agencies what their plan is. For example, EP!C is asking families to bring people back in the short term; Andy is discussing with Dawn and her team. She expects about 66% to come back, but capacity issues will arise around 35%, especially with social distancing and wheelchairs.

CityLift/CountyLink

Brian Hiatt said that they are currently bringing back as many drivers as possible. He also noted that a dispatch position has been filled by the individual who had been the safety manager. Now, they are looking to hire a new safety manager.

EPIC

Dawn Harper reiterated her meeting with Andy and his team regarding EPIC's soft opening. IDPH is requiring EPIC to bring in only 25 individuals per shift, so there will be a total of 50 people per day in the building. Protective Shields were installed in their vehicles. Currently, the passenger capacity is 6-7 (regularly 14). Dawn says they're not looking for everyone to come back, but asking that if they do, family is required to transport at first until things are stable.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging

Renee Razo reported that CIAOA is still transporting clients and asking that they wear masks. They are sanitizing between each rider. Ridership is down; individuals are determining if they would like to take a trip or not. Rides are limited to essential services.

TCRC

Greg Cassidy reported that TCRC will have a soft opening soon, with 25-30 individuals. Transportation will be from WeCare, Pekin Bus, and families

Paratransit Rider

Chris Mitchell said she has CityLift with excellent service. She said they are clean and appropriately spaced. She has used CountyLift once in past three months. She says she misses people, especially because with paratransit, there is more of a rapport with the drivers.

KCCDD

Mark Rudolph reported that KCCDD will have a soft open soon, with groups of 6-10. He said they are losing 100 out of 300 on a typical day. They are keeping everyone in their home cohorts. They have a large facility—they only do day services, no residential. Staff will do the best they can inside classrooms.

HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema reported that the IPTA conference that would normally take place in the fall will now be moved to next year in Peoria. She said that IDOT is working on limiting the burden of supporting documentation through the BlackCat grant management system. Reema also noted that the IDOT COVID updates used to be weekly, but will now take place monthly.

Tri-County has been working on a project with the 2020 census in collaboration with DCC Marketing as the media/marketing consultant. Reema said there is a limited supply of census branded masks to distribute to regional organizations. Mary Patton said she would like some. Reema noted that the census timeline has changed, and it will now be September 30 instead of October 31. There was some discussion about this among the group.

Brandon Hovey asked, what is the biggest potential loss regarding the census and HSTP? Reema said that “hard-to-count” populations would be most affected. For example, the elderly, those with disabilities, those with limited internet, and people who live in rural areas. They all have a lower chance of filing out the census survey on their own. This could mean an undercount for these populations in our region. Tri-County (and the Census Bureau) are focusing on these populations to ensure an accurate count.

Mary Patton asked if Tri-County is working with local groups and organizations to help people fill out the census. Reema said yes, among them are the United Way (211 phone service) and the Tazewell County Health Department.

Reema also gave an update about the Hanna City Trail. This is the name of a nearly 25-mile long corridor extending from Peoria County to Fulton County. It is currently an old rail line owned by Union Pacific. A group of stakeholders are hoping it will be purchased for public use of walking, biking, and other activities. Brandon Hovey asked, which boards still need to bring this to a vote? Reema responded, Peoria County, Farmington, and Fulton County.

Grey Area Study Update

Hannah gave an update regarding the grey area project. She said this will be an ongoing project for the next 9 months or so. With the help of a consultant, Lochmueller Group, Tri-County has been taking a close look around areas in the region that the census categorizes as “urbanized” but have spotty or no transit service. Some of such communities are Germantown Hills, Creve Coeur, Marquette Heights, North Pekin, Bartonville, Chillicothe, and Mossville. These are considered the “grey area.”

Hannah said they had their first meeting of the steering committee in July. She said Lochmueller presented an existing conditions report, showing maps for populations over 60, people with disabilities, poverty rates, etc. Hannah said Tri-County is looking for further input on popular destinations and major trip generators. She said they are also looking for more ideas of who to interview; there will be about 12 stakeholders.

Jim Bremner from Washington Township explained that they are deploying a service for Washington Township and discussing it with WeCare, the Central Agency on Aging, and Peoria’s transit system. He is looking to put a brochure together that shows a map of the region and which transit agencies cover which areas. He said he will add contact information for riders to use to get in touch with the correct agency.

Jim also mentioned that while assisted living facilities throughout the area have some sort of transportation, they usually limit riders to, for example, medical trips on one day per week. So any riders with scheduling issues could use the brochure to get a ride with other agencies.

Discussion of New Bylaws

Reema shared the new bylaw proposed changes. The HSTP Region 5 bylaws were last officially updated in 2016. Current suggested changes are: Article 1, part E is no longer applicable, some wording has been changed, and an official statement showing that shared seats are permissible (they have always been; it just never specified in the bylaws).

Reema said that the biggest changes refer to vacancies and absences due to inconsistent quorums in the past. These new proposed changes include excused absences (if a member notifies HSTP staff prior) or unexcused absences. These ensure a more regulated attendance policy long-term.

Discussion of potential Chair/Vice Chair

Reema discussed the idea of a chair and vice chair who would be nominated by and from the HSTP committee itself. This would be optional; if no chair or vice chair is nominated and voted upon by the members, the job will go to HSTP staff.

Other

Mable Kreps announced that anyone who would like to have driver trainings should contact their office. They can have a group of up to 50 people, potentially, though it can be agency-specific for at least 10.

Adjournment

Brandon Hovey moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mark Rudolph seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.