

Minutes
BROWN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Monday, March 11, 2019
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin
Meeting Time: 10:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Ian Agar (BC Human Services)*	<u>x</u>	Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living)*	<u>x</u>
Megan Borchardt (BC Board of Supervisors)	<u>x</u>	Cole Runge (BC Planning Commission/Green Bay MPO)	<u>x</u>
Mary Brick (Syble Hopp School)	<u> </u>	Brian Silk (MV Transportation)	<u>x</u>
Mary Derginer (ADRC of Brown County Board)	<u>Exc</u>	Julie Tetzlaff (Cerebral Palsy Inc.)	<u>Exc</u>
Essie Fels (Green Bay Metro)	<u>x</u>	Tina Whetung (Curative Connections Trans. Program)	<u>x</u>
Pat Finder-Stone (Citizen Member)	<u>x</u>	Genny Willemon (BC Human Services)	<u> </u>
Christel Giesen (ADRC of Brown County)	<u>x</u>	John Withbroe (Green Bay Transit Commission)	<u> </u>
Matt Halada (Wisconsin DOT NE Region)	<u> </u>	Vacant (BC Executive Department)	<u> </u>
Denise Misovec (Curative Connections)	<u>x</u>	Vacant (Citizen Member)	<u> </u>
Redebra Peters (ASPIRO)	<u>x</u>	Vacant (Oneida Nation)	<u> </u>

Others Present: *Stephanie Birmingham for Sandy Popp (Options for Independent Living), Lisa J. Conard, Karl Mueller, and *Gena Schupp for Ian Agar.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

C. Runge opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

C. Runge welcomed Redebra Peters and Megan Borchardt to the TCC.

C. Runge announced that there is a quorum and that a number of meeting minutes needed to be considered for approval.

1. Approval of the December 4, 2017 TCC meeting minutes.
2. Approval of the March 12, 2018 TCC meeting minutes.
3. Approval of the June 11, 2018 TCC meeting minutes.
4. Approval of the September 10, 2018 TCC meeting minutes.
5. Approval of the December 3, 2018 TCC meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Pat Finder-Stone, seconded by T. Whetung, to approve the meeting minutes from December 4, 2017, March 12, 2018, June 11, 2018, September 10, 2018, and December 3, 2018. Motion carried.

6. Selection of a review subcommittee for a possible Section 85.21 Program Trust capital projects solicitation process.

C. Runge stated that the Section 85.21 Program trust account for each Wisconsin county has a limit of \$80,000. When an account exceeds this limit, the excess funds must be returned to the state or used at the local level for eligible projects. Brown County's 85.21 trust currently exceeds this limit, and MPO staff has proposed to make most of the funds in the trust available on a competitive basis for capital projects that benefit seniors and people with disabilities. MPO staff has received WisDOT's approval to use these funds for this purpose, and staff is currently in the process of requesting approval from the Brown County Board of Supervisors.

C. Runge stated that he would like to form a five-person subcommittee of the TCC that is comprised of two MPO staff and three TCC members to review project applications, score them, and attend one meeting to discuss the scores and develop funding recommendations.

The subcommittee will report its funding recommendation to the full TCC at the TCC's June 10 meeting. On June 10, staff will request a funding recommendation from the full TCC for consideration by the Brown County Planning Commission Board of Directors at the Board's August 7 meeting.

C. Runge asked if any TCC members would like to volunteer to serve on the subcommittee. He also stated that members of the subcommittee should not represent agencies that intend to apply for the funds.

M. Borchardt, P. Finder-Stone, and B. Silk volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

C. Runge stated that the Brown County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to take final action on the fund request on March 20. If approved, the application guidelines and materials will be distributed to potential applicants.

7. Discussion regarding the development of an ADA Transition Plan for the Green Bay Metropolitan Planning Area.

K. Mueller noted that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has asked Brown County Planning Commission staff to complete an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for transportation facilities in the Green Bay Metropolitan Planning Area.

Staff has nearly completed its transportation facility inventory. Staff is also scheduled to complete field reviews of these facilities when the snow melts.

K. Mueller stated staff intends to work with the entities responsible for the facilities (Brown County, City of Green Bay, De Pere, Allouez, etc.) to identify facilities that may not comply with ADA and discuss how and when these facilities can become compliant.

C. Runge stated that staff has already contacted these entities to find out if they have plans or other documents that demonstrate ADA compliance or strategies to become ADA compliant.

8. Discussion regarding the status of the Brown County Mobility Management Coordinator position.

C. Runge noted that Mobility Coordinator Jennifer Hallam-Nelson retired and is moving back to her home state of Colorado. Green Bay Metro has posted the position and interviews will be conducted this week.

E. Fels noted that she is the contact for the Mobility Management program until a replacement is hired.

9. Round robin discussion about specialized transportation services in Brown County.

C. Giesen expressed appreciation to Curative Connections¹ for providing approximately 5,400 rural trips in 2018. C. Runge noted that Curative provided just under 70,000 one-way trips in 2018 throughout Brown County, and that the number of trips to and from the rural area increased from approximately 1,700 in 2017 to more than 5,400 in 2018.

C. Giesen also noted that the ADRC staff has been receiving complaints regarding MTM². Clients are reporting excessive wait times, inability of MTM to locate a provider for requested trips, and using county

¹ Discussion under this item is in regard to the transportation program offered by Curative Connections as of July 1, 2015. Prior to this date, the service was provided by the Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross. The program offers demand-response transportation services to seniors and qualifying individuals with disabilities with use of a small-medium bus, van, or sedan in all of Brown County.

² MTM is the private transportation broker hired by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) services for qualifying Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus clients.

rescue (a high-level and high cost service) to provide trips in non-emergency situations.

Discussion occurred regarding the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' decision to offer the next transportation contract to LogistiCare instead of MTM. Many private transportation providers who may have provided service under agreement with MTM have not signed a contract for 2019 and are waiting for LogistiCare to take over the program (which will not occur until later in 2019). In the meantime, MTM is unable to find a providers for many eligible trips.

S. Birmingham stated she uses MTM to broker her medical trips. S. Birmingham stated that the drivers have used inappropriate language (not sensitive to persons with disabilities) and have displayed other unprofessional behavior.

S. Birmingham stated she also uses MV³ and commended several of MV's drivers for their professionalism.

C. Giesen stated that ADRC clients are having a difficult time scheduling social trips with Curative (Note: medical- and employment-related trips can be made weeks in advance whereas social trips can only be made with 24 hours advance notice).

C. Giesen asked that the Brown County Voucher Program⁴ be expanded on an as-needed basis to accommodate individuals when Curative cannot provide rides.

D. Misovec and T. Whetung of Curative Connections addressed this issue. Currently, several of the paid drivers are out on medical leave and volunteer drivers have been filling in for them. Fewer drivers results in less capacity to provide trips. However, Curative will be adding two new part-time paid drivers in the near future and anticipates that the drivers will return from medical leave in the near future. Curative is always looking for volunteer drivers. Curative currently uses six paid drivers and approximately 22-24 volunteers per shift.

S. Birmingham asked the committee to clarify the differences between Curative Connections and Green Bay Metro's paratransit service. The following information was provided:

Curative Connections	Green Bay Metro Paratransit Program
<u>Eligibility:</u> Age 60+ and older and/or qualifying disability.	<u>Eligibility:</u> Qualifying disability only. Age does not determine eligibility.
<u>Service Area:</u> Provides service in all of Brown County.	<u>Service Area:</u> Provides service within ¾ mile of fixed route bus system in communities that financially participate in the system including Green Bay, De Pere, Allouez, Ashwaubenon, and Bellevue.
<u>Trip Purpose:</u> Can prioritize based on trip purpose. Top priority given to medical and employment. If trip purpose is social, Curative will accommodate if there is an opening in the schedule.	<u>Trip Purpose:</u> Cannot prioritize. Must accept every trip request per ADA law.

³Discussion is in regard to the paratransit program offered by Green Bay Metro to qualifying clients under contract with MV Transportation, a private transportation company.

⁴ The Brown County Voucher Program offers qualifying individuals vouchers at 50% of the face value. The vouchers can be used to pay for rides on private-pay services, such as specialized ADA accessible transport companies and taxi cabs. For example, a qualified individual can buy a \$20 voucher for \$10. The voucher can then be used for rides with participating private pay providers of their choice when paratransit and Curative Connections are not in service. The provider will collect the voucher when the ride occurs, then submit the voucher to the Mobility Coordinator. The provider will be reimbursed the face value of the voucher.

<u>Drivers:</u> Service dependent on 100+ volunteer drivers and limited paid staff.	<u>Drivers:</u> All paid drivers.
<u>Hours of Operation:</u> M-F: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No weekends.	<u>Hours of Operation:</u> M-F: 5:15 a.m. – 9:45 p.m. Saturday 7:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

E. Fels noted that individuals continue to purchase travel vouchers through the Mobility Management Program.

L. Conard noted that Governor Tony Evers, Transportation Secretary Craig Thompson, and state legislators took a tour of the Green Bay Metro facility and rode a bus on Monday, March 4. This allowed Green Bay Metro Transit Director Patty Kiewiz the opportunity to discuss operating and capital funding issues transit systems face throughout Wisconsin.

10. Other matters.

The tentative TCC meeting schedule for 2019 is as follows:

Monday, June 10, 2019
Monday, September 9, 2019
Monday, December 2, 2019

Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin
10:15 a.m.

11. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.