

**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Citizen's Transit Advisory Sub-Committee**  
**Minutes – January 31, 2019**

**Members:** Brian Bushnell, Scott Miles, Steve Miller, Kathi Zoern, Becky Hebda  
**Staff:** Andrew Lynch, Brenda Iczkowski, Dave Mack, Greg Seubert, John Robinson

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The agenda being properly signed and posted, the meeting was called to order by Infrastructure Chairperson Robinson at 4:00pm. The meeting was held in the large conference room, 210 River Drive, Wausau, Wisconsin.

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The committee introduced themselves and shared their interests, hobbies, and enthusiasm in the sub-committee.

**3. COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

The leadership appointment will be postponed until the next meeting after review for a volunteer of the chairperson and vice chairperson.

**4. FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE**

Robinson briefly explained the purpose of the committee and the reason the sub-committee was formed. The committee is structured to continue to meet through 2020. This committee was created to provide recommendations to the Wausau metropolitan area which include the Villages of Kronenwetter, Maine, Rothschild, Weston, the Towns of Mosinee, Rib Mountain, Stettin, Wausau and Weston and the Cities of Schofield, Mosinee, and Wausau. The sub-committee will report to the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Commission and provide input and recommendations in a public forum for transit related issues in the metropolitan area.

**5. EXPLANATION OF THE WAUSAU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

The packet included the Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization area 2019 planning boundary map in Marathon County. In 1983, the MPO was formed. The planning commission membership is the chief elected officials of all the communities in the Metropolitan area. Mack shared that the 12 communities are part of the MPO and there are also members of the group represented by Marathon County which is John Robinson who chairs the Infrastructure Committee for Marathon County and the district director of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. According to federal law, the MPO is instructed to complete a Long Range Transportation Plan, which is a 5 year plan looking at the transportation of the metro area. The MPO also has to create a Transit Development Plan (TDP), a Unified Planning Work Program and a Transportation Improvement Plan which lists the projects uses state and federal fund in the metro area. The MPO is an independent body and does not require County Board approval except for changes to the MPO bylaws.

**6. METRO RIDE OVERVIEW**

Seubert handed out an overview of the Metro Ride Transit Service. The history of the services provided in the area were explained. In 1972, the City of Wausau bought the bus company and in 1991 the American Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit was introduced. All metro ride transit buses are wheelchair accessible and they have numerous paratransit buses. The funding is from state and federal money with fares and the local share from the City. The largest fare shares are school related. Metro Ride has 7 regular routes 5 days a week and 10 express routes on school days only. The paratransit service is operated in the same general area and hours as the fixed route service, and is for persons with disabilities and required by ADA. The ridership history of the fixed route bus has dropped since 2010 from 773,991 to 503,359 in

2018 with part due to the elimination of services to Schofield, Rothschild and Weston, Saturday services, and major fare increases.

**7. EXPLANATION OF THE TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (TDP)**

Link in the packet for the TDP written every 5 years and was approved May 2018. The TDP will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**8. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:** North Central Health Care Elderly and Disabled to give background, Explanation of the Transit Development Plan, Details of Paratransit survey performed in 2018, Municipal funding component from a local community.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 28, 2019 3:00 pm**

**10. ADJOURN**

Consensus to adjourn the meeting. Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Submitted by:

David Mack

Program Manager/MPO Director

Marathon County

Conservation, Planning and Zoning/Wausau MPO

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