

MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
Citizen's Transit Advisory Sub-Committee
Minutes – April 22, 2019

Members: Kathi Zoern, Brian Bushnell, Ann Micholic, Scott Miles, Becky Zoromski, Linda Esker, Becky Hebda
Staff: Andrew Lynch, Brenda Iczkowski, Dave Mack, Greg Seubert,
Others Present: Christian Halbach, Kristin Verhulst, Christine Seidler, John Robinson

1. CALL TO ORDER

The agenda being properly signed and posted, the meeting was called to order by Commission Chairperson Robinson at 3:00pm.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

3. COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

After a brief description of the Metropolitan Planning Commission, Robinson appointed Hebda chairperson of the Citizen's Transit Advisory sub-committee.

4. FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

Mack shared that this meeting would be a recap of the first couple of meetings with the new members. The committee is structured to meet through 2020. The committee was created to provide recommendations to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Commission is made up of the chief elected officials of the Wausau Metro area which include the Cities of Mosinee, Schofield, and Wausau. The Villages of Kronenwetter, Maine, Rothschild, and Weston and the Towns of Mosinee, Rib Mountain, Stettin, Wausau and Weston.

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 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 using state and federal funds 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. METRORIDE 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 from 773,991 in 2010 to 503,359 in 2018 partially 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)

Lynch explained in 2018, the Wausau MPO approved the 5 years Transit Development Program. The plan examines the current transit system, compares Metro Ride to peer systems throughout the state and country and has for recommendations for the future. Handed out at the meeting was the TDP Appendix A that includes the survey results from October 2017. The mail survey was sent to 8,463 residents in the City of Wausau, City of Schofield, Village of Weston, Village of Rothschild, and Town of Rib Mountain. The Business survey that was emailed to approximately 10,000 emails were briefly reviewed. Lynch shared that the link to the TDP is included in the handout and on the MPO website.

8. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA: The committee was asked to bring ideas to the next meeting. The committee expressed interest doing another Business Survey with a more focused mailing list. List of existing and potential funding options. Community statistics (ex: % residents without a driver license).

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

10. ADJOURN

Consensus to adjourn the meeting. Meeting Adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Submitted by:
David Mack
Program Manager/MPO Director
Marathon County
Conservation, Planning and Zoning/Wausau MPO
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