

**MARATHON COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSIT WORK GROUP
AGENDA**

**August 20th, 2024
2:00 P.M.**

**LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
210 RIVER DR., WAUSAU, WI**

Members: Randy Fifrick, Joan Joss, Mark Thuot, Gaylene Rhoden, George Peterson, Becky McElhaney, Arran Hersey, Megan Newman, Doug Diny, Dave Eckman, Jami Gebert, Michael Wodalski

Mission/Purpose: The Transit Planning Work Group (TPWG) are representatives of the communities in the Wausau Metropolitan Area that have the authority and knowledge to discuss the Public Transit System and related components in their community. Through discussion, common issues and concerns will be evaluated and recommendations for goals, objectives, and guidelines for each community will be developed for providing Public Transit in their community and the metro area.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning **five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**PHONE NUMBER: 1-408-418-9388
ACCESS CODE: 2490 716 6556**

**Please Note: If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number" enter the # sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference.
When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVE MINIUTES OF MAY 30TH 2024 MEETING**
- 3. METRO RIDE PRESENTATION**
- 4. DISCUSSION – POSSIBLE PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY**
- 5. TOPICS & AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- 6. IDENTIFY NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME – DOODLE POLL**
- 7. ADJOURN**

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 one business day before the meeting.


SIGNED _____
PRESIDING OFFICER OR DESIGNEE

EMAILED TO: Courthouse, Daily Herald, TPP Printing, City Pages
Midwest Radio Group, Marshfield News

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:

EMAILED BY: AA
DATE: 8/12/24
EMAIL TIME: 11:30 am

By: _____



**TRANSIT WORK GROUP
Minutes
May 30, 2024**

Meeting Attendance: Randy Fifrlick, George Peterson, Doug Diny, Joan Joss, Mark Thuot, Ryan VanDeWalle, Gaylene Rhoden, Arran Hersey, Megan Newman, Jami Gebert, Michael Wodalski, John Robinson, Aaron Anklam, Dave Mack, Laurie Miskimins, Darryl Landeau

1. Call Meeting to Order / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Fifrlick at 1:32pm. Introductions of staff and group members followed.

2. Discussion Regarding Basis for Creating the Transit Work Group

Robinson discussed the basis for creating the Transit Work Group and creating the Transit Development Plan. Mack also discussed how each member/community should be involved within the Transit Work Group.

3. Review Duties & Responsibilities Identified in the Charter

Mack talked about the Duties and Responsibilities for the members of the Transit Work Group as outlined in the Charter and how each member plays a role back to their communities.

4. Introduction of the Metro Area Transit Development Plan (TDP) and its Recommendations

Mack briefly went over the TDP document and focused primarily on the recommendations that came from the study. Mack explained that the document goes over local cost and other impacts that each proposed recommended route would have on each community. Newman talked about funding the local share and stated that it does not need to be the municipality that pays it but that it could be a business. Rhoden said that businesses have paid local shares in the past.

5. Discussion of Each Municipalities Stance Regarding Transit in their Community

Schofield – Joss expressed Schofield being in favor of transit and possibly looking into Greenheck paying the local share. Joss also expressed that Schofield has funded public transit in the past. Thuot expressed having more flexible routes opposed to what was recommended in the TDP.

Rothschild – Peterson stated that the VA Clinic would be a viable hub in Rothschild but believes that it would be a tough sell to the community as the proposed routes do not go through a lot of residential areas. Mack expressed the route design is crucial in connecting commercial to residential.

Weston – Gebert stated that residents have expressed their needs for a transit system. Wodalski also explained how Weston previously had transit services.

Rib Mountain – Rhoden brought up possibly setting up a test route on the weekends to gauge public interest in a transit system. Rhoden also discussed funding issues for the local share.

Wausau – Diny talked about expanding services to hot spots at first and being flexible to increase ridership. Diny also expressed being in favor of having transit services throughout the entire metro area.

TRANSIT WORK GROUP

Marathon County – Fifrick stated that Marathon County has interest in helping surrounding communities get public transit. Wodalski asked if the County would help pay the local shares. Fifrick said he would look into it. Rhoden asked about paratransit and if there would be any additional cost behind that. Newman stated that the service would be available at no extra cost and that she would be happy to do a presentation to help educate the group on Metro Ride and public transportation.

6. Discussion Topics & Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The group discussed gauging public interest in a transit system through a type of survey or newsletter article. Rhoden also brought up bringing the topic up to each municipalities boards to see their stance. Newman stated she would be willing to present at board meetings.

7. Identify Next Meeting Date & Time

Staff will coordinate next meeting date, time, and agenda items.

8. Adjournment

Action: There being no further business before the members motion by Diny to adjourn the meeting of the Transit Work Group at 2:45pm. Motion carried by voice vote, No dissent.

Submitted by:
Aaron Anklam, MPO Transportation Planner
Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning
AA

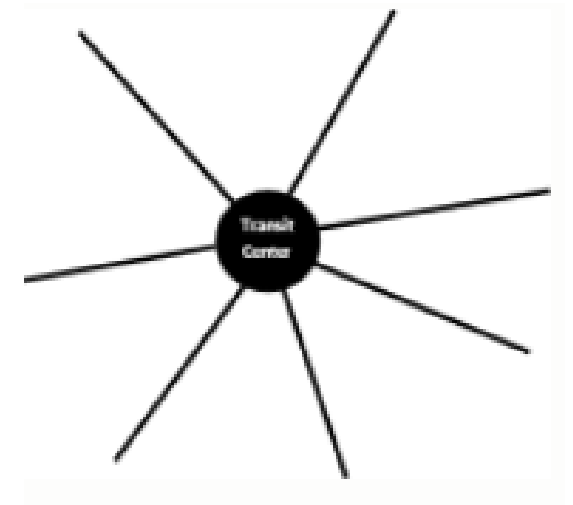


Enjoy the Ride

Utilizing the ***METRO***
Ride Transit System

How things work

- Transit center location: 555 Jefferson Street – downtown Wausau
- Operating hours are 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM Monday through Friday
- Bus routes are 30 minutes round trip – 15 minutes out and back
- All buses meet at the transit center where passengers can transfer
- All routes begin at the transit center (hub) and travel on designated routes (spokes)
- Bus stops are generally found on every other block along bus routes



Paying Your Fare

- **Adults:**

Cash fare - \$1.75 / ride one way

Tokens \$11 for 10 (never expire)

Adult monthly Pass \$42

- **Junior / Senior / Disabled:**

Cash fare \$1.50 youth

\$.85 elderly / disabled with Medicare card or reduced fare card issued by Metro Ride office

Youth tickets \$9.50 / strip of 10 (never expire)

JSD monthly pass \$21

Youth Freedom Pass (youth pass valid 6/1 – 8/31) \$28

- **Can be purchased at:**

Metro Ride office

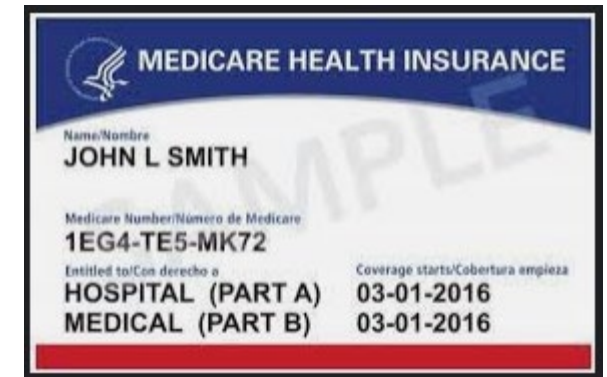
City Hall

County Market

Horace Mann

Wausau East / Wausau West

John Muir



Boarding and Exiting the Bus



CATCHING and BOARDING THE BUS

- Bus stop signs approx. every other block on each bus route
- Be at the bus stop before the bus arrives
- When you board pay your fare – cash (exact fare only – drivers do not make change), transfer slip, presold fare – cash goes in fare box, all other fares present to driver
- Find a seat quickly – time is important to other passengers as well as your driver

EXITING THE BUS

- Pull the yellow cord above the windows about a block before your stop
- If you are at the transit center and need to transfer, be sure you have a transfer slip (transfers good for 30 minutes after issue time)
- Make sure you have gathered all your personal belongings prior to the bus stopping

DETOURS AND DELAYS

- Traffic, weather and road construction can contribute to delays
- Treat drivers with patience and respect – they do their best to serve you to the best of their ability



Bus Rules

DO

- take a seat if one is available and remain seated while the bus is moving.
- listen to and obey instructions given by the driver.
- read informational handouts and notices posted in the bus.
- wear proper clothing. (shirts and shoes are required)
- fold up child strollers so the aisle remains clear for other riders.
- give your seat to any person who, because of age or physical condition, is less able to stand than you are.



DON'T

- smoke, chew tobacco or use e-cigarettes.
- eat or drink.
- play a radio or other audio player unless you use headphones.
- use loud or offensive language.
- be rowdy or push or scuffle.
- put your feet on the seats, seat backs or walls.
- leave trash on the bus.
- hang out the windows.
- throw or spit anything out the window.
- bring bulky items on the bus especially at busy times unless they can be held on your lap.
- bring animals, except guide animals, onto the bus or transit system property unless enclosed in a container that can be held on your lap.
- bring weapons or hazardous materials aboard the bus.



Bus Routes

Seven mainline fixed routes and several school express routes

- **A route (Able)** Post office, McDonald's near mall, Health Care Center
- **B route (Baker)** Salvation Army, Northcentral Tech College, Fleet Farm
- **D route (Delta)** Pick & Save, Walgreens (Bridge St), Mission Church, West High
- **G route (Golf)** John Muir, Walgreens (17th Ave), Kwik Trip, County Market
- **H route (Henry)** Kwik Trip (6th St), Horace Mann, East High Apartments
- **I route (Irish)** Marshfield Clinic, Aspirus Hospital, Women's Community
- **J route (Jacob)** Social Services, Great Dane, Kolbe & Kolbe

**Express routes do not run all day, most run only during school hours

Bikes and ADA Passengers Welcome

All buses are equipped to:

- Carry two pedal bicycles in a rack in the front
- Transport passengers with disabilities

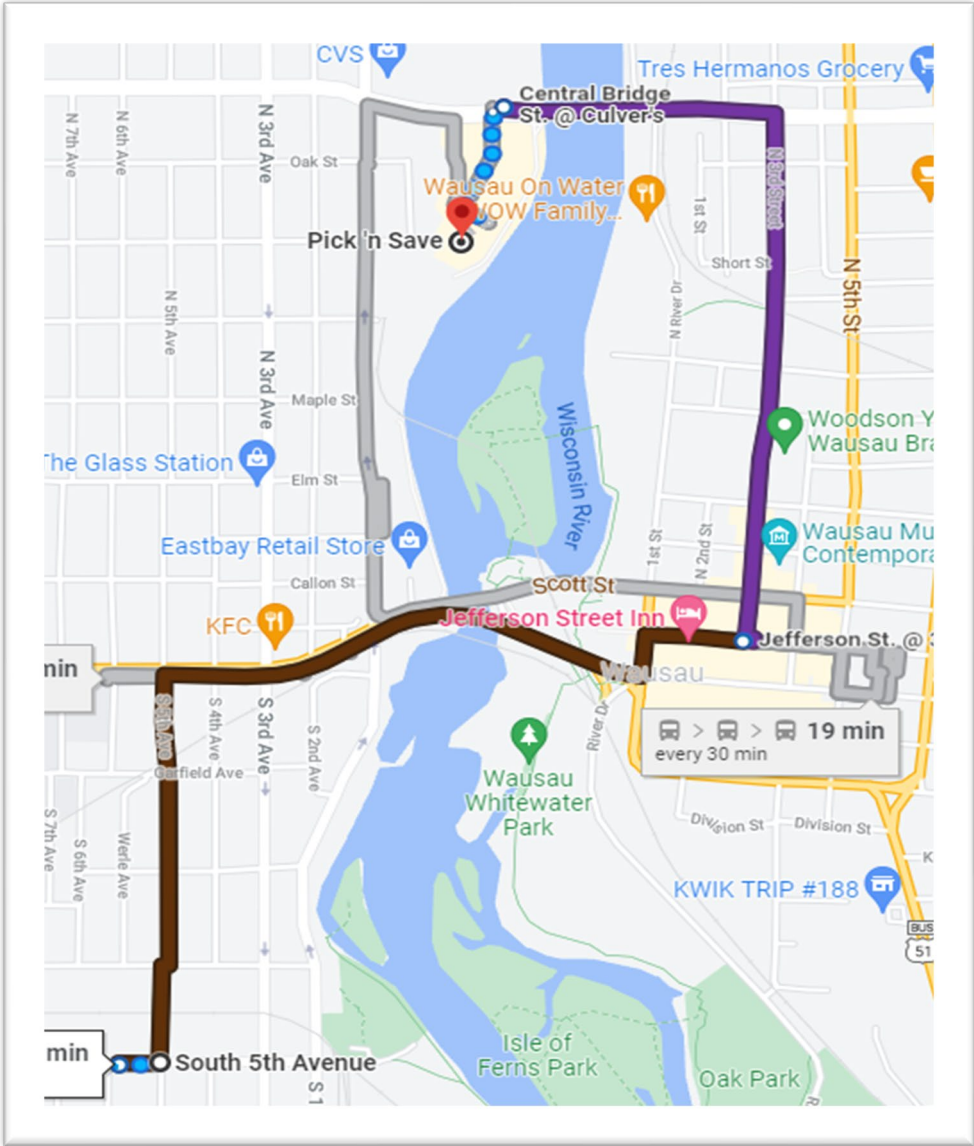


Use Google Maps to Plan Your Trip

Enter the origin and destination of your trip and Google Maps will help you navigate!

The screenshot shows the Google Maps search interface with the following details:

- Mode: Transit (selected)
- Origin: S 5th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
- Destination: Pick 'n Save, 205 Central Bridge St, Wausau, WI 54401
- Time: Leave now
- Options: Available
- Action: Send directions to your phone
- Route Summary: 3:51 PM—4:09 PM, 18 min
- Transit Details: **G** > **D** > Walk
- Start: 3:52 PM from Sherman St. @ 6th Ave.
- Cost: \$1.75
- Walk: 6 min
- Frequency: every 30 min
- Details: Available



Our Office

- 420 Plumer Street Wausau, WI 54403
- Open from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Call us at 715-842-9287 for help planning your ride

QUESTIONS?



Wausau MPO 2017 Transit Survey Results

Prepared by: Andrew Lynch and Dave Mack

The following results were taken from a survey administered in mid-October 2017 in the Wausau Metropolitan Area communities of City of Wausau, City of Schofield, Village of Weston, Village of Rothschild, and Town of Rib Mountain. Over 9,000 surveys were mailed to randomly selected addresses in those communities. Respondents could reply by pre-paid envelope or on an online version of the survey. Please note that the question description in the results may not be the full questions asked. A copy of the survey is attached.

	# Responses	Mailed Surveys	Response Rate	Response for 95% Confidence
City of Schofield	304	1063	29%	327
City of Wausau	473	1905	25%	380
Village of Weston	477	1875	25%	375
Village of Rothschild	511	1795	28%	358
Town of Rib Mountain	610	1825	33%	365
Grand Total	2375	8463		

The mailing was designed with the hope of a significant number of responses using a 95% Confidence Interval. Due to the high response rate, this level was met in every community except the City of Schofield. However, due to the City of Schofield's low population, it is likely the results can still be considered important for the purposes of this report.

1.

Where do you live?		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
City of Schofield	304	13%
City of Wausau	473	20%
Village of Weston	477	20%
Village of Rothschild	511	22%
Town of Rib Mountain	610	26%
Grand Total	2375	100%

2.

Where do you work?		
	#	
	Responses	% Total Responses
Retired	988	46%
City of Wausau	566	27%
N/A	142	7%
City of Schofield	115	5%
Village of Weston	104	5%
At Home	80	4%
Village of Rothschild	66	3%
Town of Rib Mountain	65	3%
Grand Total	2126	100%

3.

What is your primary mode of transportation?		
	#	
	Responses	% Total Responses
Car	2066	96%
Walk	30	1%
Rideshare or taxi service	18	1%
Bus	28	1%
Bike	11	1%
Grand Total	2153	100%

4.

In your opinion, what should be the main goal of a public transit service?		
	#	% Total
	Responses	Responses
Provide an efficient and cost-effective transportation option	699	33%
Provide a more environmentally friendly transportation option	40	2%
Reduce traffic congestion	28	1%
All of the above	1335	64%
Grand Total	2102	100%

5.

Would you or someone you know be able to use a paratransit service?		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
I could use it in the future	0	0%
I know someone that could use it now	958	61%
I know someone that could use it in the future	502	32%
I could use it now	106	7%
Grand Total	1566	100%

6.

What would be the preferred way to move around the community?		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
Car driven by family member/friend	1277	60%
Bus	369	17%
Paratransit	223	11%
Rideshare or taxi	143	7%
Walk	53	2%
Other	26	1%
Bike	30	1%
Grand Total	2121	100%

7.

Should your community have transit?		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
Yes	1449	62%
No	363	15%
Maybe	534	23%
Grand Total	2346	100%

8.

Should your community budget for transit?		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
Yes	1265	54%
No	397	17%
Maybe	692	29%
Grand Total	2354	100%

9.

What is your age?		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
60 years and above	1185	55%
40 – 49 years old	242	11%
50 – 59 years old	417	19%
30 – 39 years old	202	9%
19 – 29 years old	94	4%
Under 19 years old	3	0.140%
Grand Total	2143	100%

10.

What is your household income?		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
Less than \$25,000 per year	358	18%
\$50,001 - \$75,000 per year	399	20%
\$75,001 - \$100,000 per year	312	16%
\$25,001 - \$50,000 per year	589	30%
\$100,001 or more per year	291	15%
Grand Total	1949	100%

11.

Please specify your ethnicity		
	# Responses	% Total Responses
White	1989	95%
Asian/Pacific Islander	30	1%
Other	55	3%
Black or African American	6	0%
Native American or American Indian	7	0%
Hispanic or Latino	9	0%
Grand Total	2096	100%

Cross-tabulations of questions 7 and 8.

Should your community have transit?								
	Yes		No		Maybe		No Response	Grand Total
Village of Rothschild	333	65%	49	10%	128	25%	1	511
Town of Rib Mountain	292	48%	152	25%	163	27%	3	610
City of Wausau	357	76%	25	5%	64	14%	25	471
Village of Weston	260	55%	98	21%	116	24%	3	477
City of Schofield	205	67%	38	13%	61	20%		304
N/A	2	33%	1	17%	2	33%	1	6
Grand Total	1449		363		534		33	2379

Should your community have transit? By Age								
	Yes		No		Maybe		No Response	Grand Total
No Response	5	26%	10	53%	3	16%	1	19
Under 19 years old	1	33%		0%	2	67%		3
19 – 29 years old	63	55%	23	20%	26	23%	2	114
30 – 39 years old	144	61%	39	16%	55	23%		238
40 – 49 years old	150	55%	43	16%	77	28%	1	271
50 – 59 years old	278	60%	77	17%	105	23%	4	464
60 years and above	808	64%	171	13%	266	21%	25	1270
Grand Total	1449		363		534		33	2379

Should your community have transit? By Income								
	Yes		No		Maybe		No Response	Grand Total
Less than \$25,000 per year	371	61%	89	15%	136	23%	8	604
\$50,001 - \$75,000 per year	71	52%	28	21%	37	27%		136
\$75,001 - \$100,000 per year	60	63%	18	19%	18	19%		96
\$25,001 - \$50,000 per year	87	57%	29	19%	36	24%		152
\$100,001 or more per year	55	59%	17	18%	22	23%		94
Grand Total	644		181		249		8	1082

Should your community budget for transit?								
	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	%	No Response	Grand Total
Village of Rothschild	292	57%	50	10%	168	33%	1	511
Town of Rib Mountain	249	41%	154	25%	204	33%	3	610
City of Wausau	303	64%	40	8%	113	24%	16	472
Village of Weston	242	51%	106	22%	127	27%	2	477
City of Schofield	177	58%	46	15%	78	26%	3	304
N/A	2	33%	1	17%	2	33%	1	6
Grand Total	1265		397		692		26	2380

Should your community budget for transit? By Age								
	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	%	No Response	Grand Total
No Response	4	21%	8	42%	5	26%	2	19
19 – 29 years old	50	44%	26	23%	37	32%	1	114
30 – 39 years old	120	50%	40	17%	77	32%	1	238
40 – 49 years old	128	47%	47	17%	95	35%	1	271
50 – 59 years old	253	54%	86	18%	123	26%	3	465
60 years and above	708	56%	190	15%	354	28%	18	1270
Under 19 years old	2	67%		0%	1	33%		3
Grand Total	1265		397		692		26	2380

Should your community budget for transit? By Income								
	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	%	No Response	Grand Total
Less than \$25,000 per year	324	54%	95	16%	180	30%	5	604
\$50,001 - \$75,000 per year	69	51%	30	22%	37	27%		136
\$75,001 - \$100,000 per year	55	57%	19	20%	23	24%		97
\$25,001 - \$50,000 per year	75	49%	33	22%	44	29%		152
\$100,001 or more per year	52	55%	16	17%	25	27%	1	94
Grand Total	575		193		309		6	1083