



**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.

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**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  
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