

ROCK COUNTY COORDINATING TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Minutes – September 23, 2022

Call to order: A meeting of the Rock County Coordinating Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Joe Scharenbroch on September 23, 2022, via ZOOM at 9:08 am.

Roll Call:

Present: Cori Marsh, Patty Hansberry, James Thompson, Dave Lowe, Supervisor Ron Bomkamp, Kersten Hughes, David Salmon, Ryan Schomber, Dave Hyde, Samantha Axon

Excused: TJ Nee

Unexcused: Dawn Hudson

Alternates: None

Visitors: Jamie Meyers, Kate Griffith, Jennifer McIlhone, and John Discher

Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve September 23, 2022, agenda was made by Dave Lowe and seconded by Patty Hansberry. Motion carried.

Introduction of Members: Each member introduced themselves to the visitors.

Introduction of Visitors: Jamie Meyers (Director of inpatient and outpatient dialysis) & Kate Griffith (Social Worker) from Mercy Health System-Janesville. Jennifer McIlhone (Janesville Transit Assistant Director) and John Discher (Mobility Manager for Rock County)

Citizen Participation, Communications & Announcements: Jamie Meyers and Kate Griffith discussed current dialysis situation and expansion of program. Currently, there are 70 hemodialysis outpatient consumers and 10 of them use Rock County Transit. Mercy is process of building 22 dialysis station unit, which is increase from current 12 station. It will be located on the 3rd floor of the Michael Barry Building. Current deadline is for the end of June 2023. Current census of 70 patients will go to 120. They are anticipating need for additional transportation services. Currently, patients are dropped off curbside. Jamie hoping that with new building, drivers can bring patients up to 3rd floor waiting room and then retrieve them when they are done from the 3rd floor. The crosswalk that connects the hospital to the Michael Berry building is tall enough for transportation vehicle. Regular vehicles can come in through the parking lot. Distance wise it is shorter from door to 3rd floor than current situation, but concern is getting to 3rd floor. Jamie interested in brainstorming with TCC committee. Cori responded about Rock Count Transit and the fact that the drivers can't leave their buses/vehicles. Jennifer McIlhone asked if Jamie could send map of layout of new building and the grounds (where bus stops/drop off would be) to the different transportation providers. Jennifer asked that situation be placed on next agenda to revisit it.

Approval of 07/22/2022 TCC minutes: Motion to approve made by Supervisor Bomkamp, seconded by Cori Marsh. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2019-2023 Rock County TCC Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP):** Groups met after July meeting to discuss assigned sections of plan. Jennifer McIlhone indicated that their group has met and emailed several times r/t their sections. They took approach to leave old information on document and then add new/changed information. Cori indicated that her group felt that they needed to see the survey results before they could go further and have not met again. Joe asked entire committee how they wanted to proceed with the information that the groups came up with in relation to how the new plan would be put together. Patty indicated that in the past the groups provided the information to the Mobility Manager, and it was the Mobility Manager's responsibility to put the plan together. David Salmon discussed the part 3 group. He indicated that it makes sense to get through assessment of needs first before proceeding with goals of plan. He concurred with Cori regarding the need for the survey results and from the DTP from Janesville Transit which is currently being worked on. Joe indicated that the plan would remain in old business until it is done. Cori indicated that current plan is through 2023 and so there is time. Cori stated that having it done by the second quarter would allow for enough time to get through different committees/boards for approval. Joe stated that small groups should continue to meet but according to their own schedule. John Discher was added to group 4.
2. **Medical Transportation Survey Update/Discussion:** Dave Lowe discussed that survey is done and asked for approval from committee to release it to the public. He added that he thought River Falls did a very good job with the survey and it will provide good information to use for the next 5 – 10 years. Jennifer McIlhone asked if committee wants to come up with list of individuals to send survey results to. Dave suggested putting it on the county website and send letter to people who committee thinks might be interested and make it known it's available and how to obtain copy of it. Supervisor Bomkamp suggested making a press release. Cori asked if there has been any discussion of having a public forum for people to get the results if they were interested in a discussion. Dave listed a few agencies he thought would like the information (Workforce Development, Guardian Friends Associates, Aptiva, Rock County Human Services, etc.) that have clientele that might avail themselves of transportation to make sure they know what is out there and what the survey found. Jennifer asked if the committee wants the survey results to go to political entities. Dave indicated that probably doesn't need to go to politicians unless there is a change in services and/or need for more money. Jennifer indicated that Dave, Patty, and herself will work on letter that will be used and committee will approve when complete. Supervisor Bomkamp reminded committee that survey is a public record and if someone requested it now, it would have to be provided. Dave Lowe moved to authorize the release of the results and Supervisor Bomkamp seconded it. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DOT Grant – Patty stated that RSVP has applied for a new DOT grant for the next grant cycle. Patty not aware of how much was applied for. She provided some statistics from last quarter. RSVP provides transportation for approximately 530 clients. They have around 50 volunteer drivers (when they have time they help). They have "really good luck" with their volunteers. They do get reimbursed for mileage. RSVP administrative costs are low because

Patty is the only one that has salary in that administration. Our second quarter totals are 5211 miles driven, 266 round trips and it was completed in 340 hours. That is just the DOT program. There are 4 other components to SVS program. They get funding from the State and other local governments, United Way, Americore, RSVP and City of Beloit Community Black Development Grant. Supervisor Bomkamp made motion to approve request and Joe Scharenbroch seconded. Motion carried. David Salmon asked that once RSVP is approved for the funds that she let both TJ and him know so they can amend them into their TIP's.

TCC Member Update: TCC committee is still looking for a community member. Joe asked that if anyone knows of anybody who might be interested to reach out. Supervisor Bomkamp suggested that drivers who are aware of outspoken consumer might reach out and make them aware of the open seat. Cori reminded committee that it has been put in newsletter in the past. Joe suggested allowing interested individuals to come as a visitor first (before committing to becoming a member) to see how it works and what would be expected. Dave Hyde requested that committee be provided a list of members whose terms are expiring this year so that the committee can start working on next year's vacancies. Joe indicated that can be sent out. Jennifer McIlhorne reminded committee that during the November meeting, the committee will be voting for Chair/Vice Chair.

Member Reports:

Scharenbroch – No report.

Tremain – No report.

Marsh – Rock County Transit did get two new buses delivered the first week in August. They should be in service shortly. It's a time-consuming process to get them into service. They are meeting with an additional supplier next week about the other buses that they are looking to procure. They are hopeful that the one that is supposed to come in March is still happening. They have 6 buses that need to be retired within the next 12 months. The turn around time is still 12 – 24 months from time of order to delivery. The one bus that has been out of service for more than 4 months will be coming back to service next week and that will help.

Hansberry – RSVP is really busy. They are very short on drivers and doing an extensive search to find new volunteers. Just reminder that Beloit Senior Fair is October 4 from 9 am – 1 pm at the Eclipse Center. The Senior Fair at the DWRC went very well.

Discher – New to the Mobility Manager position (since September 6). Was previously a driver for the Rock County Transit program. He has been with the county for a year, and he has dealt with a lot of the people that we are trying to serve and come up with transportation solutions for them.

Thompson – No report

Lowe – No report

Bomkamp – When he was talking to Jamie from Mercy Health System and he asked what he could do, he put a plug in that we could use more buses and maybe get a donation from Mercy. Through the fire department is that people are having a hard time getting to their appointments, so they call the

ambulance to get them there. They provide education that it's not what they are for, but they don't have other options. They put them in contact with people they think that can help them. A local private ambulance just got bought out and that doesn't help either. They do take them if there are no other options, and they provide the information from the county.

Hughes – WERA (Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance) is continuing but is on hold for new applications. They are processing quite a bit of backlog (overwhelming number of applications). One step of determining if you are eligible is (the first step) is applying for energy assistance. The new heating season is starting, and people will be applying for this starting October 1st. They will resume taking WERA application on October 3rd.

Salmon – The MPO has just published a draft planning budget for 2023 and that is available. They identified the TCC as part of the efforts and a number of other transit initiatives for that. They are also tracking a new funding program through the USDOT called the carbon reduction program. They have yet to received formal guidance on the funds are meant to be used. It appears that it could be used for transit studies including regional transit and a whole plethora of things that might connect a lot of the dots, particularly with the three transit providers in Rock County. The hope is that WISDOT will provide guidance and allow them to use money to work towards some goals for regional transit and certainly support the efforts here within the framework of carbon reduction. Mode shift is one of the big terms they use. We have existing transit riders that would benefit from financial planning and improvements to service. They will be talking internally with their MPO at the TAC next week and continue conversation in the beginning of 2023. It's a sizable amount of money between now and 2026 it's with the local share it's over \$1 million for the Janesville MPO and Beloit has a proportionately similar size budget. There are some potential planning dollars out there. The interesting thing for this program is there are infrastructure dollars.

Schomber – Business as usual.

McIlhone – Janesville Transit has an RFP going out soon. They are building bus shelters that have solar roofs for lighting. They are in need of part time drivers. School started on September 1, and they added two routes called "school tripper" routes. There are 3 positions available to cover these routes.

Hyde – All students for School for the Blind are back and using Janesville Transit System. It is nice to have students on campus.

Axon – Wants to take transportation survey results and share them with the Access to Care subcommittee. They meet once per month and they have representation from different community organizations like health systems, the Y and school systems. It would be good to put on their radar and give them an overview and highlights.

Items for Future Agendas: New Mercy Dialysis Building. Joe discussed that he talked with John Discher and Jennifer Thompson about updating the original TCC resolution and removing outdated verbiage (Disability Board). The committee would then review the updates for resubmission. Cori indicated that John, Joe, Jennifer Thompson, Supervisor Bomkamp and herself will put something together and submit it. Terms of chairs will be added to new business for next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates: Friday, November 18, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Supervisor Bomkamp, Second by McIlhone. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Minutes not official until approved by the Rock County Transportation Coordinating Committee