

Walworth County Board of Supervisors
January 13, 2020 Transportation Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Russell at 1:30 p.m.

Roll call was conducted, and all members were present: Chair Nancy Russell, Health and Human Services (HHS) Board Chair Ken Monroe, Health and Human Services (HHS) Administrative Analyst Lisa Kadlec, and Citizen Members Michael McKay, Eric Russow and Shawn Davenport. Vice Chair Andrew Kerwin was absent.

Others in Attendance

County Staff: County Administrator David Bretl; Office Supervisor/Mobility Manager Nicole Hill; Senior Accountant Natasha Gantenbein

Members of the Public: Cynthia Simonsen, Executive Director of VIP Services

On motion by Citizen Member Michael McKay, second by Citizen Member Eric Russow, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Supervisor Ken Monroe, second by Citizen Member Russow, the December 2, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

Unfinished Business

- Correspondence from the Alternative High School requesting the same fare for students regardless of age

Office Supervisor/Mobility Manager Nicole Hill said the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) requires that riders have a right to privacy as to the purpose of travel, so it is not advisable to limit the types of trips under a student fare. She reminded the Committee that any change in the fare structure is subject to a public hearing. Administrator David Bretl recommended leaving this fare as it is for the time being, as there are many usage and demand issues already, and added this may need to be addressed in the future.

New Business

- Options for managing shared-ride transit program growth

Hill distributed two graphs related to usage and reminded the Committee the program went over budget in 2019 and required a budget amendment. Due to that, she has been looking at ways to manage growth. The first option is to increase the fares and she recommended a 50 cent increase on all fares, which would require a public hearing with notice ahead of meeting. She said that DOT noted increasing fares may stem growth slightly, which could help. The public hearing could be in March or April, with the new fares becoming effective May 1st. **Supervisor Monroe made a motion, second by Citizen Member Russow, to approve a 50 cent increase on all fare types. Motion carried 6-0.** Hill said another option is increasing the agency fare. Currently, agencies are charged \$8 per voucher, which is good for a 1-way trip. She recommended an increase to \$10 and noted a public hearing is not required to change the agency fee, but the agencies must be given a 60 day notice. She recommended the change become effective May 1st so all fare changes take place concurrently. **Citizen Member McKay made a motion, second by Citizen Member Shawn Davenport, to increase the agency fare to \$10. Motion carried 6-0.**

Discussion began concerning service levels and other possible ways to address the funding shortage. Bretl suggested placing this item on the Finance Committee agenda so they are aware of the issue. He recommended moving forward with the new rates and seeing how those affect ridership levels. The Committee discussed raising the fare for each category at a different percentage and putting an expiration date on vouchers to limit high levels of purchases before the cost increase goes into effect. **Citizen Member Russow made a motion, second by Supervisor Monroe, to increase the fare for seniors, disabled, children under 18 to \$3.00; adults within same community to \$4.50; all other adult trips to \$6.00; and agency fare to \$10.00, while also looking into expiration dates or limits on vouchers. Motion Carried 6-0.**

Transportation Financial Summary

Senior Accountant Natasha Gantenbein said usage for the Shared Ride program in November amounted to \$5,000 less than October, which is similar to the trend in past years. She said the number of trips overall increased by 10,000 in 2019 compared to 2018, which is similar to the relationship between 2018 and 2017. The veteran's transportation grant of \$1,400 was received in early December, and therefore, is not reflected in this report.

Monthly Ridership

Chair Russell noted the trends seem to be consistent with previous years.

VIP Services report of any "turn down" requests for service

Cynthia Simonsen, Executive Director of VIP Services, reported there were a total of 27 turn downs, including 23 for the shared ride program and 4 for the specialized. The majority of the turn downs were the result of late requests.

Announcements – There were none.

Confirmation of next meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for March 2, 2020 at 1:30 p.m., which will consist of a public hearing on fare changes.

Adjournment

On motion and second by Supervisor Monroe and Citizen Member Russow, Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.