

Committee and Others in Attendance:

Martin Glaze, Connect Transit

Shelly Snider, Connect Transit

Matt Huddleson, Homes of Hope

Holly Phillips, Homes of Hope

Shannon Tarkowski, LIFE-CIL

Michael Predmore, Marcfirst

Laura Dick, SHOW BUS

John Corey, Citizen Representative

Teresa Anderson, MCRPC

Jennifer Sicks, MCRPC

The session was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

Ms. Sicks advised that no requests for public comment were received.

Mr. Glaze offered a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2018 meeting, and was seconded by Ms. Snider. The minutes were approved without objection.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

None. The Committee moved directly to items for discussion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Ms. Anderson described the distributed documents, including the transit propensity model map, which combines several local data sources to assess likelihood of transit use. The map also shows average monthly ridership at stop locations. There is also a page of graphs regarding the respondents to the Connect Transit survey. There is also a comparison of the demographics of the survey respondents to the overall Bloomington-Normal community. Ms. Anderson is now investigating whether there is a relationship between proximity to bus stops serving routes with greater service frequency compared to proximity to bus stops overall.

Ms. Sicks noted that this analysis was begun to support the Connect Transit Short-Term Strategic Plan, but the analysis and the results also apply to the HSTP process. She has been analyzing data regarding Mobility service, including the rider data provided by Ms. Tarkowski. This includes the types of disability experienced by riders, and the impact of secondary disabilities or ancillary issues, and the impacts on how mobility service is provided and the associated costs.

URBAN AREA PROVIDER PROGRAM STATUS

Connect Transit

Ms. Snider advised that the Medicaid process went live today on the web and social media. There have been 108 rides so far, with 60 users as of September 11. There are complications in the process, and CT is considering adding a staff person to do Medicaid

management full time. Ms. Snider noted that there is information that is still needed to complete the billing process, but CT is continuing with service and using some flexibility in how the billing is done. Ms. Tarkowski noted that OSF is requiring a \$16 fee for forms confirming eligibility. Shelly is keeping track of the form requirements and the impact they are having on ridership.

Mr. Glaze noted that there have been many cautionary tales about working with the managed care organizations; currently CT is only working directly through the state and not the MCOs. CT will provide assistance to riders in dealing with the paperwork. The first year goal is billing out \$100,000, for which the state provides a 65% match. Mobility service is currently budgeted at \$3 million annually, which will jump to \$3.5 million very soon. Mr. Glaze advised that they are not currently creating a category for Medicaid users who do not qualify for Mobility service. Eventually there will be an approach to accommodation of Medicaid users using the fixed routes.

Mr. Glaze advised that the LIFE-CIL contract will end at the end of September, as CT is focused on a more targeted scope to be carried out internally. Ms. Tarkowski noted that it has been a good partnership, and she hopes that CT will continue to refer people to LIFE-CIL.

Mr. Glaze noted that the downtown transfer center will move to Roosevelt Street during the street work being done on Front Street. Benches have been placed in the temporary location. There will be more notice given when there is a date for the project to begin.

Mr. Glaze advised that the first year of infrastructure projects should be complete in a few weeks, noting that some sidewalks are not ADA-compliant. There have been some permit issues as well. There are 6 shelters about to be placed, with 4 more about to be delivered, with additional seating on order. There is no news on the downtown transfer center, and discussions are being initiated with the new Bloomington city manager.

Marcfirst

Mr. Predmore advised that Marcfirst has made some changes in its day program, which has led to some ridership increased. He noted that CT is working with Marcfirst with respect to the no show policy. There have been inquiries about kids leaving school and needed to get into Bloomington-Normal.

Advocate BroMenn

Ms. Wheat was unable to attend.

Faith in Action

Ms. Herr was unable to attend.

Homes of Hope

Ms. Phillips the locations and resident populations are unchanged. They have needed to do some repairs on older vehicles. Homes of Hope does take people beyond B-N for mental health treatment and other medical needs, noting that the needs increase as residents get older. Ms. Phillips noted the use of 3-d crosswalks in Iceland, wondering about its use in the US.

LIFE-CIL

Ms. Tarkowski noted there LIFE-CIL has a new adult group and a youth group advocating for greater accessibility in downtown Bloomington, which now has an ADA coordinator. Ms. Tarkowski's position at LIFE-CIL is being reconfigured to include the Pontiac office, and will continue working on training in Bloomington.

SHOW BUS

Ms. Dick noted that she has just attended a meeting with ECIAAA, where there was much approval expressed for CT accepting Medicaid payments. SHOW BUS is delaying the intercity route as there is no contract or any other confirmation of funding.

Ms. Dick noted that SHOW BUS deviated fixed routes and schedules are now on Google Maps, and can be used for trip planning. She advised that the IPTA conference included a panel regarding the managed care organizations, including the use of vouchers and other instruments. She and Ms. Snider noted that it was much easier to deal with First Transit. With respect to state oversight, everything is on hold until the election.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the use of Google Maps for transit information; Ms. Dick noted that anything SHOW BUS has available on Google will not be duplicated directly by SHOW BUS. The group also discussed the type of information available through Google, whether actual routes are shown, and noting that deviated fixed routes are not shown by Google.

Mr. Corey requested advice regarding assistance for an acquaintance with disabilities needing to arrange public transportation, noting that he has had very good response from Meridian in assisting this person. Mr. Corey also advised that

Greyhound is now buying minibuses in order to provide paratransit-type services at very high cost to the granting agency. The Committee discussed how the funding has been allocated from 5311(f); Mr. Corey noted that Greyhound and First Transit are under the same corporate umbrella.

REHABILITATION SERVICES PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION

Ms. Tarkowski introduced a video presentation by the Department of Rehabilitation Services regarding its Vocational Rehabilitation program, for which McLean, DeWitt, Livingston and Logan counties are grouped. Ms. Tarkowski noted that DORS is seeking partnership opportunities in order to expand their reach towards persons eligible for their services. She noted that the program can assist with transportation issues related to access to work.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee is scheduled to meet on October 10, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.



Jennifer Sicks
Land Use/Transportation Planner
McLean County Regional Planning Commission