

TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES

Date and Time: The Transit Commission met on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 1:30 P.M. at Metro Ride Office, 420 Plumer St., Wausau, WI.

Members Present: Sherri Abitz, Robert Mielke, Keith Draheim and Txanj Hue Yang

Members Excused: Keene Winters

Also Present: Greg Seubert, Mary Foss

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Abitz after noting a quorum was present.

Public Comment on Matters Appearing on the Agenda

Kathy Zoern asked how many more Life report assessments by Marathon County do we need to get this figured out? She expressed concern about the uncertainty that may be caused by a one-year project and she expressed her preference for long-term solution. She asked what the next steps would be if the project is not funded.

Chris Weems stated that he used to rely on the route to Rothschild, Schofield and Weston and would like to see the route come back.

Nancy Stencil stated that she would like to see a route to Rib Mountain. She works at North Central Health Care and her clients would utilize the route.

Approval of Minutes

Mielke moved to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2015 meeting. Yang seconded. Motion carried.

Transit Service Pilot Project and Grant Request

Abitz stated that the Metro Ride funding request to Marathon County was turned down by their executive committee. They did approve \$10,000 for the development of a county-wide transit policy, but it will not be completed until 2016.

Abitz stated that the pilot project involves a grant request to the Wausau Community Foundation to help fund the extension of transit services in 2016 and the collection of data that could be provided to the County for their transit study.

Seubert explained that the funding request to Marathon County was for the expansion of transit services to Rothschild, Schofield and Rib Mountain on Monday through Saturday. The pilot project does not include service on Saturday, so the request to the Foundation is less than the request to the County. The amount requested of the Foundation would reduce by half the cost for Rothschild, Schofield and Rib Mountain. During the one-year term, data would be gathered in order to measure the success of the project. Alderman Winters plans to meet with the Foundation next week to present the proposal.

Seubert stated that the City of Wausau's contribution to the 2016 Metro Ride budget would be reduced if the pilot project moves forward. The City of Wausau would have to authorize any grant agreements in advance of the project. Seubert said that he did not know of any other funding options to facilitate an expansion of service in 2016 if the Foundation did not fund the project. Rothschild and Schofield have indicated their inability to fund transit service without assistance.

Abitz said that Rib Mountain will be sending out another survey to business and residents. She has heard concerns about traffic flow on Rib Mountain Drive. Some residents and businesses are afraid that congestion will worsen if buses are stopping on Rib Mountain Drive.

Draheim expressed concern about the lack of pedestrian infrastructure in Rib Mountain. Seubert said that route design will be determined largely by time and distance, but the lack of pedestrian infrastructure there will be taken into account. In order to accommodate passengers, bus stops may have to be placed near businesses and not on the street.

Mielke moved to authorize submission of the pilot project proposal and grant request to the Foundation. Draheim seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting date was not determined. Seubert will poll members if he deems a special meeting is necessary. The next regular meeting date is November 19, 2015.

Mielke moved to adjourn the meeting. Yang seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abitz, Chairperson

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