



Alternative Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

127 N Wyman St, Rockford, IL 61101

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Carol Erickson at 2:07 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: University of Illinois – Extension; Rockford Mass Transit District; Workforce Connection; Rockford Park District; I Bike Rockford, North Central IL Council of Governments

Members Absent: Boone County Health Department; Rockford Road Runners; Stateline Mass Transit District; Swedish American; Winnebago County Health Department; Winnebago County Housing Authority.

Others Present: Melaney Dembicky, Boone county Transportation; Eric Brown, RAMP Center for Independent Living; Alex Rosander, Melisa Ribikawskis, Chuck Klutho, Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council.

3. Approval of the March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Erickson entertained a motion to accept the March 9, 2021 meeting minutes. First motion made by Ms. Sink workforce Connection; seconded by Ms. Lou. Approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the Committee.

5. Items Presented for Information or Discussion:

- a. **FTA 5310 Call for Projects:** Ms. Rosander provided information regarding the Call for Projects for the 5310 program which serves to remove barriers in the transportation system in order to improve the mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Three applications were received; One from Rockford Mass Transit District which is requesting funds in order to obtain 7 Medium Duty buses and 2 Super-Medium Duty, one from Barbra Olson Center of Hope to replace one medium duty paratransit vehicle, and one from TD Reliable Transport LLC to acquire one minivan.

During the discussion, Ms. Hughes of RMTD suggested that of the \$579,338 of available funds, the Barbara Olsen Center of Hope project be fully funded with the remaining funds going to RMTD to support acquisition of 7 medium duty vehicles.

Questions arose regarding the eligibility requirements of agencies who applied for funding, specifically Reliable Transport LLC. Ms. Rosander responded stated that to be eligible for these funds the project must

originate within the Rockford Urbanized Area and meet gaps identified in the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan. Others on the committee echoed the difficulty in finding information about Reliable Transport LLC. Ms. Rosander stated that RPC did look into the company and while there is not a lot of information available, there was not a direct reason that Reliable Transport LLC could not apply for funding.

A **motion** to award \$63,000 to the Barbara Olson Center of Hope and the remaining \$516,338 to RMTD for 7 replacement medium duty vehicles was made by Ms. Hughes, RMTD, and seconded by Mr. Smith, I Bike Rockford. Motion was **approved** by unanimous roll call vote.

6. Progress Reports:

- a. **Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP):** Ms. Rosander provided an update mentioning that RPC is in the process of formatting the final document. Following formatting completion, the plan will be posted for public comment.
- b. **RMTD Comprehensive Mobility Analysis:** RPC and RMTD have coordinated with Sam Schwartz who will create an existing conditions report which highlights RMTD's transportation network. This final report will act as a road map to determine what changes should be made within the fixed route network.

7. Agency Reports:

Boone County Health Department

Not present.

I Bike Rockford

Mr. Smith mentioned that I Bike Rockford applied for a neighborhood grant through the community foundation that supports a number of neighborhood rides to be held over the summer and the fall. The first ride is scheduled in late May in the North Highland Square neighborhood. In addition, Mr. Smith made the committee aware of the Ride of Silence put on by Blackhawk Bicycle club which is a sister club to I Bike Rockford. The event takes place on May 19th and is meant to remember those who have been killed or injured while bike riding on public roads.

North-Central Illinois Council of Governments

No report.

Rockford Mass Transit District

As of May 30th, RMTD will be going back to normal routes and will be accepting 24 passengers and will collect fares at front door boarding.

Rockford Park District

No report.

Rockford Road Runners

Not Present.

Stateline Mass Transit District

Not present

Swedish American

Not Present

The Workforce Connection

No Report

Winnebago County Housing Authority

Not Present

University of Illinois-Extension

No report

8. Other Business

Ms. Turner mentioned doing another call for projects for relief funds. \$100,000 can be put toward programing and RPC will work with RMTD on what that program of projects looks like.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Erickson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mr. Priddy of RMTD to adjourn at 2:29 pm, seconded by Mr. Bragg of Rockford Park District. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting minutes prepare by: Melisa Ribikawskis
Minutes approved by action of the Board: October 12, 2021