

MINUTES
BROWN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 10, 2006
Green Bay Metro Transportation Center
901 University Avenue
Green Bay, Wisconsin
9:45 a.m.



ROLL CALL

Sunny Archambault	_____	Sandy Popp	_____ x
Traci Belonger	_____ x	Sue Premo	_____ x
Betty Bennett	_____ x	Greg Smith	_____
Chris Hasselbacher	_____ x	Julie Tetzlaff	_____ x
Rita LeGros	_____	Mary Van Acker	_____
Nick Mahlik	_____ x	Barb Zambon	_____ x
David Nennig	_____ x		_____

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa J. Conard and Steve Rosenbaum.

D. Nennig opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the October 18, 2005, meeting of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Subcommittee.

A motion was made by B. Bennett and seconded by B. Zambon to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2005, meeting of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Subcommittee. Motion carried.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Summary of the modifications to Green Bay Metro's paratransit program that will begin in January of 2006.

D. Nennig stated that the 3/4-mile service area restriction will go into effect on January 16, 2006. A property that is partially within the 3/4-mile service area will be eligible for service. Those passengers who need to travel to or from locations outside of the 3/4-mile buffer have been making other arrangements. This includes passengers turning to Red Cross or making arrangements with private carriers. D. Nennig stated that he has also noticed an increase in those using the fixed route buses.

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S. Popp stated that none of her clients have requested help seeking alternatives. S. Rosenbaum stated that he is working with Mr. Marvin Rucker of County Human Services to place approximately 10-15 displaced clients on a Medi-Van fixed route. C. Hasselbacher stated that she has one client that is still looking for an alternative. J. Tetzlaff stated that some of the group homes have already begun providing transportation to their clients when their destinations are outside of the ¾-mile buffer. Additionally, the "no more group trips" rule is going to have a negative effect on CP clients. S. Rosenbaum is aware of employers transferring employees from sites outside of the ¾-mile buffer to sites within the ¾-mile buffer.

S. Popp asked if the elimination of door-to-door was a possibility. D. Nennig stated that we will need to wait and see what impact the changes will have on ridership and the overall budget. If there remains an issue, it is possible to look at charging the client the entire local share for a door-to-door trip (just over \$7.00 per one way trip).

D. Nennig stated that there were 96,039 paratransit trips made in 2005, down from 100,601 the previous year. This is likely due to the fare increase in both curb-to-curb and door-to-door service. Approximately 25% of the paratransit passengers are using the door-to-door premium option, down from 33% prior to the fare increase.

D. Nennig stated that a City of Green Bay alderman has requested that paratransit service be provided within the corporate city limits. This request will go before the Transit Commission in January. He cautioned that the state has already set the 2006 budget, and he will not be allowed additional funds.

2. Update on the status of Green Bay Metro's paratransit service request for proposals.

D. Nennig stated that the current contract with Medi-Vans expires June 30, 2006. He has completed the draft RFP, and the WisDOT central office staff is reviewing the document. He hopes to release the RFP next week. The RFP calls for proposals to be submitted within 30 days of issue.

B. Bennett asked if there would be a fuel escalator clause in the contract. D. Nennig stated that there would be.

3. Round robin discussion of paratransit service.

S. Popp, Premo, J. Tetzlaff, and B. Zambon stated that they have nothing additional to report.

S. Rosenbaum and N. Mahlik stated that they are willing to work with the paratransit clients, agencies, and Metro staff to make the transition to the ¾-mile service area as smooth as possible.

D. Nennig stated that Metro continues to receive about four or five paratransit applications per day.

T. Belonger stated that the Red Cross has experienced an increase in applications and requests for trips. Red Cross is operating at full capacity, and she reminded the committee that not all paratransit-certified clients would be eligible for the Red Cross program.

L. Conard asked if the Red Cross had more vehicles, would staff be able to recruit additional volunteer drivers. T. Belonger stated that it is more difficult to get the drivers than it is to get the vehicles. Currently, Red Cross fills 90 4-hour shifts per week with volunteer drivers. S. Premo stated that with the media coverage that will likely result from the change in the service area boundary next week, it could be an opportunity to promote the recruitment of volunteer drivers for the Red Cross. B. Bennett shared that being on the subcommittee has made her sensitive to something she previously never experienced.

4. Other matters.

L. Conard stated that she and Cole Runge would be relocating their offices from City Hall to the Northern Building and that new phone numbers and email addresses would be shared with the subcommittee when they became available. The move was designed to improve efficiencies between county departments and will not change the MPO's relationship with Metro.

L. Conard stated that the next meeting would be scheduled for 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at the Transportation Center.

5. Adjourn.

D. Nennig closed the meeting at 11:04 a.m.