

## **Rural Transit Advisory Group**

*November 19, 2014*

*Committee Members Present:* Leslie Stanberry, Alissa Dozier, Emily Dobson, Andrea Shaffer

*Others Present:* SHOWBUS Representative, Becky Gillum – Health Department, Paul McChancey, Bruce Bird

*Committee Members Absent:* Gary Minich, Diane Drew, Mark Wicklund, Marilyn Piasecki

*Next meeting:* Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 514 County Board Room, County Office Building.

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There were not enough members present to meet quorum, so a formal meeting was not held.

### SHOWBUS Update –

Handouts with numbers and graphs for the month were distributed.

Leslie commented on the increase in the numbers in the Macon & Blue Mound areas. Things are beginning to snowball. A couple of people start riding and then you just keep getting more and more. The Decatur number is also impressive. Andrea commented that St. Mary's is likely contributing a lot to that. There are a couple of areas, Mt. Zion & Moweaqua, that appear in the chart twice, with a slight variation in the spelling, so the two Mt. Zion numbers should be added together as well as the two for Moweaqua to get the true totals. The one unit for Lexington was questioned as Lexington is not located within the area, but is actually north of Bloomington. It was explained that if someone is moved in the area with a Macon route, but they actually have a Lexington address, it shows up as Lexington but a Macon unit. It depends on where the unit is justified. Some also show up as a blank home city. Those are people that are not tracked that got on the bus by flagging it down or something and there is no name for them. There's not too much of that in Macon, but it occurs more in other towns. Andrea asked if she could actually stand outside her house and flag the bus down to ride it and was informed that yes, as long as the bus has a safe area to stop in.

The Adult Day Services has been going great. The word is getting out. Because of those routes, a lot of incidental service is occurring in Decatur and the grey area.

The National Center on Senior Transportation grant was submitted. Support letters were received from Macon County Public Health, Decatur-Macon County Senior Center and Decatur – Macon County Opportunity Corporation. Eileen Sierra was also helpful in providing the survey tool to be used if the grant is accepted. \$20,000 was requested. Seniors will be tested for their readiness to consider alternative modes of transportation. Seniors will be appropriately educated regarding alternative modes and Seniors will be assisted in accessing those alternative modes as appropriate.

The CTA low rider vehicles were released from all FTA liens and declared to be at the end of their useful lives. The inter-governmental agreement was received and it stipulated that the transfer had to be between two governmental groups. SHOWBUS then notified IDOT that the buses

could not be accepted unless they could be titled to SHOWBUS limiting liability on the counties (McLean County in particular) as a primary participant. There has not been an answer at this point. It was explained that McLean County does not want to take 8 buses, 5 of which are parts buses. It is a liability they do not want to take on, but SHOWBUS is willing. It now depends on IDOT and if the relationship with CTA works out.

SHOWBUS is now hiring so if anyone has a lead on a Macon County driver, please pass it on. Requirements are 3 years experience with a CDL who likes working with special populations. The current Macon driver is working out great and learned quickly. No complaints there, just need to continue hiring.

HSTP Update – Emily Dobson reported that the next Region 8 meeting will be December 11 at the Champaign County Developmental Center. The regional group has started going around to visit some of the places they approve vehicles for and observing how they keep and use them as well getting to know the population they serve because that will enable better decisions. She invited anyone with interest to attend the meeting. One of the things they will be starting to do is to update the plan of work for the next 3 years and how those plans are going to be carried out.

Emily reported that Sierra had expressed appreciation for the opportunity to help facilitate getting that grant application in place and she is very hopeful that we will receive that. Leslie thanked the Health Department for coming through and helping out with that as well.

Leslie Stanberry reported that she had included information on SHOWBUS and a blurb on DMCOOC's transportation in their December / January newsletter.

The next meeting date will be January 28, 2015. Chairman Mark Wicklund had left word that he would like to cancel the December meeting due to the Holidays. The committee members discussed and agreed. Bruce Bird explained that the Macon County Board Transportation Committee meeting is moved up a week and placed on the yearly schedule, but he tries not to have anything to meet about and often the meeting is cancelled. Leslie asked if anyone knew when there might be word on the grant as it is a short term. Everyone agreed that information on that could be circulated via email if news on it came in.

Emily asked that the update on the grey area be left on the agenda so the committee could get a report on that in January.