

## **Rural Transit Advisory Group**

*January 28, 2015*

*Committee Members Present:* Leslie Stanberry, Alissa Dozier, Emily Dobson, Andrea Shaffer, Gary Minich, Diane Drew

*Others Present:* SHOWBUS Representative – Laura Dick, Becky Gillum – Health Department, Paul McChancey, Bruce Bird, Joselyn Stewart, Theresa Churchill

*Committee Members Absent:* Mark Wicklund, Marilyn Piasecki

*Next meeting:* Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 514 County Board Room, County Office Building.

Leslie Stanberry made a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting, seconded by Andrea Shaffer and the motion carried 6-0.

SHOWBUS Update –

Handouts with numbers and graphs for the past 2 months were distributed.

Laura Dick reported that the grant that had been applied for had not been received, but she thanked everyone for their efforts and for getting the letters of support in so quickly. She said she has been told that they should expect to see more opportunities for grants at the federal level that impact health and transportation and go across departments. She stressed that they should keep eyes open and apply as often as possible when they feel they might have a chance.

December units were less than expected due to some holiday closures.

She said they are watching the transition to see what happens at the State level and how it will affect them. There is a new Secretary of Transportation and they just lost the Deputy of Public Transportation and a couple of case workers. They are really low staffed at this time. Nothing is moving through. There is a big capital grant that would allow them to get computers, radios, a building and buses. The invitation for bids was submitted to be approved, but nothing is moving. Laura said she assumed it will be a bit before things begin moving again for the state. It is wait and see and hopefully things will get moving on a smoother path, but probably not for the next few months. Emily asked about the capital grant and the building Laura had referred to and whether the building referred to would be for Macon County. Laura explained that it would be a large administrative / maintenance building. The Macon shed is still on the “Hope to do” list. Some of that will depend on the flow of the vehicles and whether they continue to come. There is still only one Macon County driver. There were a couple of fine applications. One person is supposed to respond if they are interested. That is still a work in progress.

Emily asked how the service contract with St. Mary’s was going. Laura said they are fantastic to work with. Their staff is great and it has been a wonderful experience.

Emily asked if there were more feelers for service contracts. Laura said no, but they keep looking. She said there had been a slow down on Agency level too. She said it is a waiting game at this point.

HSTP Update – Emily Dobson reported that she had had problems downloading the newsletter Eileen had sent out, but everyone in the group indicated that they did receive it. Emily said that Eileen had said that information in regard to regional announcements is in the newsletter. Some of the people from IDOT who have lost their positions are listed. Emily encouraged everyone to take a look at that so if it is anyone they had relied on working with, they would be aware.

The next Region 8 HSTP meeting is going to be in Decatur at the Macon Resources on March 19 @ 10 a.m. Emily said that everyone is welcome to attend. There is a lot of networking that goes on within the group. They are going to start taking a look at reviewing the plan of work for the region.

Emily reported that Eileen had told her that things are pretty much at a standstill there too. Everything at IDOT is under review and she is not expecting news or information from them for the next while.

Emily said that Eileen was very interested in knowing about the gray area update that was on the agenda, but would not be discussed at this meeting since Mark Wicklund was unable to attend.

Eileen had also raised the question as to whether the Rural Transit Advisory Group need to continue to meet monthly. Emily said that might be something the group might want to discuss. She asked about the by-laws. A copy will be given to members after the meeting. Emily said that since the group wasn't actually working on any projects, it might be something to consider. The trends that the group is looking at monthly might be more informative if looked at on a 2 or 3 month basis rather than monthly. Leslie said their board meets every other month now. Emily agreed that with everyone being so busy many groups have gone to an every other month meeting. She added that the meetings usually only take ½ hour and with Laura having to drive, it might help her too. She stressed that the group is so important to the community, but felt the time might be better spent by meeting less often. Bruce said that he thought it was up to the Advisory Group to set up whatever schedule they wanted. He said that if it was going to be done, it would need to be put on the agenda so maybe it would be something for consideration at the next meeting. Members expressed thoughts that it sounded like a good idea.

Motion to adjourn was made by Diane Drew, seconded by Gary Minich, motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham.