

**WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Washington County Courthouse – Government Center  
Room 1020 and 1026  
West Bend, WI**

**September 21, 2011**

**6:00 PM**

Present: Chairman Dan Goetz, Kenneth Brandt, Brian Bausch, Joseph Gonnering and Richard Gundrum. Also present: Highway Commissioner Jon Edgren and Transit Manager Joe Steier.

Chairman Goetz called the meeting to order and read the affidavit of posting.

The Committee attended a public information meeting for the Shared Ride Taxi and Washington County Commuter Express programs to hear public comments regarding proposed 2012 fares and services. Public comments were recorded in minutes prepared by Faye Talatzko, Transit Consultant, Project Management Solutions, Inc.

A motion was made by Mr. Bausch and seconded by Mr. Brandt to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Motion carried.

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Kenneth Brandt, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Rhonda Klein, People First-Wisconsin.

Represents people with disabilities.

TAXI

- Fare increases.
- Reduction in taxi service.

Sandy Buckett

Represents commuters who use taxi service in evening for employment.

TAXI

- Reduction in taxi service.
- People employed at fast-food places until 9 p.m. will not be able to take taxi home.
- People who start at 11 p.m. will not be able to take taxi to work.

Patricia Miller

WCCE to VA

- Concerned about cutting Run 23 VA run.
- Couldn't afford to drive to VA at current wage.

Shirley Haeg

WCCE to Downtown Milwaukee

- Overcapacity issue when Marquette riders are switched to downtown run.
- 2:30 run does not have enough riders to justify cost.
- Peak time from 3:50 to 4:40 needs more runs.

Amy Kuba

WCCE to VA

- Reduction in VA service.
- Could some downtown runs also go to VA?

Donna Ellenbecker

Represents day-service program for disabled.

TAXI

- New riders cannot make reservations during peak hours.
- If new riders can't make reservations, they cannot get into programs or jobs.
- Can service be added during peak hours?

Jon Edgren: 8:00 to 9:30, 2:00 to 3:30 full allotment is run, 23 to 24 vehicles. We will take a look at situation.

Joel Schoenbeck

WCCE to Innovation

- Reduction in service to Innovation.
- Could some downtown buses be diverted to Innovation?
- Do we have ridership numbers the public could see?

Jon Edgren: Contact Joe or taxi for ridership numbers. We contract a specific number of buses, so schedule is like a jigsaw puzzle.

Shirley Haeg

TAXI

- Multiple taxis pull up to senior facility. Couldn't the rides be more combined?

Jon Edgren: Taxis may be heading in multiple directions. In theory, it is shared ride.

Peggy Meyer

WCCE to Downtown Milwaukee

- 2:35 run addition wasn't necessary. Midday runs don't have enough riders to justify cost.
- Downtown will be over capacity once Marquette/VA riders switch to downtown runs.
- People from Lannon will be parking at Richfield because they will be afraid the buses will be at capacity before they arrive at Lannon.

Jon Edgren: The new Richfield lot is projected to be completed mid November, in the business park. Parking capacity will be increased.

Mary Sherman

TAXI

- Reduction in taxi service.
- Many riders are volunteers at nonprofits.
- The fare increase of .25 is a lot to people on fixed incomes.
- \$10 pass was a great idea. People on limited income might not have enough for \$20 pass.
- Washington County has Cadillac transit service compared to other counties.

Judy Stellmacher

WCCE

- Midday runs don't have enough riders to justify cost.

Rod Ghumynski

WCCE to VA

- Runs 6 and 10 were crowded. When you eliminate Run 6, the 8:00 start-time people won't have a service.
- With the service reduction of Run 23, the last bus would be at 4:00. If you are helping a patient, you can't leave before 4:00.
- The cutting of Run 6 and Run 23 is a concern.

Keith

WCCE to VA

- Run 6 is always full.
- VA needs Run 23 also.
- Could a smaller vehicle be used for VA?

Jon Edgren: We don't own the vehicles. Riteway is the provider. Changes would have to be made through a bidding or contracting process.

Ann Parris

WCCE to VA

- Some veterans use midday runs to get home.

Wendy Kershek

TAXI

- Taxi won't take scheduled standing reservations from new riders.
- Have legislators in Madison been contacted for source of funds?
- Could use more taxi service during peak hours.

Susan Port

TAXI

- Used taxi for meeting and will use it to go home.
- Disabled need taxi for appointments, visiting family.
- Washington County is very large and taxi is needed.
- Fare increase might be difficult for people on limited income.
- Please don't cut taxi service.

Lynn Rekoski

TAXI

- Disabled daughter has held gainful employment at same place for four years due to using taxi service. Drivers and riders have become her friends and peer group. Service has given her great amount of independence.

Leigh Otten

WCCE to VA

- New employee at VA from 8:00 to 4:30. Was able to take job because of WCCE. Cannot take 7:30 to 4:00 job, because bus leaves at 4:05.
- Could smaller vehicles be used for VA?
- Midday runs have been used by vets and when not feeling well.
- WCCE helps VA with parking capacity issues.

Jim Shutes

WCCE to Innovation

- Could smaller vehicles be used for midday runs?
- GPS on buses would be good idea.
- Would save \$4,000 annually if he drove the 29 miles, based on \$25 per-hour average compensation for himself.

Cindy Ziegler

WCCE to VA

- Cutting Runs 6 and 23 will not allow her to take WCCE to work.

Joe Steier: Some changes have been incorporated into the revised schedule to address email comments already received, to help VA and medical runs.

Scott Kandel

WCCE to Innovation

- WCCE allows him to commute to VA for job.
- Service reduction to VA. Now there's 2-hour gap in the morning.
- Are there ridership numbers the public can see?
- Will revised bus schedule be provided to riders before approved, for feedback?
- Electronic payment system would be good.
- What carriers do you bid the service out to?
- What is the scenario if the budget shortfall is greater than projected?

Jon Edgren: Per federal rules, there is an open bid every five years. For the last bid, three or four contractors picked up information. Only one provided a bid. Budget shortfall is top priority.

Janet Miller

TAXI

- Appreciates taxi.

Ann Parris

WCCE to VA

- Post the ridership and proposed schedules like you post newsletters.

Shirley Haeg

TAXI

- Is there someone else to contact to help getting funds?

Jon Edgren: The budget goes before the finance committee, then to the full county board. If you are a county resident, you could contact your county supervisor.

Leigh Otten

WCCE

- By the time the bus gets to Lannon Road for Run 4 and 5, combining downtown and the medical center, the coach will be full. No capacity.

Donna Ellenbecker

Represents day-service program for disabled.

TAXI

- Can you sell advertising space on buses and taxis for additional revenue?

Jon Edgren: We have looked into it. We currently do it with one or two coaches. We will continue to look at it.

Rick Gundrum: If anyone knows of interested sponsors, please forward information to the marketing people or Joe Steier.

Lynn Reskoske

TAXI

- Living in Germantown, the service reduction means you have to be home by 7:00 or 8:00, because the taxi has to be back in the parking lot by 9:00.

Pat Healy

WCCE to Downtown Milwaukee

- Coaches are becoming more crowded. There's not enough room on the coaches to add Marquette and the medical-center riders.

Dan Goetz: We will try and make adjustments. We get monthly ridership reports.

Sue Noegel

TAXI

- Use taxi for work, shopping, YMCA, volunteer.
- Keep fare the same, due to limited income.

Dan Goetz: Thanked attendees for the public input.

Ken Brandt: Recognized importance of transit services. Thanked attendees.

Brian Baush: Commented on value of transit, economic situation. Thanked attendees. List of county supervisors is on county web site.

Dan Goetz: Commented on how transit has grown. Complimented committee, Joe Steier, and Jon Edgren for their work on transit and funding. Thanked attendees.