



Racine County Public Transit Plan: 2011-2015



October/November 2009



Overview of Presentation

- **Background and need for study**
- **Study organization and staffing**
- **Workgroup guiding study**
- **Public involvement efforts**
- **Study elements and work completed to date**
- **Remaining steps in plan development**



Need for Study

- **Requested by Racine County Executive and City of Racine Mayor**
- **Review the performance of the City of Racine Belle Urban System and identify the need for improved transit service in the Racine area**
- **Concern also expressed over potential public transit needs in western Racine County**
 - **Service within western Racine County**
 - **Service connecting western and eastern Racine County**
 - **Service connecting Racine County to other counties**



Study Organization and Staffing

- **Study Sponsors:**
 - **Racine County**
 - **City of Racine**
- **Study Staffing**
 - **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)**
 - **Staff from the Racine County Department of Planning and Development, City of Racine, and City of Racine Department of Transportation and Belle Urban System**



Racine County Transit Plan Workgroup

- **Plan is being developed under the guidance of a Workgroup formed specifically for the study**
- **Representatives from all governmental units and other agencies in County invited to join:**
 - **Racine County government**
 - **Cities of Burlington and Racine**
 - **Other local governments**
 - **Business organizations**
 - **Educational institutions with student transportation needs**
 - **Non-profit organizations representing populations affected by transit services**
 - **Transit service providers and users**



Public Involvement

- **Workgroup**
- **Study website (www.sewrpc.org/racinetransitplan)**
- **Brochure and newsletters**
- **Employer survey conducted in coordination with the Racine County Mobility Manager**
- **Discussion groups on transit service needs**
- **Public informational meetings**



Major Work Elements

- **Objectives and Standards**
- **Inventories**
- **Analyses**
- **Alternative Transit Service Configurations**
- **Evaluation of Transit Alternatives**
- **Selection of a Recommended Plan**
- **Plan Implementation**



Work to Date - Objectives and Standards

- **Objectives and Standards**
 - **Three transit service objectives developed for study**
 - **Objectives provide a basis for assessing performance of transit system and alternatives, and help identify unmet transit service needs**
 - **Each objective is supported by a planning principle and a set of standards**
 - **Quantify the achievement of each objective.**
 - **Standards differ slightly for fixed-route and demand-responsive services.**



Work to Date - Inventories

- **Inventories conducted to gather background information on:**
 - **Characteristics of existing public and private transportation services including:**
 - **City of Racine Belle Urban System (BUS)**
 - **Public and private transportation services for elderly and disabled persons**
 - **Intercity bus and passenger rail service**
 - **Population and employment levels**
 - **Urban development and land uses including major activity centers**
 - **Travel habits and patterns**



Work to Date - Analyses

- **Analyses conducted to identify transit system performance and unmet needs**
 - **Performance evaluation of existing BUS services**
 - **Systemwide evaluation of service provided to land uses**
 - **Route by route evaluation of service effectiveness and efficiency of each route**
 - **Comparison of BUS to other “peer” systems in Wisconsin and United States**
 - **Identification of unmet transit service needs**
 - **For BUS and population in eastern Racine County**
 - **For population in western Racine County**



Preliminary Unmet Needs— Eastern Racine County

- **Improved BUS service to Sturtevant and Mt. Pleasant**
- **Connections to transit services in Kenosha County via UW-Parkside and/or Green Bay Road**
- **BUS service on holidays, extend weekend service hours**
- **More bus shelters**
- **Taxi service**



Preliminary Unmet Needs— Western Racine County

- **Affordable, wheelchair-accessible service, without eligibility restrictions, especially in the Burlington/Rochester/Waterford area;**
- **A wider array of other transportation options, including volunteer driver services and ridesharing programs**
- **Service for work and medical trips to and from adjacent counties, including Milwaukee, Kenosha, Walworth, and Waukesha Counties**
- **Consideration of work-related transportation services that may be needed by the end of the five-year planning period.**



Remaining Steps

- **Review public comments and finalize unmet transit service needs**
- **Develop alternative transit service improvement plans**
 - **Potential BUS improvements and expansion**
 - **Potential services for western Racine County**
- **Schedule additional public meetings to obtain input on service improvement options and plans**
- **Develop recommended transit service improvement plan**



Tell Us What You Think

We Want To Hear From You

Give us your input about the work and findings of the transit study. We are especially interested in:

- **What the BUS does well**
- **What needs are not being met by the BUS**
- **What are the transit needs in western Racine County**
- **What transit services would you like to see be considered for western Racine County**

Many ways to give your opinion:

- **Written comment: tonight, or send letter or email**
- **Oral comment with court reporter**
- **Map of Racine County—place a pin where you have a problem or concern with service**
- **Potential service changes board—place a sticker to show your preference for possible service changes**