

Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the

WAUKESHA AREA TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 29, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Virtual

Members Present

- Kathy GaleExecutive Director, Eras Senior Network
Chair
- Dan ErtlDirector of Community Development, City of Brookfield
- Tom Hagie Administrator, Town of Brookfield
- Amanda Payne Vice President, Public Policy, Waukesha County Business Alliance
- Maria Pandazi City Planner, City of Waukesha Community Development Department
- Joe Peterangelo Senior Researcher, Public Policy Forum

Guests and Staff Present

- Allison Bussler.....Director, Waukesha County Public Works
- Rhiannon Cupkie Administrative Manager, Waukesha County Public Works
- Alex Damien Interim Director of Public Works, City of Waukesha
- Brian Engelking Transit Director, City of Waukesha Metro
- Christopher Hiebert.....Chief Transportation Engineer, SEWRPC
- Xylia Rueda Senior Transportation Planner, SEWRPC
- Jennifer Sarnecki..... Principal Transportation Planner, SEWRPC

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Gale called the eighth meeting of the Waukesha Area Transit Development Plan Advisory Committee to order at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Gale thanked everyone for participating. Attendance was taken by verbal rollcall.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2022, MEETING

Ms. Gale indicated that the Committee is being asked to consider approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2022, meeting. She asked if Committee members had any changes, and upon hearing none, called for a motion. Ms. Payne made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held on September 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ertl, and the Advisory Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS, KEY THEMES, AND POTENTIAL CHANGES RESULTING FROM PUBLIC INPUT ON THE DRAFT TRANSIT SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

At the request of Ms. Gale, Ms. Sarnecki provided a review of the public involvement process, general feedback, and proposed changes to the draft transit service recommendations resulting from the public input (presentation available [here](#)). Ms. Sarnecki stated Commission staff performed various methods of outreach

including public meetings in the downtown transit center, Waukesha South High School, and a virtual meeting. Additionally, Commission staff provided the public with English and Spanish version of the informational flyer and an online survey. Ms. Sarnecki thanked advisory committee members Ms. Payne for assisting with the business outreach meeting and Ms. Johnson for assistance with the public meeting at the high school. Ms. Sarnecki also reviewed the proposed changes to the draft service recommendations (memorandum summarizing key themes of the public involvement process [here](#) and potential changes [here](#)). The following questions and comments were raised by the Committee members following Ms. Sarnecki's review:

1. Responding to Mr. Ertl's inquiry regarding targeted business outreach, Ms. Sarnecki stated that she can provide the sign-in sheet indicating who registered and attended the focus group meeting.

[Secretary's note: Following the Advisory Committee meeting, Ms. Sarnecki provided a list of invited businesses (list available on page 35 [here](#)).]

2. Responding to Mr. Ertl's inquiry regarding fare-free options for the transit system, Ms. Sarnecki stated that fare policy changes, including a fare-free transit system, are recommendations identified for the City of Waukesha, not Waukesha County. Ms. Bussler stated that the County Board has previously indicated that passengers should contribute through the payment of fares. Mr. Engelking noted that the City of Waukesha would need to consider the trade-offs associated with free-fare transit, including the potential revenue loss and the future costs of fare collection equipment. Mr. Ertl, in response to a comment from Ms. Gale about targeting specific population groups, suggested that fare free options could be focused on individual demographic groups. Mr. Damien indicated that the fare-free discussion in the draft chapter is appropriate and stated that keeping the text general allows for further consideration.

CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL CHAPTER V, "TRANSIT SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WAUKESHA METRO TRANSIT SYSTEM AND THE WAUKESHA COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM," OF SEWRPC COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT NO. 336, "WAUKESHA AREA TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN: 2023-2027"

At the request of Ms. Gale, Ms. Sarnecki reviewed the revised version of draft of Chapter 5 (available [here](#)) of the transit service recommendations for the Waukesha Metro Transit System and the Waukesha County Transit System.

The following questions and comments were raised by the Advisory Committee members following Ms. Sarnecki's overview of the draft chapter:

1. Ms. Gale requested that transportation services similar to the Washington County Shared Ride Taxi, which is open to the general public, be considered as a recommendation, rather than a service option, in the final transit development plan. Mr. Engelking noted that this text has been reviewed and approved by the staff at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Waukesha County and indicated that a Countywide shared ride taxi would likely not be implemented by 2027, the last year of the transit development plan. Ms. Gale indicated that the County could consider contributing more funding toward transportation services. In response to a question from Ms. Bussler regarding the number of comments received on the Countywide shared ride taxi service option, Ms. Sarnecki indicated that approximately two comments out of about 80 comments mentioned this option. Mr. Ertl noted that the comments received are a sample of opinions and the Advisory Committee should help determine if changes to the draft transit service recommendations

are appropriate. Ms. Bussler suggested that text such as “reprioritization of funding” could be included in this section of the chapter.

[Secretary’s note: Following the Advisory Committee meeting, and in response to discussions during the Advisory Committee meeting regarding Service Option 5.4.1A: Provide Countywide shared-ride taxi service, Commission staff coordinated with Waukesha County staff to consider changes. As a result of this coordination, it was determined that a footnote would be added to the service option, which states, “Any service enhancements would require a reprioritization of local funding.”]

2. Mr. Engelking clarified that County paratransit services along the Route 901 between UW-Milwaukee and the City of Waukesha may no longer be offered if mid-day, reverse commute runs are eliminated. In response to a question from Ms. Gale regarding the number of passengers impacted, Mr. Engelking noted that two of the individuals who have utilized the paratransit service offered along the Route 901 would be affected. Ms. Gale indicated that it is important to ensure the individuals who utilize paratransit services, and their representatives are heard and considered when changes are made.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Ertl made a motion to approve Chapter V, “Transit Service Recommendations for the Waukesha Metro Transit System and the Waukesha County Transit System,” of the SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 336, “Waukesha Area Transit Development Plan: 2023-2027.” The motion was seconded by Ms. Payne and carried unanimously by the Committee.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL NEXT MEETING OF THE WAUKESHA AREA TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Sarnecki stated that Commission staff would present the respective transit service recommendations to the City of Waukesha’s Transit Commission and Common Council and to Waukesha County’s Public Works Committee. Ms. Sarnecki stated that Commission staff would share information on these meetings with advisory committee members. She added that staff would then finalize and publish the plan, and no further meeting is required of the advisory committee. Mr. Engelking and Ms. Bussler thanked Commission staff for their effort with this plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion by Ms. Bussler and seconded by Ms. Payne and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer B. Sarnecki
Recording Secretary