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