

**Minutes of the First Meeting**

**THE WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Date: January 23, 2013  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 249  
Washington County Highway Department  
900 Lang Street  
West Bend, WI

Advisory Committee Members Present

- R.J. Bast ..... Director of Operations, GoRiteway Transportation Group  
Operator, Washington County Commuter Express
- John Bloor ..... Executive Director, The Threshold, Inc.
- Andrew Dresang ..... Manager of Community Relations, Froedtert Health
- Justin Drew ..... Director of Planning and Zoning, City of Hartford
- Wes Gaedtke ..... Operator, West Bend Taxi
- Debi Genthe ..... Executive Director, Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County
- Daniel R. Goetz ..... Supervisor, Washington County Board  
Chairperson, Washington County Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee
- Richard P. Gundrum ..... Supervisor, Washington County Board  
Chairperson, Aging and Disability Resource Center Board of Washington County  
Trustee, Village of Slinger
- Jim Haggerty ..... Village Engineer, Village of Slinger
- Mike Hermann ..... Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Hartford  
Operator, Hartford City Taxi
- Lori Hundertmark ..... Manager, Aurora Advanced Health Care Hartford Clinic
- Steve Johnson ..... President, Specialized Transportation Services, Inc.  
Operator, Washington County Shared-Ride Taxi
- Daniel Ludwig ..... Director of Public Works, Village of Germantown
- Jacob Miller ..... Policy & Program Analyst, Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Linda Olson ..... Director, Aging and Disability Resource Center of Washington County
- Mark Piotrowicz ..... City Planner/Operations Manager,  
West Bend Department of Community Development
- Deborah Reinbold ..... Programs & Communications Coordinator,  
Washington County Economic Development Corporation
- Joshua Schoemann ..... Administrator, Village of Richfield
- Joseph Steier, III ..... Transit Manager, Washington County Highway Department
- Daniel W. Stoffel ..... Supervisor, Washington County Board  
Commissioner, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Michelle Wagner ..... Consultant,  
Washington County Highway Department & Aging and Disability Resource Center of Washington  
County
- Thomas Wondra ..... Highway Commissioner, Washington County Highway Department



## **PRESENTATION OF EXISTING WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICES**

Mr. Muhs presented a summary of the existing transit services in Washington County (see Attachment 1 of these minutes), which included information on the history, service levels, ridership, and operating expenses and revenues of the Washington County Commuter Express, Washington County Shared-Ride Taxi, Hartford City Taxi, and West Bend City Taxi. The presentation also provided information on the private and non-profit human services transportation providers in the County. Mr. Muhs indicated that the materials presented would be the basis of Chapter II of the study, which would be distributed for the Advisory Committee's consideration at the next meeting. During the presentation of existing transit services in Washington County, the following questions and comments were raised and addressed:

1. Ms. Schmiechen asked if household travel data would be available to study the market for a reverse commute service from Milwaukee County to Washington County. Mr. Yunker noted that household travel survey data and possibly U.S. Census data would be used to analyze travel patterns for the study.
2. Mr. Stoffel requested that data on the percentage of seats filled on each Commuter Express run be included in Chapter II. Mr. Muhs responded that this data would be included in the chapter.
3. Mr. Bast noted that all motorcoaches used to provide the Washington County Commuter Express service are handicap accessible. Mr. Muhs stated that that information would be noted in the chapter.
4. Referring to slide 10, Mr. Yunker noted that the Washington County Commuter Express has been very successful in terms of ridership, with a more than 150 percent increase in revenue passengers since 2003, while the amount of service provided has been fairly constant.
5. Mr. Gundrum noted that following the reconstruction of STH 60, a park & ride lot is proposed for the interchange between STH 60 and USH 41. Mr. Muhs commented that an extension of the Washington County Commuter Express to better serve the City of Hartford and the Village of Slinger will be one of the alternatives analyzed in Chapter V.
6. Noting that the percentage of operating expenses paid for by passenger fares was discussed for the Washington County Commuter Express service, Mr. Wondra requested that the same information be provided for the Washington County Shared-Ride Taxi service. Mr. Yunker responded that it would be included in the chapter.
7. Mr. Goetz discussed the potential for reducing the operating expenses for the Washington County Shared-Ride Taxi service by opening a second taxi vehicle dispatch site in the area between the Villages of Germantown and Richfield. He noted that the distance to the southeastern section of the County from the current operating base in West Bend is significant, and that there may be enough trips within that area to make the investment in a satellite vehicle base worthwhile. Mr. Yunker indicated that this proposal could be considered in the study as part of the alternatives analysis.
8. Ms. Genthe asked how individuals without a private automobile access the Washington County Commuter Express Service. Ms. Wagner stated that the Washington County Shared-Ride Taxi service coordinates with the Commuter Express service to ensure people

can get to and from the park & ride lots served by the Commuter Express, while Mr. Miller noted that a reduced fare is offered for transfers between the taxis and motorcoaches.

9. In response to a question from Mr. Muhs, Mr. Hermann stated that the Hartford City Taxi has a goal of providing service within one half hour of receiving a request.
10. Ms. Hundertmark asked if extra room was saved in the shared-ride taxi systems' schedules for same-day service of non-emergency medical trips. Mr. Hermann responded that the Hartford City Taxi was a demand-response service, so no special accommodations are made for non-emergency medical trips. Mr. Steier stated that the Washington County Shared-Ride Taxi service tries to accommodate requests for same-day service for non-emergency medical trips, but that same-day service was not guaranteed.
11. Mr. Hermann and Mr. Gaedtke both noted that the Hartford City Taxi and West Bend Taxi services provide curb-to-curb service, not door-to-door service. Mr. Muhs responded that a correction would be made to that information when it is included in Chapter II.
12. Mr. Miller asked how many vehicles F.D.S. Enterprises, Inc. currently uses to provide the West Bend Taxi service. Mr. Gaedtke responded that the service utilizes 14 vehicles.
13. Mr. Gaedtke noted that the fare information shown on slide 18 was incorrect, as the West Bend Taxi implemented a fare increase on January 1, 2013. Mr. Muhs indicated that this information would be corrected for Chapter II.
14. Mr. Muhs requested verification that the financial information for the West Bend Taxi on slide 20 was correct. Mr. Piotrowicz indicated that the West Bend City Council had directed that no property tax levy be expended on the West Bend City Taxi in 2012 or 2013, verifying that the data used in the presentation was correct.
15. Ms. Hundertmark asked if the schedules for the three shared-ride taxi systems in the County were managed by the individual providers. Mr. Muhs responded that there was no formal schedule coordination between the three providers.
16. Ms. Hundertmark asked if there was a central toll-free phone number to call to request service on any of the three shared-ride taxi systems. Mr. Steier stated that the County's shared-ride taxi service could be reached through a toll-free number, but that there was no single number to call to request service from any of the three taxi systems in the County. Mr. Stoffel requested that a centralized call center be included in the study. Mr. Muhs indicated that it would be considered as part of the alternatives analysis.
17. Mr. Hermann noted that the information in Table 1 was incomplete, as the Hartford City Taxi also provides vehicles and drivers for the Medical Center Foundation of Hartford. Mr. Muhs indicated that this table would be corrected when it was included in Chapter II.
18. Ms. Genthe provided updated vehicle information for the service provided by Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County. Mr. Muhs indicated that this information would be corrected when it was included in Chapter II.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Yunker stated that Commission staff would present a draft of Chapter II and a presentation on the material in Chapter III to the Advisory Committee for its consideration and review at its next meeting, scheduled for March 6, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Advisory Committee, a motion adjourn the meeting was sought by Mr. Stoffel, made by Mr. Goetz, seconded by Mr. Wondra, and approved unanimously by the Advisory Committee at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Yunker  
Recording Secretary