

**Taylor County Transportation Coordination Committee
Public Hearing
Tuesday, December 18, 2007
Medford Senior Dining Site**

The public hearing for the 2008 85.21 Transportation plan was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Diane Niggemann, Director of the Taylor County Commission on Aging. There were 36 residents present for the meeting.

Diane began with introductions: County Board members, Black River Industries representatives, Human Services rep., COA staff. Diane reviewed the 85.21 grant application and identified the geographic areas served throughout the county, including days, and times for each location. She reviewed the regularly scheduled destinations, and offered some suggestions for additional trips. She asked for suggestions for day trips that could be worked into the 2007 schedule as well as recommendations to make the trips to Medford more appealing. Medford Dining Site Manager said that she thought the bus service was very good and that she seldom hears a complaint. The residents present were in agreement.

Diane reminded everyone present of the site closing rules during the winter months. If school is closed, so also is the site. Residents should listen to their radio for closings and/or cancellations if there is any doubt about the bus running that day.

There being no further questions/comments from the public and no further business to present, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator

**Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 18, 2007
Community Center Building – Fair Grounds**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman Dave Bizer. Those attending were Diane Albrecht, Mike Roiger, Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Diane Niggemann and Carol Roush.

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Mike Roiger. Motion seconded by Diane Albrecht. Motion carried.

Diane Niggemann updated the committee on the 2008 IRS mileage reimbursement rate of 50.5 cents per mile and explained that the volunteer escort drivers will be reimbursed at the rate of .50 mile. She then reviewed the 85.21 DOT grant application draft, explaining anticipated expenses and revenues for 2008. Mike Roiger made a motion to approve the 85.21 plan with proposed changes.

Next Diane reported that the Tour of Lights was a big success this year. Over 30 people signed up so two buses were used. Then she updated the Committee on her recent marketing ad for the bus services. There will be an advertisement on the radio during the community news segment on Mondays and possibly Thursdays. It will be advertised as available for people age 55 and older or disabled. People under age 55 may ride on a space available basis. After some discussion about the reasons that people don't take advantage of the bus service (i.e. route is too long or pick-up time should be later or too long of a day) some possible schedule changes were discussed.

Diane's last update for the Committee was the STRAP grant application. She explained that she went before the Budget Committee and requested \$4,000 in County match to do a transportation "needs study" by the end of 2009. The STRAP grant will be applied for in 2008.

Paul Thornton explained that he's in the process of writing a grant for 2 new buses, each with 7 seats and one wheel chair slot. One will be delivered in 2009 and one in 2010. Diane Albrecht made a motion that the Transportation Coordination Committee approve and support Paul's 5310 Transportation Assistance grant application. Mike Roiger seconded the motion. Motion carried. Next Paul advised the committee that a new bus has arrived but is still going through the inspection process but should be on the road around the first of the year. It has three wheel chair slots and should eliminate the need for two buses on the same route.

Next there was a discussion about passengers riding the bus on a scooter. It must be able to be secured with a 4-point strap down system, and the individual needs to use the bus's seat belt system. Paul wrote a policy for the use of scooters on the buses and it goes before the Safety Committee today for approval. Paul will bring the policy to the next meeting.

Dave Hemke explained the expansion of Medicaid, effective Feb. 1, 2008, known as Badger Care Plus. He explained that there will be 2 forms of Medicaid: the standard, full coverage plan and a benchmark plan which is a pared down version that includes non-covered services. He stated that all SSI recipients will be enrolled into an HMO plan for their health care, but Security Health is not a participant in the program.

Diane announced that there is no Transportation Coordinator, at this time, to replace Carol, so she will be handling issues until a decision is made.

The next meeting date is set for March 11th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Center Building.

There being no further business, Mike Roiger made a motion to adjourn. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator

**Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 21, 2007
Community Center Building Fair Grounds**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. by chairperson, Dave Bizer. In addition to Dave Bizer those in attendance were Mike A. Roiger, Diane Albrecht, Bruce Strama, Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Bob Christianson, Diane Niggemann and Carol Roush.

Mike Roiger made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Diane Albrecht. Motion carried.

Carol then presented the Elderly Transportation report and the Medical Assistance report for review. Diane Albrecht made a motion to approve both reports as presented. Mike Roiger seconded the motion. Motion carried. Carol then updated the committee members on her pending retirement, effective in January. 2008.

Diane presented her semi-annual WI DOT report, noting a total of 6,339 one way trips and total trip miles of 73,747 from January – June 2007 at a total transportation expense of \$45,778.00. Diane discussed the need for a transportation public hearing that must be held for her 2008 85.21 grant application for Wisconsin DOT. Diane advised the Committee that she expects to receive approximately \$63,102 in DOT revenue for 2008 which is a 2% increase over 2007. The County's match totals \$12,620 for a total of \$75,722 in budgeted transportation revenue. The budgeted contracted expense for Black River Industries to provide 85.21 transportation for Taylor County's seniors and disabled residents is \$61,910.00 for 2008.

Next the Committee reviewed the Northwest Regional Planning's recommendations with 2007 completion dates.

Paul Thornton gave an overview on how the mini-bus transportation was originally developed. Although BRI won the bid for the City, they (BRI) had to turn it down due to insurance issues. Thus began the history of the shared- ride taxi in the City of Medford.

Next Paul explained two 2 grants that are available, a STRAP grant and the New Freedom grant. Paul explained that Taylor County is progressive and scores well on grant applications and is encouraged to apply for the STRAP grant. However, the applications are due Aug. 29th making it impossible to apply for on such short notice. The New Freedom grant would address a need in our NWRP recommendations, but again, there is not enough time to gather the necessary information required for the grant application.

Bob Christianson, Medford City Planner, spoke in support of the STRAP grant, suggesting that the County should consider applying for the planning portion of the grant to expand on already existing programs. The County could apply later for the operational portion of the grant to implement new programs to meet the needs of the people. Paul agrees that the County should conduct a "needs assessment" evaluation throughout the county, including a public hearing, sending letters to township boards, getting County Board approval, etc. Bruce suggests that we start planning now for the next round of grant applications. Mike Roiger made a motion to recommend to the County Board that they set aside \$4,000 for a Countywide "needs assessment" evaluation from NWRP. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul then reported to the committee that he was expecting delivery of a 12 passenger bus in late November or early December, and a bus in 2008 with 3 wheelchair slots and an extra wide lift. They are also expecting delivery of a 14 passenger bus with 2 wheelchair slots, delivery date unknown at this time. He will be applying for 2 new vehicles in 2009/2010.

Dave Hemke reported on the W-2 program: no increase in funds is expected as the state's budget is a guess at this point in time.

The next Transportation Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 9:30 am. at the Community Center building at the fairgrounds. The Public Hearing will be held following the regular committee meeting, at 11:30 am. at the Medford Senior Dining site. It was suggested to invite the township boards to these meetings.

There being no further business, Diane Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Roiger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator

**Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 15, 2007
Medford Dining Site**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by chairperson, Dave Bizer. Those attending were Mike A. Roiger, Diane Albrecht, Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Diane Niggemann and Carol Roush.

Diane Albrecht made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion was seconded by Mike Roiger. Motion carried.

Diane talked about the Supplemental Transportation Rural Assistance Program (STRAP) grant – It is available the end of May 2007 for year 2008. It is available for 3 years and Taylor County did not apply last year (2006 for 2007). There seems to be a need in the city of Medford for more accessible transportation, more Taxi drivers, more vehicles, more days of service and longer days of service. Medford was 1 of 5 cities targeted as the perfect city for this grant money. It is the Committee's recommendation that the city look into the STRAP grant and apply for it. Dave Hemke will call Mike Wellner (City Mayor). The grant is due in September so there is still time to meet with the city & discuss recommendations. Mike Roiger made a motion that the City of Medford and the Villages within Taylor County, as a whole, consider and apply for the STRAP grant. The Transportation Coordination Committee is willing to provide recommendations and be available for assistance during the grant process. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Diane read a letter she wrote to Craig Alwin, at Taylor County Human Services, regarding the 15.5 cents/mile difference between the Medical Assistance and IRS mileage reimbursement rates. Taylor County Human Services has a contractual agreement with Comm. On Aging for volunteer escort driver services for residents not disabled and residents under the age of 60, at a reimbursement level equal to the Medical Assistance allowed rate (33¢/mile) instead of the IRS allowed rate (48.5¢/mile), which is what the volunteer driver actually receives. Neither the Commission on Aging nor Human Services Dept. has any money budgeted to absorb this difference and Diane estimates the cost to the Commission on Aging budget to be approximately \$2,000 for 2007. Diane has written a United Way Grant asking for \$2,000, which, if granted, will help to cover the unmet reimbursement costs for 2008.

Next the Committee reviewed the Northwest Regional Planning's recommendations with 2007 completion dates. Diane reported Independent Living, out of Stevens Point, is not developing a regional Transportation Resource Directory as reported last month. Turns out it was only their directory, for their use only. The Committee talked about holding a transportation summit to discuss/identify unmet transportation needs in Taylor County. Paul suggested sending out a letter of interest for a meeting, asking for meeting date/time preferences, and schedule the first meeting for late summer/early fall.

Paul Thornton reported that Black River Industries has been coordinating and providing transportation services for 2 requests requiring oversized wheelchair lifts, on an on-going basis. BRI has the only vehicles, locally, equipped with lifts for larger size wheelchairs. Thank you, Paul, for your conscientious work for the community.

The next Transportation Coordination Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 21st at 9:30 a.m. at the Medford Senior Dining site.

There being no further business, Mike Roiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator

**Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2007
Medford Dining Site**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am. by chairperson, Dave Bizer. Those attending were Mike A. Roiger, Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke and Carol Roush.

Mike Roiger made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as well as the minutes from the public hearing held at the Gilman Dining Site. Motion was seconded by Dave Bizer. Motion carried. Diane Albrecht entered the meeting.

Carol presented for review the year-end Medical Assistance Transportation report and Elderly Transportation report. Mike Roiger made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Be that Diane Niggemann was regrettably unable to attend the meeting, she asked Carol to present for review her 85.21 year-end report. Paul and Carol were able to answer questions regarding the report. Diane Albrecht made a motion to accept Diane's report as presented. Mike Roiger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Diane left word that she spoke to Dave Lowe, from the DOT, and he indicated that there was a 2% increase request in the Governor's budget for transportation.

Diane also asked that the Committee review a memo, dated Jan. 12, 2007, to Craig Alwin, Deputy Director of Taylor County Human Services regarding volunteer driver mileage reimbursement shortfall for transporting persons under age 60, foster children and Badgercare clients on MA. Dave Hemke advised the Committee that he is still trying to find to get an answer from the state, but so far it doesn't sound good. After further discussion Mike Roiger made a motion that the Committee approve Diane or Carol going to the County Finance Committee to request funds to cover the average shortfall amount of \$115.00/month. Diane Albrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next the Committee conducted a review of the improvement actions proposed by Northwest Regional Planning on Taylor County's Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. Diane left word that Independent Living, out of Stevens Point, is developing a Transportation Resource Directory. The Committee will also continue to review the 2007 proposed actions on a quarterly basis.

Paul Thornton reported a change in the bus that they were expecting for 2007. Originally it was to be a 7 passenger bus with 1 wheelchair slot. That has been changed to a bus with 3 wheelchair slots and 2 seats, with delivery to be in the fall of 2007. In 2008 they will be receiving a 12 passenger bus.

Dave Hemke expressed concern, again, about some of the things he is hearing from the state, but he doesn't have any pat answers yet.

The next Transportation Coordination Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15th at 9:00 am. at the Medford Senior Dining site.

Respectfully Submitted:
Carol Roush, Transportation Coordinator