



Commuter Bus Study

Steering Committee Meeting #1 Summary

Tuesday, October 30th, 2018 8:30 - 10:00 AM
Menasha Public Library 440 First Street

Meeting Attendees

Lisa Conard, Green Bay MPO
Amy Erickson, Ron McDonald, Dave Vickman, Valley Transit
Korbin Figg, GO Transit
Eric Fowle, Walt Raith, Tom Baron, Nick Musson, ECWRPC
Dave Johnson, Outagamie County
Peter Thillman, Fox Cities Regional Partnership
Lynn Gilles, Fond du Lac Transit
Dale Walker, Fox Valley Tech
Jason White, Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation
Bill Van Lopik, ESTHER
Joseph Kapper, Adele Hall (SRF)

Summary of Meeting

Joe Kapper presented a brief overview of the scope, tasks, schedule, and geography of the commuter bus study. The study area covers Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, and Fond du Lac Counties, and four transit systems: Green Bay Transit, Valley Transit, GO Transit, and Fond du Lac Transit.

Adele Hall presented on the various components of MPO, county, and municipal plans that call for study of regional transit, and transit-supportive land uses, development patterns, and infrastructure investments.

Joe Kapper presented some examples of regional services in the Twin Cities that may be applicable in the Fox Valley and along I-41. These examples spurred much discussion, including the following ideas:

- The feasibility of a regional transit service will be determined by businesses. Businesses need to define the service, advocate, and partner on implementing it. This is an economic development issue.
- Much work will need to be done on the local level to ensure support and marketing will be key to implementation.
- Attendees generally were interested in models for public-private partnership and setting up a funding stream that includes private interests, as transit service would be an important component of attracting and retaining employees.

- Meeting participants provided a great deal of feedback on regional trends, perceptions, and key destinations including:
 - UW System consolidation means that there will be more linkages between UW Oshkosh and its two-year satellite campuses (Fond du Lac and Fox Valley)
 - Quad Graphics in Lomira is a location that may have some latent demand for transit service.
 - Congestion on the I-41 Corridor, particularly on roads with signals and interchanges, is a growing issue in the northern and western Fox Cities.
 - Winnebago County is currently working on a rural transit technology pilot and transit dispatch app development.
 - A Transit Development Plan was recently completed for Green Bay, and similar projects are in progress in both Oshkosh and the Fox Cities.
- Convenience, quickness, mobile ticketing, and universal fares would be important parts of implementation.
- Attendees were generally interested in transit operating on bus-only shoulders. WIPTA is trying to address this with legislative change this year.
- Light rail was brought up, but attendees agreed that densities in the large area under consideration for this study don't support rail.

Schedule and Next Steps

1. The next Steering Committee meeting will likely be held in January 2019.