



Transportation Subcommittee
 Meeting Minutes
 February 26, 2019
 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Dave Bulkowski, Sue Sefton		
Meeting Attendees:	Kendrick Heinlein, Darlene Bentz, Gordie Moeller, Sue Sefton, Rich Jones, Bob McKown, Wende Randall, Joan Konyndyk, Karyn Pelon, Dave Bukowski, Whitney Ehresman, Aruna Kamara, Debbi Coleman, Tammy Britton, Max Dillivan, Tamia McGlothlin, Dan Schoonmaker, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio Staff: Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:		Time Adjourned:	

Introductions	
Name, Organization, polar vortex story	
West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum: Transportation and Mobility Initiatives	Dan Schoonmaker
Discussion	
<p>West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum is an organization that promotes sustainable business practices defined by the triple bottom line: social, financial, and environmental good. They have 4 focus areas – growth, climate resiliency, social equity, and circular economy. They host events once a month in the greater Grand Rapids area. Transportation is an important sustainability concept to the companies they work with. One focus point is how communities think about mobility. They also explore the relationship between diets and sustainability and climate change, with connection around plant-based diets. Around 300 companies in the West Michigan area are members, most members have some type of social compliance and are business institutions with an internal sustainability program. The others are those who want to start those types of programs in their organizations.</p> <p>They work with organizations like ENTF and try to position themselves as ‘volunteer organization’. WMSBF is multidisciplinary by intention. The hope is that they can provide connection to other affiliate groups, to build out their expertise to interface with groups, and to provide a mechanism for a common language mutual understanding and shared benefit. In ENTF’s case, connecting sustainability parts of their members with social service organizations. Opportunity to think about initiatives ENTF is trying to get underway to look at options from a community, business, and municipal standpoint.</p> <p>Currently, they are hiring a program manager for the equitable sustainability initiative. This position will focus on making sustainability more accessible, providing linkages to social service and minority communities, and on social justice and the connection to food security. Position is open until filled.</p> <p>In addition, they are available if you want to add sustainability or circular economies to grant proposals, reach out if you are interested.</p> <p><u>Transportation-in-all</u>: This municipality survey looked at how municipalities thought about and approached transportation. In many outlying townships, they are not equipped to think beyond private cars. ENTF wants to develop a document with the overall results of their survey to ask municipalities to think about multiple modes of transportation when planning. WMSBF has noticed lack of holistic transportation planning in West Michigan.</p>	
Conclusions	





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Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Citizen's Agenda		
Discussion		
<p>The <u>Rapid</u> – ongoing projects include: Wave, Laker Line, COA (comprehensive operations analysis). A lot is happening internally. Max is the new senior planner and will handle tracking the of performance. COA will go through and pick apart the entire system and look at ways to improve the system. It will also look at a mobility-on-demand service. Another major project is the Federal Transit Administration for transit planning along the south Division corridor. The cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Kentwood chipped in. They will be getting those entities and partners around the table to talk about future development around south division. They will be issuing RFP for consultants in the next few months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Commute Week: will be June 17 – 21. The first or second Monday of the month will be the meeting time for the committee. This will be shared when solidified. • RidePro – new technology that will be used for rideshare/van share. There is an app that will go live the first week in June. West Michigan Rideshare is spearheading this initiative. • GR Neighborhood Summit is Saturday. Spots are filling up. There will be a transportation workshop during the day. • City of Grand Rapids is redoing its master plan, Kent County is also doing some strategic planning, as is the City of Wyoming. It is important to get constitutions to the table, so they have a voice in where community is headed. • Division Corridor project will focus on 'redevelopment without displacement' This will be a hallmark of this project. <p><u>Ridelink</u> – is still fully staffed, they had a tough time with the weather. They will be putting together a policy around inclement weather. In addition, they are looking to see where they can be part of the mobility grants. There is a needs assessment out through the 9 counties region to identify the largest needs so they can focus on those areas. The link on their website and facebook page and is open for those 60 and over. They will use this to craft their funding decisions going forward.</p> <p><u>Wheels to Work</u> – they had 0 accidents during the polar vortex! And provided 11,000 rides last month. They have grown just under 1000% over the last 3 years. They are still struggling to get veterans to identify when using their services. Next month, they will be starting their first run from Muskegon to Holland. Next, they will be doing a route Holland to Grand Rapids. Then, they will be working on a Muskegon to Grand Rapids route. The Wheels to Work app is ready to go into beta testing, and it will be about 3-4 months until the app is launched. They have been working with school districts on how to provide transportation for homeless students. Schools are required to have some transportation option available, but often there is an hour plus commute. Often, kids will stay with a parent/friends to stay in their home district. There has been a lot of individuals who do not want to answer any demographic questions that may come back to hurt them (i.e. the Hispanic community). This is an additional area of problems that need to be addressed.</p>		
Conclusions		





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Michigan Mobility Challenge Updates		
Discussion		
<p>The app is partly funded by Hope Network. The project authorizations for funding for the Mobility Challenge is on its way. There is a possible connection between the Mobility Challenge, Disability Advocates of Kent County, and The Rapid through partnering with the City of Tomorrow challenge. All are signed on except Via, they anticipate planning to continue.</p>		
Conclusions		
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Transportation-In-All Policy Update		
Wende Randall		
Discussion		
<p>When planning opportunities arise, Dave will send them out to the full group. Please encourage clients and others to participate in these comment opportunities.</p> <p>The Food and Nutrition subcommittee is working to develop a Food Policy for Kent County. They are doing different focus groups from different sectors. It would be great to get input from food and how it intersects with transportation. Wende will share the survey link to look at what priorities there are and how this intersects with transportation.</p>		
Conclusions		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Additional Updates		
Discussion		
<p>Disability Advocates is hosting an architect speaking on design and mobility. Their target is developers, builders, designers. There will be a morning workshop and then a key note speech over lunch at the Embassy Suites on April 18.</p> <p>They Fair Housing Center’s workshop is April 25, there is 3 workshops: fair housing, mapping in Chicago to visualize inequity, and the cost of segregation on the entire region.</p> <p>Talent 2025 – one of the barriers they identified to the workforce is lack or cost of transportation. Please reach out to Tammy Britton (t.britton@talent2025.org) if you have some information you would like to share. Talent 2025 is in tune with current projects that are happening and would be interested in potentially plugging in to those projects.</p>		
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