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**Champaign County
 Rural Transit Advisory Group (RTAG)
 Minutes**

4 **DATE:** Wednesday, August 8th, 2012

5 **PLACE:** John Dimit Room, 1776 E. Washington Street, Urbana, IL 61802

6 **Chair: Andy Kulczycki (*RTAG Voting)**

Attendee	Organization
Chris Bruns*	The Pavilion
Andy Kulczycki*	Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County
Stan James*	Champaign County Board
Martha Paap*	Provena Center for Healthy Aging
Elaine Palencia*	Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
Michelle Ramage*	Rantoul City School District #137
Rita Morocoima-Black	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, PCD Director
Eileen Sierra	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, HSTP Coordinator
Preeti Shankar	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Planner
Amy Marchant	CRIS Rural Mass Transit District

8 **Agenda**

9 **I. Call to Order** – Mr. Kulczycki called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

10 **II. Roll Call** – Ms. Sierra called the roll. A quorum was established.

11 **III. Agenda Approval** – The agenda was approved (motion James, second Ramage, unanimous).

12 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

13 **A. Meeting of May 9th, 2012** – Mr. James requested for efficiency that line numbers be continuous page to
 14 page moving forward. The minutes were approved (motion James, second Ramage, unanimous).

15 **V. New Business**

16 **A. Proposal of Senior Rides Distribution – CRIS**

17 Ms. Marchant reported the Area Agency on Aging (AAA)’s Champaign County funding levels are for
 18 approximately 321 rides a month; however, current demand at 600 rides (approximately) a month is
 19 outpacing this funding source. Senior rides are currently a suggested donation at half the regular cost
 20 of a fare (i.e. fare payment is not required by seniors) and is referred to in the service reports as the
 21 Rural Rider (RR) program. Ms. Morocoima-Black pointed out that when the RR program was under
 22 CCRPC, the trips were limited to the day of the week, direction traveling within the county, and the
 23 number of persons who could fit on one vehicle. Since CRIS took over providing RR program as a
 24 rural public transit provider with a larger fleet – the RR program has opened up to a much larger group

25 of seniors countywide and with more days and hours of service. The RTAG discussed possible
26 solutions to this issue, which included:

- 27 ▪ Setting a specific number of trips per registered Rural Rider, then allow seniors in the general
28 public service area ride as a regular 5311 rider for any additional trips over the allotment provided
29 each month. Mr. James provided an example of the kids foundation that he worked with that
30 allowed only three activities per child in order to avoid use of services beyond funding levels.
- 31 ▪ Try the same model currently used in Vermilion County that prioritizes certain trips, such as
32 medically necessary trips like dialysis. Then for non-medical/social trips limit the total number of
33 trips permitted per week.
- 34 ▪ See if an agency service contract would be possible for Circle of Friends (COF) as their Adult
35 Daycare clients use the Rural Rider funded services the most frequently, every day, outside of the
36 general public transit area (Note outside general public service area runs at a contracted rate of
37 \$26). Ms. Sierra noted per the service report data, the highest single Rural Rider in the last month
38 utilized 78 trips. This rider was a COF client. Ms. Sierra also noted that the last service report
39 indicated that out of the total registered 228 Rural Riders, 150 of those seniors were from Rantoul.

40 **B. *Service Update: Quarterly & Annual Reports*** – Ms. Sierra prepared the quarterly report provided in
41 the meeting’s handouts. Mr. James recommended the report be printed on a different color than pink.
42 Ms. Marchant reported meeting with Carle Hospital representatives, who described how their Rantoul
43 office was relying on CRIS services for their patient appointments. They noted how valuable the
44 service is to the community. Therefore Ms. Marchant is in the process of negotiating a service contract
45 with Carle Hospital. Originally, Ms. Marchant was planning on moving back the vehicles loaned from
46 Vermilion County - however, given the high demand in Champaign County even with the newly
47 awarded vehicles, CRIS will keep all vehicles in service at this location.

48 **C. *Financial Report: Federal (5311) & State (Downstate) Rural Public Transit*** – Ms. Marchant
49 reported that for the end of the state fiscal year 2012, there was \$38,938 revenues, \$289,000 downstate
50 spent, and \$188,000 federal (Section 5311 Operating) spent.

51 Ms. Sierra reported meeting with the Champaign County Nursing Home (CCNH) regarding
52 transportation issues and vehicle sharing; however, those discussions have not progressed as the contact
53 is no longer returning emails or voice mails. The advisory group informed Ms. Sierra that Chuck
54 Schuette was no longer the CCNH administrator. Mr. James recommended talking to Mike
55 Squavito (admin head of the contractor currently running CCNH) or Mary Ellen O’Shaughnessey the
56 Chair of CCNH’s Board of Directors.

57 **VI. Old Business**

58 **A. *Rural Transportation Plan Update*** – Mr. Ryan McCoy provided a presentation regarding the second
59 phase of the Champaign County Rural Mobility Plan. His presentation included (see PowerPoint):

60 *Phase II of Plan Update: Trip Hotspots*

- 61 ▪ Mapped trip origins and destinations as documented through CRIS driver logs from November 2011
62 through all of May 2012.
- 63 ▪ Mr. Kulczycki asked for clarification on the displayed map legend. Mr. McCoy stated that the green dots
64 represent trip origins, red dots represent trip destinations.

- 65 ▪ CRIS Rider Hotspots for in November 2011: High number of destinations with most frequent addressing
66 receiving over 100+ trips.
- 67 ▪ CRIS Rider Hotspots for May 2012: Higher numbers of return trips as origin addresses are more
68 common for this month. Overall the data is similar to November; most origins in Rantoul region of
69 county, most destinations in Champaign-Urbana region.
- 70 ▪ Champaign-Urbana top 5 destinations for November 2011 and May 2012 Map: RTAG members noted
71 COF was the highest frequency for both months. Legend explains COF trip frequency was in the range
72 of 63-82 drop-offs in November and 73-90 drop-offs in May.
- 73 ▪ CRIS General Public Service Area (Rantoul Township High School District) for both Nov. and May
74 Map: Walmart in Rantoul was #1 destination for both months (Shopping). Other common destinations
75 include Pleasant Acres and Eastlawn Elementary Schools (Employment), Shear Excellence Salon
76 (Personal), Christian Life Church (Personal), and Carle Clinic (Medical).
- 77 ▪ Mr. James and Mr. Kulczycki brought up the industrial employment center located in the rural areas that
78 is a high source for employment and possible related transportation. Ms. Sierra noted that CRIS current
79 operating hours may not necessary be conducive to shift hours and that should be looked into.
- 80 ▪ Next map displayed CRIS Non-Public Service Area (St. Joseph, Ogden, Homer), which showed an
81 increase in origin trips from November to May, and a higher demand for travel occurring in these areas.

Transit Dependent Populations

82 Transit Dependent Population map consists of individuals in populations that are unable to drive due to
83 limitations i.e. - physical, financial, legal, self-imposed. Countywide map displayed transit dependent
84 areas for whole region surrounding CRIS service area. Areas with high number of characteristics
85 surround MPO area most because those populations need to be closer to urban centers.

Other Highlights

86 Overall there is increasing demand of service in the Non-Public Service Regions (St. Joseph, Ogden,
87 Homer) is occurring. St. Joseph features a population falling under High Transit Dependent
88 Characteristics, which is an important factor for the growth of CRIS services. Mr. James suggested
89 reviewing the data for each quarter. CCRPC staff will continue to track CRIS data for other months (i.e.
90 August 2011 - February 2012).

91 **VII. Announcements** - RTAG appointments and re-appointments have to be submitted to the Champaign
92 County Board's Committee of the Whole (COW 2) in November. Currently, two seats are open under
93 representation for *Seniors* and *Employment*. Ms. Ramage and Mr. Kulczycki confirmed they were willing
94 to be reappointed. Ms. Ramage recommended Seamus Reilly from Parkland to fill the seat left open by
95 Mr. Jackson.

96 Ms. Morocoima-Black noted that there is a large volume of senior trips coming from St. Joseph
97 wondering if the committee felt a representative for *Seniors* in that area could be recommended for
98 appointment. Mr. James suggested BJ Hacker, the Mayor of St. Joseph to be appointed if willing. He
99 noted that he would follow up with Mr. Hacker. Ms. Sierra will follow up with the recommended contacts
100 and obtain the necessary paperwork for all press releases, re-appointment and appointments with each
101 member.

102 **VIII. Audience Participation** – There was no audience participation.

103 **IX. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM (motion Bruns, second James, unanimous). Next
104 meeting is on November 14th at 4:00 PM in the same room.