

1 Champaign County  
 2 Rural Transit Advisory Group (RTAG)  
 3 Minutes

4 DATE: Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

5 LOCATION: John Dimit Room, 1776 E Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

6 +Proxy #Chair \*Voting

Attendee	Group Representation	Organization
Chris Bruns	*Medical	The Pavilion
Andy Kulczycki	*People with Low Income(s)	Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County
*Elaine Palencia	*People with Disabilities	Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board
*Michelle Ramage	*Education	Rantoul City School District #137
*Tawanna Nickens	*Employment	Parkland College, Institutional Advancement
Mary Sleeth	Seniors	St. Joseph Resident
Rita Morocoima-Black	County Staff	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
Eileen Sierra-Brown	County Staff	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
Amy Marchant	Public Operator Staff	CRIS Rural MTD & CRIS Healthy Aging
Kathy Cooksey	Public Operator Staff	CRIS Rural MTD & CRIS Healthy Aging
April Brown	Public Operator Staff	CRIS Rural MTD & CRIS Healthy Aging
Brock Bush	Stakeholder	Rider

7 Agenda

- 8 I. Call to Order – Mr. Kulczycki called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- 9 II. Roll Call – Ms. Sierra-Brown called the roll. A quorum was established.
- 10 III. Audience Participation – The group went around the room, everyone introduced themselves, stated  
 11 who they represented, and included reasons they were attending the meeting today.
- 12 IV. Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved (motion Palencia, second Bruns, motion carried  
 13 unanimously).
- 14 V. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013: Mr. Kulczycki requested to change the title to  
 15 “Special Meeting Minutes” per Roberts Rules requirements for any meetings called outside of regularly  
 16 scheduled meetings. The minutes as amended were approved (motion Ms. Palencia, second Ms.  
 17 Bruns, motion carried unanimously).

18 Ms. Bruns inquired about the last meeting she missed in April. At the last meeting, RTAG discussed the noticed  
 19 received regarding the sequester cuts to East Central Illinois Area on Aging (ECIAAA) and as a result the  
 20 senior rider program was ended {known as the “Rural Rider” or “Senior PassPort Program”}, and in response  
 21 to that countywide seniors who were part of the program could continue to ride, but instead of paying a

22 suggested fare of \$2, it would be a required fare of \$2. Additionally, the group discussed the general public  
 23 services expanding to serve countywide and not just Rantoul/Northeast corner of the county. Also discussed at  
 24 the last meeting was return trips from C-U back to rural areas to start being scheduled as late as 5pm.

25 VI. New Business

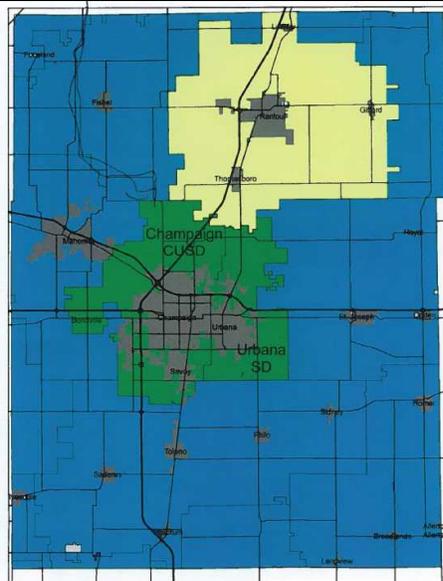
26 A. Update – Countywide transition and routes running until 5pm (Amy Marchant) -

27 Ms. Marchant summarized service changes and passed out a handout titled “Transportation  
 28 Overview Meeting Notes” and an updated service area map. Below are the notes and points she  
 29 described from her staff meeting on 4/29/13 as well as the new service:

**Transportation Overview  
Meeting Notes**

4/29/13 Transportation Meeting (Amy, Kathy, April, Marcus)

- Pull 2 buses (one on 5/3 and the other 5/10)- Both buses have been pulled
  - First bus
    - Cover NW quad on Monday and Wednesday
    - Cover SW quad on Tuesday and Thursday
    - Cover all W side on Friday
  - Second bus
    - Cover E section on Monday and Wednesday
    - Cover SE section on Tuesday and Thursday
    - Cover E and SE on Friday
- Report on Plan/changes to service and adult day care needs (Marcus)
- Brochures/Maps (April)
  - Will need updated information regarding routes/usage and revised service area with cost (needs to be decided- need service numbers)
    - All Champaign Co. brochures need updated
    - Maps- group towns, quadrants or routes outlined
- Additional Marketing (based on need)
  - PR to community areas
  - Letter and updated brochure to County/incorporated areas boards (165+)
  - Community Presentation for Champaign Co. - use as needed
  - Other areas: Flyer/brochures to community physician offices, churches, civic areas.



**CRIS**  
Rural Mass Transit District  
Champaign County Fare Schedule

**Over Age 60 or Disabled:**  
All Zones - \$2.00 each way

**Clients under age 60:**

- Yellow to Yellow \$2.00 each way
- Yellow to Green \$5.00 each way
- Yellow to Blue \$5.00 each way
- Blue to Green Service not available

**Children 12 and under:**  
All Zones - \$1.00 each way  
(when Accompanied by an adult)

31 Ms. Marchant reported on operations were transitioning to a countywide rural transit system, while  
 32 still operating services with the same number of buses (5 are Champaign County's new vehicles  
 33 and 3 are vehicles leased from Vermilion County). Given there are no more additional vehicles,  
 34 Ms. Marchant stated that CRIS chose to start scheduling two buses for the Northwest and  
 35 Southwest parts of the county on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup> respectively. Ms. Marchant noted the  
 36 missing numbers from the quarterly service report with a total of 50 trips denied for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter  
 37 of FY13, by month broke out to be:

Month	Trips Denied
Jan	18
Feb	20
March	12

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 43 **B. CRIS Service Report: FY13, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Prepared by CCRPC (Eileen Sierra-Brown) -**

44 Ms. Brown summarized the stats provided in the grey quarterly handout [see box below]. Ms.  
 45 Marchant requested that the Mahomet area be broken out into a 4<sup>th</sup> Demand Response Zone.

**Service Report Highlights Covered**

**Total Trips Provided = 4,163**  
 \*\*3/25/13 – Transit start-time delayed due amount of snow fallen the night before.  
 \*\*Starting May 1<sup>st</sup> general public rural transportation service will be opened countywide (i.e. the data below does not reflect this).

Month	Types of Trips							Total Trips	Total Days	Average Trips	Services	
	Medical	Personal	Shopping	Social	Employment	Education	Misc.				Lift	60+
Jan	477	235	87	281	331	74	0	1,485	21*	70	157	723
Feb	466	161	74	233	340	88	0	1,362	18*	76	129	639
March	431	185	90	218	309	82	1	1,316	21**	63	101	593

**Total Miles Driven = 59,874**

Month	6 passenger	12 passenger	14 passenger	Total Miles	Total Days
Jan	2	0	6	21,603	21*
Feb	2	0	6	19,736	18*
March	2	0	6	18,535	21**

**Total New Champaign Registered Riders = 88** - The table below reflects new registered riders in FY 13's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Residency is based on the provided home address's zip code:

Key		**Special Report Notes Below				Identified Areas with Most Need++		Awareness Effort Needed Starting May 1*	
Zone	Areas	New Riders FY13 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Q				Totals	Total Rider To		
		5311	5311 D	**RR (60+)	CCNH	Prior Q3	Date		
Rural Zone #1	Foosland					0	0		
	Fisher					13	13		
	Dewey					4	4		
	Ludlow++			1		8	9		
	Rantoul++	43	8	1		637	689		
	Thomasboro++					12	12		
	Penfield					3	3		
Gifford++					11	11			
Rural Zone #2	Royal					0	0		
	Ogden					7	1		
	Saint Joseph					15	15		
	Homer					9	9		
	Sidney			1		7	2		
	Allerton*					0	0		
	Broadlands					0	0		
Longview					0	0			
Rural Zone #3	Philo					3	3		
	Pesotum					7	1		
	Ivesdale					0	0		
	Sadorus					0	0		
Rural Zone #4	Talona**					15	15		
	Savoy					3	3		
	Urbanized Area					199	228		
	Urbana	3	1		25	40	40		
Rural Zone #4	Champaign					0	0		
	Bondville					7	1		
	Seymour					23	23		
Champaign County		Total New Registered Riders = 88				999	1,087		
		**Other counties who have used CRIS within Champaign County				15	1,102		

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Looking at the newly registered riders figures (last page), Ms. Brown noted that the yellow highlights for "Awareness Effort Needed Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>" were not appearing on the handouts due to the grey paper used for the Xerox copies. She apologized and explained that in the chart Foosland and Broadlands are intended to be highlight because due to population demographics (seniors, persons with disabilities, and persons with low income(s)) – projected need for accessible transportation exists; however, currently there are no registered riders with CRIS; and therefore outreach and awareness efforts should be focused on these communities.

The fully corrected service report discussed today will be emailed to RTAG and attendees following the meeting.

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#### C. *CRIS Fiscal Report (Amy Marchant)* -

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Ms. Marchant provided CRIS' fiscal report for operating Champaign County's rural public transit system. She stated getting down to the brass tacks – even though ECIAAAA funding is ending, CRIS was already serving Champaign's seniors countywide, which will now be counted as public transit trips and all trips will be counted as part of the public transportation service. While the schedule is rapidly filling up and demand will outpace the rolling stock capacity, there will be no additional PR regarding Champaign County's public service going countywide and service running up until 5pm – as discussed during the last meeting regarding "soft transition" of system changes. If the transition goes smoothly, then CRIS will consider publishing information and conducting additional verbal outreach regarding the expansion of service countywide. In the meantime, they'll be guesstimating what the impact will be from these changes, and as a result the timeframe for additional PR release would have to be determined – but once determined could involve two weeks of advertisements in local media.

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Ms. Black stated that if CRIS wants, CCRCP could map out 6 weeks of data to see how the new services are impacting operations.

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Ms. Cooksey reported that for the first and second quarter, all federal Champaign County Section 5311 funding was spent down, and for the remaining 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters the IL Downstate would be utilized. Finally, the executed contract [i.e. grant agreement] for FY13 IL Downstate had been received. Additionally, numerous reimbursements from IDOT-DPIT had been received, and currently IDOT-DPIT is only behind 3 months of payments.

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## VII. *Old Business* -

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### A. *Status of JARC and New Freedom Champaign County Grants Awards (Amy Marchant)* -

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Ms. Marchant reported that both two-year grant agreements for the Champaign County's Section 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC grant for \$69,553) and Section 5317 New Freedom (New Freedom grant for \$141,865) had been received; however, IDOT-DPIT has been slow to turn these around which may shorten the timeframe to deliver and spend down the funding. The New Freedom grant is to operate increased countywide medical transportation. The JARC grant is to run the deviated fixed route from Rantoul to Parkland as a pilot program for \$50,000 until the grant runs out. As the new federal transportation bill (MAP-21) merged Section 5316 and 5317 into other FTA programs, if these programs are successful; hopefully, both can continue by being rolled into Champaign County's general rural public transit operating funding.

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**B. Update on Champaign County’s review of joining MTD -**

Ms. Black reported that CCRPC staff met with the County Administration and the Champaign County Board Chair regarding the recommendations of RTAG to join Vermilion’s rural MTD in response to the new PCOM requirements by IDOT-DPIT that will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. During that meeting, the recommendation was discussed and several legal as well as logistical issues were brought up; therefore, additional meeting will be called to discuss the topic with involved parties; prior to sending the issues to the Whole County Board.

**C. CCRPC Rural Mobility Transportation Plan & HSTP Update (Eileen Sierra-Brown) -**

Due to time limitation, Ms. Sierra quickly described the CRIS data collection and performance analysis that is being conducted with the planner, Amber King. The initial draft of the plan should be ready for RTAG review and input at the next quarterly meeting.

**VIII. Announcements** – Ms. Marchant announced that on May 29<sup>th</sup> they met with Carle Hospital System representative to talk about a service plan and the possibility of Carle sponsoring a route that could cover the grey areas full-time as the demand to go to their facilities was high. This could possibility expand the hours dispatcher operate the services. Therefore they are looking at renting additional vehicles to increase the capacity of the Champaign system to operate the New Freedom routes.

**IX. Audience Participation** – Mr. Bush, a Champaign resident and a CUMTD Paratransit rider, described the barriers he has faced when trying to schedule trips with CRIS from his home to his new place of employment that is located within the “grey areas” (i.e. outside of CUMTD service area, but inside the urbanized area not served by CRIS). However, he is willing to end his trip across the street, so that his destination is an eligible rural area trip – but CRIS dispatchers and operations manager have consistently denied his trip. He believes this is a misunderstanding of what is and is not an eligible trip to be scheduled. He noted that if this was an isolated incident, only applicable to his case, then he would not come to the meeting today. He believes this grey area issue impacts many others in the community, as described by Ms. Marchant’s Carle discussions. He believes its important for him to speak up, as many of those who this impacts in the rural areas may not be able to – or not know to – speak up on this topic. He asks the group to keep in mind that not all persons with disabilities are confident to speak publically and take the time to get to these meeting, and that the services and work of the advisory group impacts the services provided. Ms. Marchant responded that she would look into the logistical specifics and see if his transportation needs could be accommodated and requested that Mr. Bush stay after the meeting to discuss it in further detail.

**X. Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM. Next meeting is on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 4:00 PM in the John Dimit Room.