

**2008 COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT/HUMAN
SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN
FOR
FLORENCE/MARINETTE AND OCONTO COUNTY**

(COUNTY CONTACTS LISTED ON INSIDE FRONT COVER)

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INTRODUCTION

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Requirement

The human services transportation provisions of the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) aim to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with lower incomes by ensuring that communities coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal programs (please see Appendix A for federal and state transportation program descriptions).

Coordination will enhance transportation access, minimize duplication of services, and facilitate the most appropriate cost effective transportation possible with available resources. To express these goals, the county is now required to publish a locally developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.

Furthermore, SAFETEA-LU requires that the county Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan identify an approved program of projects prior to distribution of funds from Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Persons with Disabilities Capital Assistance), Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute), and Section 5317 (New Freedom Program).

Currently, Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties have utilized only the Section 5310 Program grants for capital assistance. However, a New Freedom Program grant application, to fund a mobility manager for Marinette and Oconto counties, will be submitted in 2008 for 2009 funding.

Coordinated Plan Guidance

SAFETEA-LU stipulates that Section 5310, JARC and New freedom projects competitively selected for funding shall be derived from a coordinated plan that minimally includes the following elements at a level consistent with available resources and the complexity of the local institutional environment:

- 1) An assessment (*inventory*) of available services that identifies current transportation providers (*public, private, and non-profit*);
- 2) An assessment of transportation needs for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes. This assessment can be based on the experiences and perceptions of the planning partners or on more sophisticated data collection efforts, and gaps in service (Note: If a community does not intend to seek funding for a particular program (Section 5310, JARC, or New Freedom), then the community is not required to include an assessment of the targeted population in its coordinated plan);
- 3) Strategies, activities and/or projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to improve efficiencies in service delivery;
- 4) Priorities for implementation based on resources (from multiple program sources), time, and feasibility for implementing specific strategies and/or activities identified.

SAFETEA-LU requires that the coordinated plan be developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers, and participation by members of the public. In the section Participation in the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Planning Process, an outline of who should participate in

the process and adequate outreach to obtain involvement in the process is defined. In addition, definitions of transportation partners, stakeholders, human service partners, non-profit service providers, etc. is also listed.

Flexibility and variability in the process is described in the section Local Flexibility in the Development of a Local Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation. Plans will reflect the availability of resources and the existence of populations served under these programs. A rural community may develop its plans based on perceived needs emerging from the collaboration of the planning partners, whereas a large urbanized community may use existing data sources to conduct a more formal analysis to define service gaps and identify strategies for addressing the gaps.

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has recommended the following nine items be included in the plan. They include:

1. County Meeting Invitation List
2. County Meeting Participant List
3. Copy of the newspaper Notice of the Meeting
4. County Meeting Flyer
5. County Meeting Record
6. County Inventory of Transportation Programs and Services
7. County Coordination & Assessment Action Plan
8. County List of Approved Projects for Section 5310, 5316, and 5317

Note: All of the aforementioned items are included in this plan and all required actions have been taken.

Participation Process

SAFETEA-LU also requires that the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Service Transportation Plan be developed through a local process that includes representatives from public and private transportation providers, human service agencies, interested parties, and the general public.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has developed a county meeting process to comply with this requirement. The Regional Transportation Planners for the state's Regional Planning Commission's (RPC's) were chosen to coordinate the project, conduct meetings, and write the final report. The RPC planners were chosen because they are currently responsible for reviewing federal and state program applications, need to be aware and knowledgeable of transit programs and funding streams in each county, and are an independent and objective entity.

The Commission's Regional Transportation Planner with the assistance of Florence County ; Marinette County; and Oconto County developed a list of potential representatives using WisDOT-endorsed guidelines and invited them to participate in the county meeting (see Appendix B for a copy of the letter requesting participation, Appendix C for a list of the Florence/Marinette and Oconto County meeting invitees, Appendix D for a copy of the Florence/Marinette and Oconto County meeting agenda, and Appendix E for a copy of the Florence/Marinette and Oconto County meeting flyer).

Meeting Record

The public transit/human services transportation coordination meeting for Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties was held on July 29, 2008 in the community of Townsend. The meeting participants are listed below in Table 1:

Table 1: County Meeting Participants List

Name	Representing
Mary Basak	Marinette County Elderly Services
Pam Mueller-Johnson	Marinette County Elderly Services
Craig Johnson	Oconto County Health and Human Services
Jamie Johnson	NEWCAP, Inc.
Ruth Carriveau	Oconto County Commission on Aging
Sandy Popp	Options for Independent Living
Barbara Bauer	Florence County Aging Unit
Bob Beltrame	Wausaukee Enterprises, Inc.

ASSESSMENT OF TARGET POPULATION

Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties utilize 2000 Census data, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Department of Administration population estimates and projections to assess the target population and determine gaps in service.

Table 2: Census and Population Projections, Florence, Marinette and Oconto County,

Geographic Location	US Census	WDOA Population Projections						
		2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2000-2025	2000-2025
Florence County	5,088	5,741	5,859	5,920				
Marinette County	43,384	43,875	44,557	45,024	45,251	45,193	1,809	4.17
Oconto County	35,652	37,720	39,670	41,385	43,018	44,351	8,699	24.40
Wisconsin	5,363,715	5,563,896	5,751,470	5,931,386	6,110,878	6,274,867	911,152	16.99

2000 Census of the Population, and, Wisconsin Department of Administration 2005 Population Projections, 2006.

Table 3: Elderly and Disabled Population Estimates, Florence, Marinette and Oconto Counties, 2008

County	2000 Census Population	Elderly Ambulatory	Elderly Disabled	Non- Elderly Disabled	Total	
					Elderly and Disabled Population	Percent of Total Population
Florence	5,088	704	221	125	1,050	20.64
Marinette	43,384	6,121	1,728	917	8,766	20.21
Oconto	35,652	4,587	1,301	764	6,652	18.66
State of Wisconsin	5,363,715	571,371	166,718	114,768	852,856	15.90

Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Section 85.21 Aid Application, 2008

Florence County is one of the least populated counties in the state with a 2000 population of 5,088 persons. Additionally, there are no incorporated communities located within the county although the community of Florence (location of the County Courthouse) does have medical, dental, vision and hearing clinics and a small grocery store in addition to other smaller limited shopping opportunities. Major medical services are available in either the City of Iron Mountain, Michigan or the City of Niagara, Wisconsin. The Department of Transportation estimates a total

elderly and disabled (E&D) population of 1,050 persons or 20.64 percent; nearly five percent greater than the state's estimate E&D population of 15.90 percent.

Marinette County is the third largest county in the State, geographically located in the northeast section of Wisconsin with a total area of 1,415 square miles. Older persons are scattered throughout this rural area that is approximately 75 miles long and 30 miles wide; many elderly are residing in very isolated areas of the county. People age 60 and older comprise approximately 23% of the total county population, estimated at 43,130; this is compared to about 17% for the state as a whole. Many of the county's older persons are also low-income. 2000 Census numbers indicate 16% of the male population 65 years and older and are at or below poverty levels, 85 plus are 31.2% while 26% of the female population 65 years and older are at or below poverty level.

Oconto County is the fourteenth largest county in the State, geographically located in the northeast section of Wisconsin, with a total area of 933 square miles. Older persons are scattered throughout this rural area that is approximately 150 miles long from the southern end to the northern tip; many elderly are residing in very isolated areas of the county. People age 60 and older comprise approximately 21% of the total county population, estimated at 35,634, again compared to about 17% for the state as a whole. We find that, as in Marinette County, many Oconto county older persons are also low-income. 2000 Census numbers are 19% of the male population 65 years and older are at or below poverty, this number remains the same for the female population of 65 years and older. Low-income poverty levels pose many hardships for older residents to remain independent in a large rural and isolated community such as Oconto County.

Individuals living with one or more disabilities are similar in both Marinette and Oconto counties. In Oconto County 38% of males over the age of 65 are living with one or more disabilities while 37% of women age 65 and older are living with one or more disabilities; in Marinette Counties these numbers are 37% and 38% respectively. Low-income poverty levels and living with disabilities pose many hardships for older residents to remain independent in a large rural and isolated communities such as Marinette and Oconto Counties.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROVIDERS IN FLORENCE/MARINETTE AND OCONTO COUNTY

Florence County

The **Florence County Aging Unit and Resource Center** provides a flexible route/door to door service utilizing a 2001, seven passenger (with one wheelchair position) lift equipped modified van and two (2) passenger vehicles (a 2007 and a 2005 Ford Taurus) with paid agency staff; in addition to volunteer drivers utilizing their private vehicles.

Services are provided Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:00 pm. Hours are altered weekly to accommodate need. Routes are scheduled daily in the Aurora-Homestead area from 9:00 am through 1:00 pm with shopping trips provided to Iron Mountain, Michigan from 1:00 pm until 4:30 pm. The Florence-Commonwealth areas are served Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm, and also include service to Iron Mountain, Michigan for shopping and medical purposes. Service is provided to other areas of the county (Fence, Tipler and Long Lake) on an as needed basis. Volunteer escort drivers are utilized as needed to provide medical escorts throughout the County.

Marinette County

The City of Marinette operates a shared-ride taxi transit system with services provided by a private contractor. This service is door to door and operates seven days per week (excluding holidays) and utilizes three mini-vans and a full size wheelchair accessible van. Services are provided throughout the City of Marinette, as well as in rural areas within a two-mile radius of the city, and the Cities of Menominee and Peshtigo. The only requirement for the service is that the trip must originate in or be destined for the City of Marinette. In 2008, elderly passengers were charged \$1.75 per ride. An additional fare of \$5.00 is charged to passengers riding to or from the city of Peshtigo. In 2007, the transit service was providing nearly 35,000 rides annually.

The funding for the shared-ride taxi transit program is provided with state, federal, and city assistance through an annual grant. In 2002, the state aide (85.20 urban mass transit operating assistance program) and federal aid (Section 5311 program) provided approximately 67% of the total transit program's operating costs. Passenger fares and the City of Marinette provide the remainder of the programs operating costs.

Marinette County Elderly Services is a private non-profit organization and operates as a county aging unit providing services to persons age 60 and older, regardless of income. Marinette County Elderly Services provides transportation services via a scheduled bus service and volunteers with private vehicles. The provided transportation services are primarily for elderly and disabled persons living in Marinette County and are for medical related and/or business related trip needs for the county residents. The cost of the special transportation is paid for through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Section 85.21 grant program and county funds (a minimum of 20 percent match of the state grant is required), donations, and fares collected from passengers.

In addition, Marinette County Veteran's Service providers have approximately 10 volunteer individuals with 1 non-accessible van to provide transportation to and from veteran's clinics. These rides vary by appointment and are offered on a first come first served basis. In addition to having to be a veteran the individuals riding the bus must be ambulatory and cannot be on oxygen treatments. This transportation service is primarily funded with VA monies and some county funds.

Oconto County

Oconto County elderly and disabled transportation programs are generally bus services using a paid driver. The Oconto County Commission on Aging sponsors and provides the majority of these services with one bus with a wheelchair lift and space for one wheelchair, and an eight seated passenger bus. The Oconto City route is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and is used primarily for medical, nutritional, and personal shopping purposes. On Tuesday and Thursday the Oconto City route is available from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for clients wishing to go to the Nutrition site. Additionally, on Thursday, the bus is available for medical appointments that cannot be done on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

The bus route is door to door service and follows no particular route. Each day the route changes to accommodate the clients' needs. This service is requested through advance reservations and passengers must call at least one-half hour before the scheduled start time for that day. The driver receives the route schedule fifteen minutes before the scheduled start time for that

particular day. Persons 55 years of age and older (spouse or caregiver regardless of age) and disabled persons at least 18 years of age who reside in Oconto County are eligible for transportation services. Priority is given to those with no other means of transportation. The Oconto County Commission on Aging does not serve individuals who are neither elderly nor disabled. The cost of this service is currently a donation, but the Oconto County Commission on Aging may, at some point, implement a fee schedule due to increased cost to the project.

New View, a sheltered workshop, provides van services with contracted drivers and also contracts with Oconto County Commission on Aging for New View clients. New View has six vans with seating capacity for 14 passengers and 1 driver. The door to door routes are established and cover the entire county. The routes are generally fixed, but flexibility is built in to all for new client referral. The transportation service is provide when a person with a disability becomes a client of New View and has a transportation schedule set up for their employment at New View Industries in Gillett. All riders must be a client of New View to be eligible for transportation services. Passengers are asked to donate \$2.00 per day for transportation services. These collected revenues are retained by New View Industries and used for programming.

In addition, **Oconto County Veterans Services** work with approximately 5 volunteer drivers who are able to pick up veterans. This service is only for scheduled VA medical appointments to and from VA facilities. Oconto County Veterans Services also utilize Oconto County Commission on Aging lift equipped van, as needed, and provides mileage reimbursement at the same rate as to volunteer drivers.

Table 4: Inventory of Transportation Services in Florence/Marinette and Oconto County

Public/Non-Profit Service Providers			
Name	Location	Phone	Service
Florence County Aging Resource Center	Florence, Wisconsin	(715) 528-4890	Route and door to door for medical and shopping
Marinette County Elderly Services	Village of Crivitz, Wisconsin	(715) 854-7453	Nutrition program and medical transport
City of Marinette Shared-Ride Taxi Service	City of Marinette		Public transit
Wausaukee Enterprises	Wausaukee	715-856-5441	Employment program transportation
Marinette County Veterans Service	Marinette, Wisconsin	715-732-7560	Medical transport
Oconto County Commission on Aging	Oconto, Wisconsin	920-834	Nutrition program and medical transport
Oconto Veterans Service	Oconto, Wisconsin	920-834-6817	Medical transport
Private Service Providers Serving Florence/Marinette and Oconto Counties			
Name	Location	Phone	Service
Lar-El Bus Service	Kingsford, MI	906 774-0696	Charter Bus
Medi-Van of Green Bay	Green Bay	800 631-1804	Medical Transport
Travel Aide	Peshtigo and De Pere	800 631-1804	Medical Transport

Table 4: Inventory of Transportation Services in Florence/Marinette and Oconto County
continued

Northland Lutheran Services		715-735-6222	
Travel Aide	Peshtigo and De Pere	800 631-1804	Accessible Transportation
Newcare Transport		715-854-2109	
Comfort Travel	Green Bay	920 43-9457	Charter Bus
Goodwill Industries	Marinette	715-732-0563	Accessible Transportation
Westlund Bus Inc.	Marinette	715-732-0238	Charter and School Bus
Lamers Bus Lines	Green Bay	920 336-7220	Charter Bus Service Transportation
Wheelchair Transport	Green Bay	920 494-3333	Accessible Transportation
Handicapped United	Marinette		Accessible Transportation
Truckland Transportation	Iron Mountain, MI	906-776-9003	School Bus Transportation
Golden Living Center	Florence, Wisconsin	715-528-4833	Facility Resident Transport Only

ACTION PLAN

The 2008 Action Plan was developed by county meeting participants with assistance from the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission staff.

Initially, the participants reviewed the results of the *Framework for Action* process that was included in the 2006 plan. Section 1: Working Together

Section 1 addressed issues related to coordination, formal program goals and objectives, and most importantly, the need to articulate a vision for the provision of services to the elderly and disabled in Florence/Marinette and Oconto County.

Overall – Done Well

- Florence County Commission on Aging oversees the County Aging Unit and provides direction relative to delivery of service.
- Both Marinette County and the City of Marinette have coordination committees that meet frequently, public notice their meetings and encourage the public to attend and provide input.
- Marinette Elderly Services has established a Transportation Advisory Council made up of elderly, volunteer captains, medical escort drivers, transportation users and human service vehicle drivers.
- Oconto County Commission on Aging oversees the County Aging Unit and provides direction relative to delivery of service.

Do Better

- Florence Elderly should consider establishing a Transportation Advisory Council made up of County Board supervisors, elderly citizens, volunteers, representatives of area assisted care facilities, medical escort providers, other transportation users and human service staff.
- Since s.85.21 and Section 5310 review functions were removed from the Department of transportation’s regional offices, communication between the counties and WisDOT has

deteriorated. All three Counties see an advantage to having a point of contact at the Department's regional level that is familiar with the names, faces and places in Florence/Marinette and Oconto County.

- Programs could benefit from a more formal articulation of goals and objectives in a coordination plan or in the County Comprehensive Plans that will be completed by all three Counties, prior to 2010.
- In Marinette County, representation on the Advisory Council should be expanded to include; county board supervisors; City of Marinette transit representation; area nursing homes; private non and for-profit transportation providers and disabled citizen representation
- In all three Counties, improved communication and cooperation between various public and private service agencies and providers is needed and, in particular, communication with WisDOT needs to improve..
- Oconto Elderly should consider establishing a Transportation Advisory Council made up of County Board supervisors, elderly citizens, volunteers, representatives of area assisted care facilities, medical escort providers, other transportation users and human service staff.

Section 2: Taking Stock

Section 2 addresses issues of service assessment and the review and inventory of services provided essential to identify gaps, needs and duplication of service.

Done Well

Done Well

- All three Counties provide a brief inventory of transportation providers and transportation services in the annual s.85.21 application.
- All public and (known) private transportation providers in Florence/Marinette and Oconto County and adjacent counties are contacted when applying for s. 5310 funds

Needs Some Action

- More detailed cost/benefit inventory is needed to more fully coordinate services
- Better communication needed
- Survey should be conducted in the rural portions of the county in order to identify service gaps
- Update software/information/data records to better coordinate services.
- Coordinate software for “apples-to-apples” analysis.

Section 3: Putting Customers First

Section 3 addresses the ease of access to information about the transportation services provided in Marinette County.

Done Well

- With limited budgets Florence/Marinette and Oconto County's elderly and disabled are adequately served
- Fares are reasonable and affordable given the high costs of the service provided
- Volunteer drivers are doing an excellent job
- Driver training is available
- All clients are served regardless of ability to pay a fares

Do Better

- Newsletters are an essential and popular tool for transmitting information in Florence/Marinette and Oconto County and should be utilized to a greater extent to disseminate information relative to transportation services and needs.
- Little service on evenings/weekends and holidays
- Need to market under-utilized services
- One phone number for all transportation services
- Customer satisfaction surveys are needed
- Transportation services need to be more user-friendly/better match users with most appropriate services
- User education programs are needed
- Transfers between counties, and between transportation providers

Section 4: Adapting Funding

Section 4 deals with identifying accounting procedures that create customer friendly payment systems while maintaining consistent reporting and accounting procedures across programs.

Done Well

- The Florence County Aging Unit, Marinette County Elderly Services and Oconto County Commission on Aging accommodate all customers regardless of their ability to pay and method of payment.

Do Better

- The three Counties look to the State to provide information and education on additional funding sources, improving accounting procedures and increasing efficiency.

Section 5: Moving People Efficiently

Section 5 addresses centralized managerial systems to coordinate highly diverse, multi-modal service provision.

Done Well

- The Oconto County Aging Unit, Marinette County Elderly Services and Oconto County Commission on Aging provide ongoing leadership toward improving cooperation and coordination of services

Do Better

- Central dispatching and brokerage not practical at the County level
- Coordination do-able county-wide, but would be difficult at on a multi-county district or regional level
- One-stop shop phone call for transportation services could be developed; however, single contact points for customers are effective only to those that know where and how to access the source. It is equally important that all county departments, services, church groups, social organizations, medical providers, etc., have information for those seeking transportation and are able to direct the potential client (or acquaintance of a potential client) to the appropriate service provider.
- Collaboration with private transportation providers needs to improve

Following the assessment of progress made since 2006 utilizing the *Framework for Action Toolkit* the participants reviewed best management practices (coordination strategies) listed in the *Coordination Strategy Handbook*, developed by WisDOT consultants, published in 2008.

Table 5: Recommended Strategies for Transportation Service Coordination and Delivery

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Coordination Strategy Handbook
Communication, Training and Organizational Support

Action	<i>Hire Mobility Manager.</i>
Key Elements	Dedicate personnel resources to manage local mobility issues. Individual may assume responsibility to manage and staff coordination efforts.
Wisconsin Example	16 mobility managers hired as part of the 2008 federal grant process to hire mobility managers
Implementation Obstacles	1) Creates staff resources to promote and implement coordination. 2) If manager is shared across agencies/programs will require jointly allocating resources and setting goals
Costs	Low-Medium
Action	<i>Provide Technical Training for Coordination Staff</i>
Key Elements	Obtain technical training on background skills needed to implement coordination strategies, such as financial tools, team-building, etc.
Wisconsin Example	Wisconsin DOT is currently developing a mobility managers training curriculum
Implementation Obstacles	1) Ensures local coordination staff has skills to implement recommended programs. 2) May require additional local resources
Costs	Low-Medium
Action	<i>Centralize Information</i>
Key Elements	Create centralized listing of available regional services
Wisconsin Example	Senior Resource Guides– examples include Ashland & Wood Counties
Benefits	More user friendly programs; increases access to service
Implementation/Obstacles	Requires lead organization; requires on-going maintenance

Action	<i>Consolidate Functions.</i>
Key Elements	Merge various operating functions under single entity such as call center and/or service delivery
Wisconsin examples	Marathon County Transportation Program Indianhead Community Action Agency
Benefits	Improves program access; creates cost efficiencies; maximizes ridesharing
Implementation/Obstacles	Requires lead agency, personnel training and cost reimbursement models; Requires trust across merged service providers
Costs	Low/Medium (estimated 5-10% of operating costs)

Mobility Strategies

Action	<i>Improve Service Convenience</i>
Key Elements	Improve/expand service hours, geographic coverage, driver assistance, same-day service, etc.
Wisconsin Examples	Ashland County – Bay Area Rural Transit and Ashland County Aging Unit
Benefits	Enhances travel & service options
Implementation/Obstacles	Requires increasing financial resources
Costs	Medium to-High

Action	<i>Establish/Expand Volunteer Driver/Escort Programs</i>
Key Elements	Develop/incorporate volunteer driver program to deliver services
Wisconsin Examples	Many – examples include City of Green Lake, Western Washington Center for Independent Living; Indianhead
Benefits	Low cost strategy to increase service, community involvement
Implementation/Obstacles	Volunteer recruitment and retention; Insurance and fuel costs
Costs	Low

It was the consensus of the participants that the following actions be implemented in order to increase efficiency, expand service, reduce costs and to, ultimately, fully coordinated public transit/human services transportation services in Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties.

Action Plan Summary

The following is a summary of proposed actions, the parties responsible for implementing the actions and an approximate implementation schedule.

Table 6: Action Plan for Florence, Marinette and Oconto Counties, 2008 - 2013

Action Item	Responsible Party	Schedule
Submit a New Freedom grant application for a multi-county <i>Transportation Mobility</i> manager	Marinette and Oconto County, and NEWCAP, Inc ¹ .	2008
Utilize Section 5310 Program and submit applications for capital equipment (buses and vans) as needed to replace existing fleets.	Florence, Marinette and Oconto Counties	2008-2013
Update transportation service inventory and provide more details, develop a transportation service resource guide	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County, and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission	2009-2010
Submit STRAP Grant application	Florence, Marinette and Oconto Counties	2009-2013
Continue to assess utility of new programs such as WETAP and/or New Freedom for possible local applications	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	On-going
Consider county transit system (Section 5311)	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	On-going
Assess, and if needed expand representation on respective County Coordination Committees	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	2009
Continue to offer customer travel training	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	On-going
Explore joint purchasing options	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	2009-2013
Contract with agency operators	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	2009-2013
Improve Service Convenience	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	On-going
Expand volunteer driver and escort programs	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County	On-going
Continue support of City of Marinette Shared-Ride Taxi Transit Service	Marinette and Oconto County	On-going
Consider Shared-Ride Taxi Transit Service in other urban centers.	Marinette and Oconto County	On-going

¹It is the intent of Marinette and Oconto County to expand the “mobility managers” program area where and when possible to adjoining counties; i.e. Florence, Forest, Shawano.

FY 2009 TO 2013 PROJECTS

SAFETEA-LU requires the county Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan to identify an approved program of projects prior to the distribution of funds from the Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Persons with Disabilities Capital Assistance), Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute), and Section 5317 (New Freedom) programs. Based on the assessment of existing services and service needs and the “action plan” derived from the meeting conducted on July 29, 2008, the following projects were approved for Florence/Marinette and Oconto County for 2009 through 2013.

Table 7: Program Projects, Florence, Marinette and Oconto Counties; 2009-2013

2009 Programs	FY 2009 Projects	Estimated Costs
Section 5310 (Elderly & Disabled Transportation - Capital Assistance)	Florence County: One (1) lift equipped 7 passenger bus with one (1) wheel chair position	\$45,000
	Marinette County: two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
	Oconto County: two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
Section 5316 (JARC & WETAP)	No application in 2008	-
Section 5317 (New Freedom)	Mobility Manager for Marinette and Oconto County	\$98,927
2010 Programs	FY 2010 Projects	Estimated Costs
Section 5310 (Elderly & Disabled Transportation – Capital Assistance)	Florence County: One (1) lift equipped 7 passenger bus with one (1) wheel chair position	\$45,000
	Marinette County: two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
	Oconto County: two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
Section 5316 (JARC & WETAP)	Marinette and Oconto County (NEWCAP) <i>Work-n-Wheels Program</i>	\$150,000
Section 5317 (New Freedom)	Marinette and Oconto County: Continued funding for “mobility manager”; continue development of centralized dispatch service	\$98,000
	Florence County: Mobility Manager	\$98,000

Table 7: Program of Projects continued.

2011 Programs	FY 2011 Projects	Costs
Section 5310 (Elderly & Disabled Transportation – Capital Assistance)	Florence County: One (1) lift equipped 7 passenger bus with one (1) wheel chair position	\$45,000
	Marinette County: .two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
	Oconto County: .two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
Section 5316 (JARC & WETAP)	Marinette and Oconto County (NEWCAP) <i>Work-n-Wheels Program</i>	\$150,000
Section 5317 (New Freedom)	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County :Continued funding for “mobility manager”; continue development of centralized dispatch service	Marinette and Oconto - \$98,000 Florence County - \$98,000
2012 Programs	FY 2012 Projects	Costs
Section 5310 (Elderly & Disabled Transportation – Capital Assistance)	Florence County: One (1) lift equipped 7 passenger bus with one (1) wheel chair position	\$45,000
	Marinette County: .two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
	Oconto County: .two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
Section 5316 (JARC & WETAP)	Marinette and Oconto County (NEWCAP) <i>Work-n-Wheels Program</i>	\$150,000
Section 5317 (New Freedom)	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County :Continued funding for “mobility manager”; continue development of centralized dispatch service	Marinette and Oconto - \$98,000 Florence County - \$98,000

Table 7: Program of Projects continued.

2013 Programs	FY 2013 Projects	Costs
Section 5310 (Elderly & Disabled Transportation – Capital Assistance)	Florence County: One (1) lift equipped 7 passenger bus with one (1) wheel chair position	\$45,000
	Marinette County: two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
	Oconto County: two (2) lift equipped buses – seven passenger with one wheel chair position	\$90,000
Section 5316 (JARC & WETAP)	Marinette and Oconto County (NEWCAP) <i>Work-n-Wheels Program</i>	\$150,000
Section 5317 (New Freedom)	Florence, Marinette and Oconto County :Continued funding for “mobility manager”; continue development of centralized dispatch service	Marinette and Oconto - \$98,000 Florence County - \$98,000

SUMMARY

With the guidance of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the assistance of the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission; Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties have met the requirements of SAFETEA-LU relative to developing a *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*.

The County’s stakeholders met on July 29th, 2008, assessed the delivery of human services transportation and discussed gaps in service; identified issues of concern, and developed an action plan. The working group also identified and approved the program of projects contained in Table 7. Pursuant to the approved program of projects, Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties will continue to utilize Section 5310 (Elderly & Disabled Transportation - Capital Assistance) to provide vehicles for human services transportation; and will seek to obtain a New Freedom grant with which to hire a mobility manager.

Appendices

Appendix A

Federal and State Transportation Program Descriptions and Local Interest

Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 – Capital and Operating Assistance

This program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes Federal resources available to urbanized areas for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated by the Bureau of the Census.

Eligible purposes include planning, engineering design, and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies; capital investments in bus and bus related activities such as replacement of buses, overhaul of buses, rebuilding of buses, crime prevention and security equipment and construction of maintenance and passenger facilities; and capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems including rolling stock, overhaul and rebuilding of vehicles, track, signals, communications, and computer hardware and software. All preventive maintenance and some Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit service costs are considered capital costs.

The urban centers of Florence/Marinette and Oconto county do not meet the population threshold of 50,000.

Federal Transit Administration Section 5309 – Capital Assistance

The transit capital investment program (49 U.S.C. 5309) provides capital assistance for three primary activities:

1. new and replacement buses and facilities,
2. modernization of existing rail systems, and
3. new fixed guideway systems (New Starts)

Eligible recipients for capital investment funds are public bodies and agencies (transit authorities and other state and local public bodies and agencies thereof) including states, municipalities, other political subdivisions of states; public agencies and instrumentalities of one or more states; and certain public corporations, boards, and commissions established under state law. Funds are allocated on a discretionary basis.

Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 – Elderly Individuals and Persons with Disabilities Capital Assistance

This program (49 U.S.C. 5310) provides formula funding to States for the purpose of assisting private nonprofit groups in meeting the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. Funds are apportioned based on each State's share of population for these groups of people.

Funds are obligated based on the annual program of projects included in a statewide grant application. The State agency ensures that local applicants and project activities are eligible and in compliance with Federal requirements, that private not-for-profit transportation

providers have an opportunity to participate as feasible, and that the program provides for as much coordination of federally assisted transportation services, assisted by other Federal sources. Once FTA approves the application, funds are available for state administration of its program and for allocation to subrecipients within the state.

Florence, Marinette, and Oconto counties have utilized the Section 5310 program to purchase capital equipment (vans and buses) to provide transportation services to the elderly and disabled.

Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 – Nonurbanized Area Formula Funds

This program (49 U.S.C. 5311) provides formula funding to states for the purpose of supporting public transportation in areas of less than 50,000 population.

The City of Marinette utilizes the Section 5311 program to support their shared-ride taxi public transit system.

Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 – Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

The Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program (49 U.S.C. 5316) provides formula funding to States and Designated Recipients to support the development and maintenance of job access projects designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment, and for reverse commute projects designed to transport residents of urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities.

Grants may finance capital projects and operating costs of equipment, facilities, and associated capital maintenance items related to providing access to jobs; promote use of transit by workers with non-traditional work schedules; promote use by appropriate agencies of transit vouchers for welfare recipients and eligible low income individuals; and promote use of employer-provided transportation including the transit pass benefit program.

Funds are allocated on a discretionary basis as follows: 60 percent to areas over 200,000 population; 20 percent to areas of under 200,000 population; and 20 percent to nonurbanized areas. The Federal/local share is 50/50.

Federal Transit Administration Section 5317 – New Freedom Program

The New Freedom Program (NFP) was established in the new transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU. The program purpose is to provide new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those currently required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that assist individuals with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. Eligible items include the following:

1. Support the capital and operating costs of new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives that are beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
3. Funds may be used for 80 percent of capital expenses and 50 percent of operating expenses. There is no limitation on the amount of funds that can be used for operating expenses.

4. Purchasing vehicles and supporting accessible taxi, ride-sharing, and vanpooling programs.
4. Providing paratransit services beyond minimum requirements (3/4 mile to either side of a fixed route), including for routes that run seasonally.
5. Making accessibility improvements to existing transit and intermodal stations not designated as key stations.
6. Supporting voucher programs for transportation services offered by human service providers.
7. Supporting volunteer driver and aide programs.
8. Acquisition of transportation services by a contract, lease, or other arrangement.
9. Supporting mobility management and coordination programs among public transportation providers and other human service agencies providing transportation.

State of Wisconsin Section 85.20 – State Urban Mass Transit Operating Assistance Program

Section 85.20 provides operating expenses of an urban mass transit system, including labor, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, utilities, insurance, purchased transportation services, license fees and lease expenses.

State of Wisconsin Section 85.21 – County Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Assistance Program

Section 85.21 provides counties with financial assistance to provide transportation services to elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

Appendix B

Florence/Marinette and Oconto County Meeting - Letter of Invitation to Participate

July 15, 2008

RE: Florence/Marinette and Oconto County Transportation Coordination Meeting

Dear Transit/Human Services Transportation Stakeholder:

In 2005, Congress passed the latest Federal Highway Transportation Bill (reauthorizing the surface transportation act) titled the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)*. As part of this reauthorization, Elderly and Disabled Transportation Program (5310), New Freedom Initiative, and Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant recipients had to meet minimal coordination planning requirements in order to be eligible for grants in 2007 and 2008.

The Federal Highway Bill required that all projects (grant request) from the programs listed above were to be part of a "*locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan*". In 2006, in order to meet the Federal requirements, a *Transit/Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan* was developed for Florence, Marinette and Oconto counties by the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission staff.

For Section 5310, JARC and New freedom Initiative grantees to continue to be eligible to receive funding in 2009 and beyond, **the 2006 plan must be reviewed and updated**. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has developed a short county meeting process to comply with SAFETEA-LU requirements

The joint Transportation Coordination meeting for Florence, Marinette and Oconto County, to update the Plan, has been scheduled for **July 29th, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 12:00 noon**.

The meeting will take place at the **Townsend Town Hall at 16564 Elm Street, Townsend, Wisconsin**.

In addition to approving a list of proposed future transportation projects, the meeting will include updating an assessment of human services transportation coordination services within the three counties; a review of the level of coordination between transportation programs; and, finally, development of an action plan for developing strategies and steps for improving coordination efforts. A meeting flyer is attached for distribution and posting to announce the county meeting.

Attachment: Meeting Agenda and County meeting flyer for posting and distribution

Appendix C

Florence/Marinette and Oconto County Meeting - List of Invitees

Florence, Marinette, and Oconto County Transportation Meeting July 29, 2008

Letters, flyers, and agendas

Mailed to 21 transportation providers

Mailed to our agency's seven COA board members

Mailed to our Counties Chairperson, George Bousley

Mailed to our Counties Administrator, Steve Corbeille

Faxed to all six of our meal sites to be passed out and announced to participants

Flyers were passed out on our rural buses to 112 passengers.

Notice of public meeting was faxed to The Peshtigo Times and Marinette Eagle Herald.

Three flyers were posted at our Agency office.

List of Contacts

Luther Manor
831 Pine Beach Rd
Marinette, WI 54143-4225

Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Inc.
831 Pine Beach Rd
Marinette, WI 54143-4225

Augustana Manor
831 Pine Beach Rd.
Marinette, WI 54143

Bayshore Pines
875 University
Marinette, WI 54143

Bayshore Pines South
3206 Woodland Rd.
Marinette, WI 54143

Country Side Adult Care Home
N2511 Shore Dr.
Marinette, WI 54143

NEWCare Residence
P.O. Box 158
Crivitz, WI 54114

Rennes Health Center West
501 N Lake St.
PO Box 147
Peshtigo, WI
54157

Rennes Health Center East
701 Willow St
Peshtigo, WI
54157

Vesta Walker
Marinette County Visually Impaired Support Group
Marinette Senior Center
1603 Ludington St
Marinette, WI 54143

Florence County published notice of the meeting in the *Florence Mining News*, posted the flyer at several locations in the county, and e-mailed appropriate County Board members, committees and community leaders.

Oconto County printed an article and notice in their *Focus on Aging* newsletter and mailed a special addition to the list attached. Notice was published in the *Oconto County Reporter*. Several posters were distributed and posted throughout the county.

Appendix D

Florence/Marinette and Oconto County Meeting - Agenda

**FLORENCE/MARINETTE/OCONTO COUNTIES
PUBLIC/HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATION ASSESSMENT MEETING**

Date: July 29, 2008

Location: Townsend Town Hall, WI

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

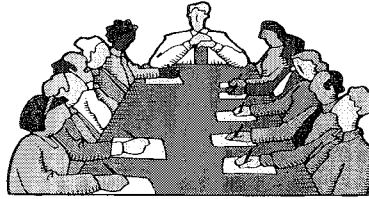
AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions	10:00 pm to 10:10 pm
Overview and Purpose of the Meeting	10:10 pm to 10:25 pm
County Coordination Assessment Exercise	10:25 pm to 11:00 pm
Development of the County Action Plan	11:00 pm to 11:30 pm
Approval of County Projects	11:30 pm to 12 noon
Adjourn	12:00 noon

Facilitated by:

Jim Van Laanen
Regional Transportation Planner
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
(920) 448-2820
jvanlaanen@baylakerpc.org

Florence/Marinette and Oconto County Transportation Coordination Meeting



Please Attend

A Joint-County Transportation Coordination meeting for Florence, Marinette and Oconto Counties, will be held to review a list of transportation program projects and to conduct a county assessment of public transit/human services transportation coordination.

Date: July 29th, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
16564 Elm Street, Townsend, Wisconsin

For information about the meeting, or transportation assistance to the meeting, please call (respective county contact name and number)

Appendix F
Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting to identify proposed Federal transportation program grant applications will be held on August 5, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Florence/Marinette and Oconto County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive, Florence/Marinette and Oconto, Wisconsin. The primary function of the meeting is to review and update the 2006, *Florence/Marinette and Oconto County Human Services/Transit Transportation Coordination Plan* which must be done in order to maintain Florence/Marinette and Oconto County's eligibility for certain Federal transportation program grants.

The updated Plan will include a list of future grant request for transportation services and capital expenditures for elderly and disabled persons and other employment- related transportation programs. The updated Plan will maintain Florence/Marinette and Oconto County's eligibility for Federal grants for the provision of transportation programs and services to the county's elderly, disabled and low income citizens.

The meeting will also include the completion of a county assessment on public transit and human services transportation coordination from all transportation providers and stakeholders in attendance.

Anyone that is unable to attend the meeting but would like to submit comments in advance may send them to: Jim Van Laanen, Transportation Planner, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, 441 South Jackson Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Phone: (920) 448-2820 or E-Mail: jvanlaanen@baylakerpc.org before September 1, 2008.

Persons with disabilities who would like to attend the meeting and require accommodations should contact:

Florence County Aging Resource Center; Barbara Bauer, Director; P.O. Box 140, Florence, WI 54121; (715)-528-4890 or in Wisconsin 1-888-528-4890; Email: bbauer@co.florence.wi.us

Marinette County Elderly Services; Pam-Mueller-Johnson, Director; PO Box 456, Crivitz, Wisconsin; 54114-0456; (715)-854-7453 or in Wisconsin 1-800-990-4242; Email: pam@mces.net or aging@mces.net

Oconto County Commission on Aging, Inc.; Ruth Carriveau, Director; 1210 Main Street, Oconto, WI 54153; (920) 834-7707 or in Wisconsin: 1-800-649-6568; Email: rcarriveau.occa@bayland.net

Note: No comments were received.

Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission

Commission Members

Brown County

William Clancy
Tomi M. Loch
Chris Swan

Door County

Paul DeWitt
Mariah K. Goode
Nomination Pending

Florence County

Edwin Kelley
Bruce Osterberg
Yvonne Van Pembrook

Kewaunee County

Mary Hanrahan
Brian Paplham
Charles R. Wagner

Manitowoc County

Donald C. Markwardt
Valerie Mellon
NyiaLong Yang

Marinette County

Alice Baumgarten
Cheryl R. Maxwell, Vice Chairperson
Mary G. Meyer

Oconto County

Donald A. Glynn
Thomas D. Kussow
Lois L. Trever, Sect./Tres.

Sheboygan County

James E. Gilligan, Chairperson
Mike Hotz
Ron McDonald

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

Nomination Pending

Staff

Mark A. Walter
Executive Director

Jeffrey C. Agee-Aguayo, AICP
Transportation Planner III

Tony D. Bellovary
GIS Coordinator

Richard L. Heath
Assistant Director/Principal Planner

Richard J. Malone
Office Accounts Coordinator

Angela M. Pierce
Natural Resources Planner II

Brenda L. Rehberg
Administrative Assistant

Brandon G. Robinson
Community Assistance Planner III

Luann Rudolph
Community Planner

Joshua W. Schedler
GIS Specialist

James J. Van Laanen
Transportation Planner III

Ker Vang
Community Planner

