



## Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Thursday; August 7, 2014; 4 – 5:30 p.m.  
Beloit Utilities and Engineering Facilities

### Meeting Summary

#### Attendees:

Michele Carter, WisDOT DBE Program Chief (teleconference)  
Wayne Chase, WisDOT Supervisor, I-39/90  
Brian Covey, Forward Service Corporation  
Sheila De Forest, Beloit City Councilor  
Bill Dionne, Operating Engineers, IUOE Local 139  
Alicia Griffin, Serendipity Communications, I-39/90 DBE Outreach Coordinator  
Julie Harkinson, Harkinson Consulting, LLC (teleconference)  
Paul Ndon, WisDOT, OBOEC (teleconference)  
Erica Rebout, Rock Roads Benefits Manager & EEO Coordinator  
Sheila DeForest  
Kim Schauder, WisDOT Supervisor, I-39/90

#### **Topic: Review Meeting Schedule & Standard Report Content**

**Action:** Alicia Griffin will inform Rock County Stakeholders when a Workforce Opportunity Session is being held in conjunction with an I-39/90 Project Pre-Construction Meeting.

**Presenter:** Michele Carter, WisDOT DBE Chief

#### **Discussion:**

#### **REPORT: Workforce Utilization Report**

Michele Carter comments:

- The Workforce Utilization Report identifies the number of people working on the I-39/90 project. People are identified by construction trades, by race and by gender. There are 20 different construction jobs that have been placed into the 5 categories listed in this report (e.g., Heavy Equipment Operators, Laborers, Skilled Trades, Truck Drivers and X-Bldg Laborers X-Bldg Skilled Trades)
- The report does not report the level of TrANS graduates.
- The category of employees are: Apprentice, Journeyman and Trainee. The bulk of employees are Journeymen who have completed the apprenticeship process having proven their competency. Apprentices are new, inexperienced and novice employees. On I-39/90 projects and the majority of WisDOT projects, journeymen are primarily the people that are employed.

Sheila De Forest comment:

- It is helpful to get this type of information as a snapshot prior to the TrANS program is in place.



## **REPORT: Southwest Area Construction Apprentice Snapshot**

Michele Carter comments:

The Southwest Area Construction Apprentice Snapshot report, supplied by the Department of Workforce Development, shows the number of individuals living in Rock County Zip Codes that are showing an interest in the construction trades in the Rock County area (by zip codes) by addresses. The laborers and iron workers are the ones that WisDOT uses in road construction.

## **REPORT: WisDOT Scheduled Letting Dates (8/1/14 – 8/30/15) for I-39/90 & Verona Road Projected Feasibility for New Hires**

Michele Carter comment:

This report was produced for planning purposes in order to have an idea of the contracts that will be in the Dane and Rock County area. It includes State Highways (state funded – no TrANS incentives can be placed on it), County Highways (not usually funded by the federal government; but, is more likely to be locally funded) and US Highways.

Sheila De Forest question:

What's the easiest way to find out about mandatory pre-bid meetings?

Michele Carter response:

- Information about mandatory pre-bid meetings will be made available on the 511 website.
- Pre-bid meetings are usually on big projects with lots of opportunities of complexities.

Wayne Chase response:

There probably won't be very many mandatory pre-bid meetings. There currently aren't any scheduled. Mandatory pre-bid meetings are done for the benefit of the contractors when there is something complex associated with it.

Michele Carter comment:

The pre-construction meeting is attended by Prime contractors and major Subcontractors. The DBE Program Office has come to believe that this is an ideal opportunity to catch people and talk with them about the TrANS Program. After a pre-construction meeting, a Workforce Opportunity Session is held

## **Topic: October Rock County Stakeholder "Open House"**

**Action:** Alicia Griffin will work with Sheila De Forest about putting together an October RCSC Open House.

**Presenter:** Michele Carter, WisDOT DBE Chief

## **Discussion:**

Michele Carter comment:

Michele would like to get feedback from the group with the idea of having an Open House in October 2014 at Community Action, where the TrANS classes will be held.

Sheila De Forest question:

What would be the purpose of the Open House and who is the target audience?



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### Michele response:

The targeted audience would be stakeholders from the area. It will be an opportunity for residents to see where the TrANS training is being held. This meeting will not be “bells and whistles”; but, more of an information sharing and an opportunity to meet and greet.

### Sheila De Forest response:

This is something that could be coordinated and piggy-backed with a Chamber's after hour's event being held from 5 – 5:30 p.m. It would be an opportunity to invite Chamber members to attend.

### Kim Schauder response:

The I-39/90 team enjoy the key people that are currently members of the Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee; but, we've noticed a loss of people along the way. This event could be a tool used to spark the interest of stakeholders as well as to promote the labor and business opportunities on the project.

### **Topic:** WisDOT I-39/90 Project Update

**Presenter:** Wayne Chase, WisDOT I-39/90 Supervisor

### **Discussion:**

#### Wayne Chase comment:

- Wayne reviewed the WisDOT Scheduled Letting Dates report supplied by the WisDOT DBE Program Office. He clarified the reading of the report by identifying the identification of Project ID's (e.g., A Project ID leading with 1007 is in Dane County and a Project ID leading with 1003 or 1005 is in Rock County).
- As mentioned in a previous meeting, the Highway G project will be moved from this fall.
- The year 2015 and 2016 will garner heavier road construction projects.
- Construction on the I-39/90 Project will continue through 2020/2021.

### **Topic:** TrANS Program Update / September schedule for Rock County TrANS Class

**Action:** Alicia Griffin, Sheila De Forest and Brian Covey will create a plan to make a connection with Blackhawk Technical College on assisting TrANS participants obtaining CDLA.

**Presenter:** Brian Covey, Forward Service Corporation

### **Discussion:**

#### Brian Covey comment:

- Forward Service is currently doing the first interviews and fast-tracking for the first TrANS training session. There was an orientation on Wednesday that produced 40 people.
- The fact tracking is being held with previous participants from Operation Fresh Start.
- The First TrANS session will begin on September 22, 2014 at Community Action. This 160 hour curriculum has classes scheduled from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., 5 days/week for 6 weeks
- The following are some items that will be addressed in TrANS:
  - Learn about the road construction process – design through landscaping.
  - Safety scenarios with graduates ultimately receiving an OSHA 10 certificate
  - Physical fitness
  - Soft skills (e.g., budgeting, time management, etc.)



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Michele Carter response:

Forward Service will be providing training for I-39/90 both in Rock County and Dane County. There will be two sessions held in Rock County and two sessions in Dane County. Although recruitment will be done in Janesville, Rock County training will be held in Beloit. The second Rock County TrANS training program has not been scheduled; but, it will probably be sometime in March or April.

Brian Covey comment:

The W2 program takes TrANS participants. W2 provides support services (e.g., child care, gas money, etc.), it leverages resources and helps TrANS participants get bridge jobs (e.g., second shift jobs).

Sheila De Forest question:

Is there anything available to help TrANS participants get their CDLs?

Brian Covey response:

There's not currently anything in the Rock County area. In Fox Valley, the CDLA is \$1,300.

Wayne Chase comment:

There is a big demand for trucks on the project and the industry.

Meeting concluded at 5:22 p.m.

### Next Meeting

Event: **Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting**

Date: September 11, 2014

Time: 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Location: **Blackhawk Technical College**

6004 S. County Road G, Room 2602; Janesville, WI