



Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Thursday; September 11, 2014; 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Blackhawk Technical College

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Greg Boysen, City of Beloit
Michele Carter, WisDOT DBE Program Chief (Teleconference)
Wayne Chase, WisDOT, I-39/90 Project Supervisor
Brian Covey, Forward Service Corporation
Sheila De Forest, Beloit City Councilor
Andrea Loeffelholz, Department of Workforce Development (Teleconference)
Bill Dionne, Operating Engineers, IUOE Local 139
Vincent Fisher, WisDOT, OBOEC, Equal Opportunity Specialist
Alicia Griffin, Serendipity Communications, I-39/90 DBE Outreach Coordinator
Lynn Jones, Community Action
Erica Rebout, Rock Roads Benefits Manager & EEO Coordinator
Kim Schauder, WisDOT, I-39/90 Project Supervisor

Topic: I-39/90 Design & Construction Project Updates

Presenter: Wayne Chase, WisDOT, I-39/90 Project Supervisor
Kim Schauder, WisDOT, I-39/90 Project Supervisor

Discussion:

Wayne Chase and Kim Schauder asked the Stakeholders if they would like to continue receiving project updates at the Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting.

All Stakeholders indicated that they'd like to continue to receive updates. Brian Covey also indicated the electronic weekly updates provided by the I-39/90 team along with the I-39/90 website are good sources of information.

Wayne Chase, I-39/90 Project Updates:

- The I-39/90 Projects are closer to being done for the year.
- Hwy 73 in Dane County: Starting to pave in 1-1/2 weeks, the roadway will be going pretty soon
- Interstate in Dane County: Starting on the permanent bridge for the southbound lane. It will be wrapping up in a couple of months.
- Just north (Janesville to Edgerton) overlay and patching work will be done in the next month or so. Project Lets will start again in the Spring of 2015.
- Maps and dates each project can be found on the I-39/90 project website (<http://projects.511wi.gov/web/i-39-90-project>)



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Topic: Welcome / Agenda Review / Introductions

Presenter: Vincent Fisher, WisDOT, OBOEC, Equal Opportunity Specialist

Discussion:

Vincent Fisher:

A Workforce Opportunity Session was held at the Hoffman offices on September 10th and was an opportunity for YWCA TrANS graduates to meet with contractors on a Dane County project. This is the third Workforce Opportunity Session held. There were two additional ones held at the Southwest Region Office in Edgerton.

As part of the Workforce Opportunity Session, Brian, Joey and Rebecca of Forward Service shared with invitees their role in the TrANS program and gave a brief description of their organization. TrANS graduates handed out their resumes and told contractors about themselves one-by-one. The event was closed with a firm handshake between TrANS graduates and contractors.

Topic: Review Meeting Schedule, I-39/90, Future Stakeholder Meetings

Action: Future meetings will be held bi-monthly beginning in February 2015. Each meeting will now be held at the Community Action, Inc.'s offices.

Presenter: Michele Carter, WisDOT DBE Program Chief

Discussion:

Four handouts were distributed during the meeting:

1. Purpose & Goals of Mega Project Stakeholder Committees
2. Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Meeting Schedule 2014 – 2015
3. Rock County Action Plan
4. Mega Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Schedule & Timeline

Michele Carter:

WisDOT is looking for an information exchange. These meetings serve as a vehicle to provide access to the Rock County community for equity and affirmation action. We'd like to proceed with what the Stakeholders deem as an ideal meeting schedule to bring more people in.

Vincent Fisher:

Today is an opportunity to go back in time and identify what we came together for. Before this is over, we will look at setting up a new schedule. It's about where does this committee want to go after seeing where we came from.



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Lynn Jones:

These meetings are an opportunity to allow community members to come to the table. One thing that we haven't had was a great involvement of employers. The information that I receive, I take back to the Transportation Coordinating Committee for Rock County. As long as we continue with the meetings and information sharing, it will be good going forward. It is important to see our once partners back to the table this Spring when I-39/90 projects will begin again.

Greg Boysen:

Now that the contractor, Forward Service Corporation, has been hired for the program, things appear to be moving forward. When, though, will the meeting reports start begin generating?

Vincent Fisher:

The DBE Program Office will be setting up meetings in the future so that we can make meaningful meeting reports. There were a list of 20 things to report back to the group. Meetings will be set-up based on these reports.

Vincent Fisher:

Should we continue to meet as a Committee?

Stakeholder Response:

Yes

Vincent Fisher:

Should meetings be the first Thursday of every meeting month?

Lynn Jones:

There's been a lot going on, people have been pretty busy.

Vincent:

The proposal is that beginning with today's meeting, the Committee will be meeting bi-monthly.

Erica Rebout:

Proposed that meetings be held bi-monthly.

Lynn Jones:

Proposes that at the first of the year, things will be moving again. We should begin meetings then on a bi-monthly basis.

Also, a date in October would be good for the Open House which will serve as a networking opportunity.

Kim Schauder:

The Open House can serve as an opportunity to bring back Stakeholders. We can highlight what we have done and what we are doing.



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Michele Carter:

The Open House can be a tool to re-energize people. It might be helpful to be able to see a TrANS class in action.

Brian Covey:

The TrANS training class begins 9/22/14 and the students graduate on 10/31/14.

Vincent Fisher:

Can the Southwest Region, Edgerton Office be a stable location? Do you see the split meeting being a negative to what we are doing?

Lynn Jones:

We should have the meeting where individuals are. It should be at the Community Action (Eclipse) in Beloit or the Job Center in Janesville. Both are on Highway 51. We should go where the workforce is. Alternating locations adds confusion so a centralized location might be easier and is preferred.

Vincent Fisher:

Would group like to have a teleconference meeting and work off of Constant Contact emails?

Lynn Jones:

We need to build up a physical meeting again.

Greg Boysen:

Things done with speakerphone can be an option which is currently available as an option to participants.

Michele Carter:

Trying to get people engaged, if someone could participate from home or office to ensure that we have more attendance, it could support more participation. We should make sure it is put out there as a real alternative.

Wayne Chase:

Asked the DBE Program Team where the attachments were.

Michele Carter:

Some of the attachments were previously used documents that were supplied and are available on the Constant Contact email invitation sent out.

Michele Carter:

Priorities from the group: Priority #1 – Employment.

We are addressing them as they were given. We are focusing the effort appropriately based on what came first:

- Labor
- TrANS Provider on board
- Brian Covey to lead us into what we're trying to do with the TrANS Program
- Wants the group to know that we're still involved



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- Are these priorities still valid? Do we need to keep any? Do we keep what we have and report out on some of the others?
- Do we get rid of anything? Should we move them around? Are we on track?

Vincent Fisher:

As we connect the dots, Michele is questioning “Are these priorities valid?”

Greg Boysen:

WisDOT has done an excellent job of providing information. With all the other features, the essence of our group is the employment opportunities. The meetings complement the web pages.

Vincent Fisher:

What does the group think is valid? Or, are we wasting time on reporting to the group? Are we just wasting time reporting or is it something we should do?

Lynn Jones:

Now we will start moving forward.

Michele Carter:

We have not done work to find an Aspirational Goal. We recognized that the Community Action Program appears to be the only major player working with development. It's clear that we are tapping into resources and that people are on the verge of being trained. It looks like Lynn is the one working the hardest and that matches the opportunity. Between Lynn and Forward Service we are close and we don't need to do a data search at this point.

Lynn Jones:

We need to recognize that there is a really strong community partnership, we are letting people know about this opportunity. It takes a lot of partners. It is providing those opportunities locally as much as possible. We appreciate that WisDOT has provided the forum to do that. Will continue to pound forward.

Agreed upon 2014 – 2015 Meeting Schedule and location:

Location: Community Action, Inc. (Eclipse Center)

- October – November, 2014: Open House (Date to be determined)
- December 2014 and January 2015: No Meeting
- February 5, 2015
- April 2, 2015
- June 4, 2015
- August 6, 2015
- October 1, 2015



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Topic: October 2nd Rock County Stakeholder “Open House”

Action: Alicia Griffin, Lynn Jones, Brian Covey and Sheila DeForest will coordinate planning the October “Open House”

Presenter: Michele Carter, WisDOT DBE Program Chief

Discussion:

Sheila DeForest submitted an email that indicated the “Open House” should be moved from the October date. She also suggested including the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce, Lynn Jones and Brian Covey into the planning efforts.

Topic: TrANS Program Update

Presenter: Brian Covey, Forward Service Corporation

Discussion:

Brian Covey:

Acceptance letters to the selected TrANS participants will be sent out on September 12, 2014. Forward Service Corporation is pleased with the overwhelming response and the steady pipeline of individuals wanting to participate in the TrANS program.

Greg Boysen:

How many applicants has Forward Service seen?

Brian Covey:

There were about 54 interviews, with some no shows. We’ve never experienced such a strong group of great candidates. They’ve been continually calling to get updated information on the status of the program and their involvement in it.

Meeting concluded at 5:32 p.m.

Next Meeting

Event: **Rock County Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting “Open House”**

Date: To Be Determined

Time: To Be Determined

Location: **Community Action, Inc.**

20 Eclipse Center; Beloit, WI (GPS Address: 600 Henry Avenue; Beloit, WI)