



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Inter-Tribal Task Force



Transit Peer Exchange

March 9, 2017

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
Oneida, WI



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The annual Tribal Transit Peer Exchange is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Office of Business Opportunity and Equity Compliance (OBOEC), and the Tribal Affairs Program. The WisDOT Inter-Tribal Task Force organized the Tribal Transit Peer Exchange to bring together transit representatives from Wisconsin's Tribes and other stakeholders to exchange resources and information regarding their respective transit programs, needs and activities, and to use this information to address challenges, develop best practices and explore enhancement opportunities.

There were 16 people in attendance, which included 10 Tribal representatives from seven Tribes, five WisDOT staff members, and one representative from an outside organization.





2017 TRANSIT PEER EXCHANGE AGENDA

8:00 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Welcome
8:40 am	Opening Remarks
9:00 am	Presentation of Tribal Transit Systems or Plans to establish a Transit Operation Introduction by Agnes Fleming, ITTF Coordinator
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Tour of Oneida Transit System - Brandon Cooper, Oneida Public Transit Director/Manager
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Round Table Discussion on Funding Opportunities and Reporting Systems (TrAMS) Discussion facilitated by Brandon Cooper, Oneida Public Transit Director/Manager
2:15 pm	Break
2:30 pm	Continue Round Table Discussion
3:15 pm	Wrap Up/Next Steps
4:00 pm	Closing



On March 9, 2017, the WisDOT Inter-Tribal Task Force (ITTF) sponsored the Tribal Transit Peer Exchange at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Oneida, WI.

Attendees:

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Tribe/Organization</u>
Jeffrey	Benton	jbenton@redcliss-nsn.gov	Red Cliff
Michelle	Berdan	michelle.berdan@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov	Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC)
Michael	Collins	mike.collins@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov	FCPC
Wade	Deverney	wade.deverney@fcpotawatomi-nsn.gov	FCPC
Judy	Egnor	judy.egnor@dot.wi.gov	WisDOT
Agnes	Fleming	agnes.fleming@lco-nsn.gov	ITTF Coordinator
Lloyd	Hartwell	transitmgr@badriver-nsn.gov	Bad River
Steve	Hirshfeld	Stephen.hirshfeld@dot.wi.gov	WisDOT
Marie	Kuykendall	marie.kiykendall@lco-nsn.gov	Lac Courte Oreilles
Arvina	Martin	Arvina.martin@dot.wi.gov	WisDOT
Nick	Musson	nmusson@ecwrpc.org	
James	Petitjean	jpetitje@oneidanation.org	Oneida
Angelica	Ramirez	angelicar@stcroixtribalcenter.com	St. Croix
Stacey	Schreiber	Stacey.schreiber@mohican-nsn.gov	Stock-bridge Munsee
Rebecca	Thompson		WisDOT
Derek	Weyer	derek.weyer@dot.wi.gov	WisDOT



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Thank you to the Oneida Nation for hosting the Transit Peer Exchange and to Brandon Cooper, Oneida Public Transit Manager/Director, for his outstanding presentation and being such a gracious host.

Brandon gave a tour of the Oneida Public Transit system and operation and a brief history of how the operation has evolved over the years. The group visited various parts of the reservation to get a glimpse of routes and distances between frequented businesses and other entities.





We toured the facility that houses the transit employees, and were given a demonstration of the new software system that was purchased to streamline operations and reporting. Everyone was impressed by the new system, but recognized its limitations when there is no cell service available.

During the tour and during the round table discussions, Brandon shared his view on the need for approved policies and procedures. He gave examples of incidents that may arise and need to be addressed. He discussed policies such as the “Rider Rules of Conduct” that would provide guidance to drivers and other staff when responding to the public.

Funding for transit operations were discussed during the round table discussion. Brandon shared a copy of the FTA’s announcement for solicitation of proposals under the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program, which was due March 20, 2017. These funds should not be confused with funds distributed to Indian tribes from the state through FTA’s Section 5311 program. WisDOT staff Steve Hirshfeld, Rural Public Transit Program Manager, and Rebecca Thompson, Specialized Transit Program Manager, were in attendance to answer questions relative to state funded programs. Thank you to Steve and Rebecca for attending and sharing your knowledge of these programs.

Everyone had an opportunity to talk about their operation and to share their experiences with the Tribes who are researching the possibility of establishing a transit system.

Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Namekagon Transit – provided a hand out and brochure that described their history and current operations. Namekagon Transit is a collaborative effort between the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board and the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors. The Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles Transit Commission is comprised of three county representatives and three LCO representatives. It provides services in Sawyer, Washburn, and Barron Counties. Namekagon Transit has 25 buses that maintain a deviated fixed route and an on-demand service with prior notice.

Red Cliff and Bad River – Each have their own transit system but have scheduled routes on the Bay Area Rural Transit (BART) system that provide transportation from Bad River through Ashland to Red Cliff. Both Red Cliff and Bad River are researching ways to expand their routes and hours of operation.

Stockbridge Munsee, Forest County Potawatomi and the St. Croix Band – All are currently in various stages of planning for a Transit System. They asked questions during the round table discussions and met individually with transit managers for further information.

The discussions and information exchange made this truly a Transit Peer Exchange.