



Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
**Inter-Tribal Task Force**



# Transit Peer Exchange

April 25, 2019



**Legendary Waters Casino and Lodge  
Red Cliff, WI**



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**Inter-Tribal Task Force**



The annual Transit Peer Exchange is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Office of Business Opportunity and Equity Compliance (OBOEC), the Tribal Affairs Program and the WisDOT Inter-Tribal Task Force (ITTF).

The WisDOT Inter-Tribal Task Force organized the 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.



**TRANSIT PEER EXCHANGE**

Thursday, April 25, 2019  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Legendary Waters in Red Cliff, WI

WisDOT ITTF (Inter-Tribal Task Force) is currently working to enhance Tribal transit programs, resources and opportunities in Wisconsin. These efforts include assessing current challenges, programs and needs.

WisDOT ITTF is organizing 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 use this information to begin addressing challenges, creating best practices and exploring enhancement opportunities.



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**TRANSIT PEER EXCHANGE**  
**Agenda**

8:00 am	<b>Breakfast provided in the Legendary Waters Convention center</b>
8:30 am	<b>Welcome - Opening/Introductions</b> WisDOT ITTF Overview of Transit Goals and Objectives
9:00	<b>Discussion on the Red Cliff/Bad River/BART Partnership</b>
9:30 to 10:15 am	<b>Presentation/Summary of Rural Transportation Summit on April 16, 2019</b> Carrie Linder, Aging & Disability Services Manager
10:15 to 10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 am to Noon	<b>Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - Evan Gross (On Teleconference line)</b> Updates and information from the Federal Transit Administration Question and Answers with FTA - Steve Hirshfield, WisDOT Public Transit Program Manager will be on site for question and answers
Noon to 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 pm	<b>Tribal Transit Program Round Table Discussion that may include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program funding</li> <li>• Software programs</li> <li>• Program operations, policies, and scheduling</li> <li>• Program expansions</li> </ul> Challenges, Benefits, Best Practices
2:00 pm	<b>Identify Next Steps/Wrap up</b>
2:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
2:30 to 3:30 pm	<b>Tour of Red Cliff</b>

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Tribal Leadership, Tribal Transit Program Representatives, WisDOT Tribal Task Force Members, Federal Transit Administration (FTA), WisDOT Transit Program Representatives, WisDOT Tribal Liaisons, and Local Transit Partners

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** WisDOT ITTF travel scholarships are available. Please contact Agnes Fleming at 715-558-7750, or via email at [agnes.fleming@lco-nsn.gov](mailto:agnes.fleming@lco-nsn.gov) for details.

**LODGING:** Legendary Waters – 800-226-8478 - Room Block under Transit Peer Exchange



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**Transit Peer Exchange Summary:**

22 people attended, including seven Tribal representatives from Bad River, Forest County Potawatomi, Menominee, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff and Stockbridge-Munsee.

Other attendees included:

- 11 participants from Transit operations
- WisDOT Tribal Liaison
- WisDOT Public Transit Program Manager
- FTA Representative
- Five participants from Tribal operations
- Two individuals from public organizations, and
- One ITTF staff member

After the introductions, a brief history of the Transit Peer Exchange was given. The first Transit Peer Exchange was held in 2015, and we visited the independent Menominee Transit System in Keshena. In 2016, we visited Lac du Flambeau, who operates under a contract with the Menominee Transit System, thus being a Tribe-to-Tribe operation. In 2017, we visited the Oneida Nation's independent Transit system. In 2018, we visited Namekagon Transit, who operates under an agreement between the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board and the Sawyer County Board.

Jeff Benton, Red Cliff Transportation Director, Lloyd Hartwell, Bad River Transit Manager, and Pat Doust, BART Transit Manager, gave an overview of their transit operation. Both Tribes and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) have entered into an agreement to provide transit in both communities. This enables access to medical facilities, shopping centers, educational classes, and visiting between the communities. Bad River is looking to expand their routes, and Red Cliff is exploring options to build a transit and roads facility.

Carrie Linder, Aging & Disability Services Manager for Bayfield County, gave a brief report on the Rural Transportation Summit that was held on April 16, 2019, at the Visitors Center in Ashland. Both Tribal representatives and BART were present and offered their insight into the Summit. Presentations were given on mobility, accessibility and connectivity to community members within the region.

Evan Gross, with the Federal Transit Administration Region 5 office, provided a teleconference presentation discussing the Tribal Transit Program updates. He gave an overview of the Tribal Transit Program, news and updates, Transit Asset Management (TAM), the TrAMS Award Application Process Notes, and answered questions from the group.

Steve Hirshfield, WisDOT Public Transit Program Manager, also provided program updates, descriptions of programs, and funding sources. Both Evan and Steve answered questions about purchasing, the FTA procurement processes, and funds available. They also talked about clean diesel operations and youth ridership. The group expressed a need for webpage development, using social media in announcements and route changes, and sharing specifications when researching vehicle purchasing.



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To complete the day, Jeff Benton gave an extensive tour of the Red Cliff reservation and local transit routes. The group visited Red Cliff's beautiful health center and was given a tour and the history of the center. The group visited and learned about the fish hatchery operation, and the tour concluded with a drive through the communities that make up the Red Cliff Reservation.

Summary of Evaluations:

Please take a minute to complete this evaluation for the following workshop and turn it in at the end of your session.

1. Tell us about yourself. Check all that may apply:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _1_ Elected Tribal Government Official<br>_10_ Tribal Transit/Transportation Staff<br>_2_ Other Tribal Staff – Position _____<br>_2_ Other _____ | ___ Federal Transit Administration<br>_1_ WisDOT Administrator/employee<br>_1_ Other Agency staff _____ |
|--|---|

<b>2. Title of Training: Transit Peer Exchange 21 Participants</b>				
<b>Date: April 25, 2019</b>				
Content	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Not Applicable
Covered Useful Material	[6]	[3]	[ ]	[ ]
Practical to My Needs and Interests	[7]	[2]	[ ]	[ ]
Well Organized	[7]	[2]	[ ]	[ ]
Presented at the Right Level	[5]	[5]	[ ]	[ ]
Effective Activities	[5]	[4]	[ ]	[ ]
Useful Visual Aids and Handouts	[4]	[5]	[ ]	[ ]
Presentation	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Not Applicable
Instructors' Knowledge	[7]	[2]	[ ]	[ ]
Instructors' Presentation Style	[5]	[4]	[ ]	[ ]
Instructors Covered Material Clearly	[5]	[4]	[ ]	[ ]
Instructors Responded Well to Questions	[7]	[2]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>3. FACILITY</b>				
<b>Please check the box reflecting your opinion of the location.</b>			EXCELLENT	FAIR
<b>FACILITY</b>	The location – Legendary Waters, Red Cliff, WI	7	1	POOR
	Room layout and conditions	7	1	

**Overall, how would you evaluate this workshop training session?**

Excellent 4	Good 2	Fair 1	Poor
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**Additional Comments:** Bigger Screen – First year attending, everything was very well put together. Maybe centralize venue.