

Iron County

Locally Developed Transportation Coordination Plan

September 2008

Development of this document was produced through a coordinated county planning effort. The agency listed is responsible for the content of this document and any future amendments. As amendments become necessary, the primary contact is:

John Urban, Iron County Aging, 308 3rd Avenue South, Hurley WI 54534
715-561-2108

Iron County

Locally Developed Transportation Coordination Plan

Purpose

Federal transit law, as amended by SAFETEA-LU, requires that projects selected for funding under the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310), Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)/Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP), and New Freedom programs be “derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan” and that the 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.” This plan is intended to meet this requirement while providing guidance to the county and region in providing and improving specialized transportation services over the next five years.

In 2006, Iron County developed a coordination plan to meet new SAFETEA-LU requirements, prior to the issuance of FTA guidance on the requirement. The process completed in 2008 will update the information compiled and the recommendations made in that 2006 process.

Process

A meeting was held on September 8, 2008 in the Town of Mercer that included a broad range of representatives from throughout the county. (The meeting invitation letter, invitation list, press release, attendance list, and the meeting agenda are included in Attachments A through E, respectively. The meeting was opened with a discussion of the demographics of the region, including elderly, disabled, and low-income persons, their location and distribution throughout the county. The 2006 coordination process was summarized and service gaps and needs were updated. A wide range of strategies for coordination of services were presented and the group provided input and developed strategies to pursue a coordinated effort in the coming years. The analysis of comments provided at the public meeting represents a coordinated planning effort for Iron County.

Assessment of available services and transportation providers

An inventory of known transit providers was developed at the coordination meeting. While the listed providers each have a specific clientele base, discussion was held on continuing to enhance and expand transit services as additional clients are identified. See Attachment F.

Identified Transportation needs and gaps

A number of transportation related gaps and needs emerged from the countywide transportation meeting.

- Iron County trips tend to be to Michigan, Minocqua and Ashland
- Greater cooperation amongst DOT's (Wisconsin and Michigan) to coordinate transit services
- Greater coordination with all transit providers within and throughout counties & areas.
- Concerns that 5310 vehicles reach 150,000 miles before retiring vehicle
- All families don't have vehicles and have great challenges in getting rides for trip services/needs
- ADRC will be resource center but still some clients still will not have vehicles to get to centers. Will require ADRC to go out to clients.
- March 2009: Medicaid benefit to adults without children (may create reimbursement issues/ride availability of clients
- Strain on "unscheduled" trip needs by clients who need to get to work, etc. as some vehicles may not be available at trip requested time, (example, size of vehicle too large for desired trip type)
- Lack of rides to get persons to jobs/employment (either no vehicles or don't meet eligibility requirements)
- With an increase in Baby-boomers there will be an increased need of transportation services
- Future funding for existing and future transportation needs
- Funding future needs with new money, not existing
- Hold harmless existing funding sources, by not diverting or expanding eligibility to existing limited funding sources

Prioritized Strategies and Actions

Based on participation during the locally coordinated transportation meeting, several strategies to address transportation issues emerged. These strategies are intended to assist county departments, transit providers and transit users with enhancing existing mobility. Priorities for each of the strategies are related to the accompanying timeframe for implementation (when). While the responsible parties are identified (who), other interested parties seeking to participate in realizing the overall strategies are welcome.

1. Work with state and federal representatives and funding agencies to maintain, increase, and streamline transportation services.
 - A. Increase funding sources and protect dilution of existing funding sources.
 - i. *Who:* All transportation providers and county and public/private organizations
 - ii. *When:* 2009 and ongoing
 - B. Enhance coordination efforts amongst transportation providers to maximize level of service and enhance funding abilities.
 - i. *Who:* County Transportation Committees, Aging Unit, Human Services, Elected Officials, and other public/private organizations
 - ii. *When:* ongoing
 - C. Eliminate barriers to interstate-cooperation.
 - i. *Who:* Iron County, Gogebic County, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Transportation
 - ii. *When:* 2012
 - D. Work with state and federal agencies to address transportation concerns specific to MA eligibility, adequate funding reimbursement, bi-state cooperation, 5310 requirements, and streamlining eligibility requirements.
 - i. *Who:* All transportation providers and county and public/private organizations
 - ii. *When:* ongoing
2. Develop a coordinated transit system amongst all providers.
 - A. Enhance coordination with disabled population and Family Care.
 - i. *Who:* All transportation providers and applicable county and public/private organizations.
 - ii. *When:* 2010
3. Enhance and expand transit services.
 - A. Work within and between all local governments and transit providers to enhance the current systems.
 - i. *Who:* All transportation providers and applicable county and public/private organizations and the general public.
 - ii. *When:* 2009 and ongoing

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Attachment A
Invitation Letter

August 27, 2008

Dear Friends of Transportation:

As many of you may know, funding under a number of transportation programs - Elderly and Disabled Capital Assistance Program (Section 5310), New Freedom Initiative, Job Access and Reverse Commute (WETAP/JARC) requires that projects be a part of a locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan. In 2006, county meetings were held to develop the required plans. Since the 2006 meetings, final guidance on coordination has been issued requiring that we meet again.

Rather than just seeing this as a "requirement", we are hoping that we can all see it as an opportunity to improve our transportation systems through regional coordination and access to additional funding to provide needed services. The focus of the 2008 coordination process developed by WisDOT is on multi-county and regional plans.

Representatives from Human Service Department's and Aging Units from Iron and Price Counties, with the help of Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), is hosting what we hope will be a meeting to guide us toward further coordination and improved transportation services for persons who are elderly, disabled, or of low income, in and between our counties.

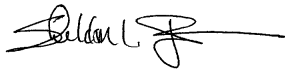
We need your help. The coordination process requires participation from a wide range of transportation providers (public, private, non-profit), human service providers, county board members, and members of the public. To make it a productive meeting, and to assess the needs of our counties and the region, we need you there. Please do not let your agency/company's views go unrepresented. If you cannot make it, send another representative, if at all possible. The meeting is scheduled for:

Monday, September 8th
9:30am-Noon
Mercer Town Hall (Haines Civic Building)
2657 Railroad Street
Mercer, WI

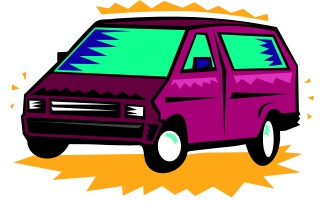
PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 4TH (whether you can attend, or not), by calling me at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

Thank you for your help in this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheldon Johnson
Deputy Director



Please Attend!!!!

2008 Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Meeting - Iron & Price County -

Date: Monday, September 8
9:30am

Location: Mercer Town Hall (Haines Civic Building)
2657 Railroad Street
Mercer, WI

Purpose: To conduct a Locally Developed Coordinated
Public Transit-Human Services Transportation
Plan

**Contact
Information:** Sheldon Johnson, Northwest RPC 635-2197
or
John Urban, Iron County Aging 561-2108

For more information or feasible accommodations, please contact Sheldon Johnson,
Deputy Director at (715)635-2197 or via email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com

Attachment B
Invitation List

Organization Name	First Name	Last Name	Street Address 1	City	State	Zip Code
Iron County Aging Unit	John	Urban	308 Third Avenue South	Hurley	WI	54534
Highline Corporation	Gary	Leino	100 Cary Road	Hurley	WI	54534
Veterans Services	Charles	Splonskowski	300 Taconite Street	Hurley	WI	54534
WI Council on Physical Disabilities	Karen	Secor	133 Iron Lane	Montreal	WI	54550
Lauri Jean Zach Center, Inc.			Route 1	Glidden	WI	54527
Zanella Bus Service				Gile	WI	54525
Iron County Department of Human Services			300 Taconite Street	Hurley	WI	54534
Iron County Board	Opal	Roberts	4204 N Wallace Road	Mercer	WI	54547
Iron County Board	Mitchell	Koski	1 S Elm Street	Montreal	WI	54550
Iron County Board	Tom	Innes	148467 Harbor Drive	Gurney	WI	54559
Iron County Board	Dennis	DeRosso	4184W County Road G	Hurley	WI	54534
Iron County Board	Ron	Kern	803 Magnetic Street	Hurley	WI	54534
Iron County Board	James	Kichak	2829 Mercer Lake Circle	Mercer	WI	54547
Iron County Board	James	Lambert	PO Box 187	Mercer	WI	54547
Iron County Board	Gerald	Luke	2695 W Highway 182	Park Falls	WI	54552
Iron County Board	Jack	Prospero	410 3rd Ave. S	Hurley	WI	54534
Iron County Board	Don	Richards	1075 La Rue Court	Hurley	WI	54534
Iron County Board	Steve	Smith	14615 W Ahonen Drive	Hurley	WI	54534
Iron County Board	Donald	Erspamer	9 Bernard Street	Hurley	WI	54534
Iron County Board	William	Thomas	PO Box 177	Gile	WI	54525
Iron County Board	Thomas	Thompson, Jr	5260 N State House Circle	Mercer	WI	54547
Iron County Board	John	Wiita	8607 W Highway E	Iron Belt	WI	54536
Human Services Board	Carol	Matson	4528W S. French Lake Rd.	Springstead	WI	54552
Human Services Board	Karin	Walowinski	107 Poplar St	Hurley	WI	54534
Human Services Board	Brian	Tarro	308 Maple Street	Hurley	WI	54534
Gogebic County Transit			235 E McLeod Avenue	Ironwood	MI	49938
Iron County Aging Unit	Margaret	Gulan	PO Box 101	Montreal	WI	54550
Iron County Aging Unit	Warren	Buccanero	Box 56	Iron Belt	WI	54536
Iron County Aging Unit	Jean	Vandevoorde	5860N Hwy 77	Pence	WI	54550

**Attachment C
Press Release**

News Release (Immediate)

**Contact: Sheldon Johnson, NWRPC
715/635-2197**

Coordinated Public Transit Meeting

A meeting between Iron and Price Counties to develop a coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan will be held at the Mercer Town Hall (Haines Civic Building), 2657 Railroad Street, Town of Mercer, on Monday, September 8, 2008 beginning at 9:30am.

Federal transit law requires that projects selected for funding under the Elderly and Disability Capital Assistance Program (Section 5310), Job Access and Reverse Commute (WETAP/JARC) and New Freedom programs be “derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan” and that the 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.” Most counties in Wisconsin currently receive money through one or more of these programs.

The meeting is open to the public and all interested individuals, elected officials at all levels, and transit providers are encouraged to attend the meeting. Attendees will assist in identifying transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes; provide input into strategies for meeting locally identified needs; and assist in prioritizing transportation services for funding and implementation. Information collected at this meeting will be used to develop the public transit-human services transportation plan.

Persons residing in Iron and Price Counties or providing transit services within the counties and are unable to attend the meeting may submit written comments on existing, new, or improved transit services to: Sheldon Johnson, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 1400 South River Street, Spooner, WI 54801 or by email to sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

Attachment D

Attendance List

Locally Developed Coordination Plan Meeting Participant List

Plan Area (county, multi-county/region):	Iron & Price County
Date of Meeting(s):	Monday, September 8, 2008
Coordination Plan Contact Name(s):	John Urban, Iron County & Barbara Lofthus, Price County

NAME	ORGANIZATION NAME	ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Jeanne Dehnick	Citizen	P.O. Box 538, Mercer	Jmd51@centurytel.net
John Urban	Aging Unit of Iron County	308 3 rd Avenue S., Hurley	agunit@chartermi.net
Gary Leino	Highline Corp	100 Cary Rd, Hurley	
Donna Reinerio	Highline Corp	100 Cary Rd, Hurley	dreinerio@highlinecorp.org
Bob Olsgard	NCIL	2231 Catlin Ave, Superior	ncilbob@superior-nfp.org
Joe Aski	Iron County Aging Unit		
Jack Prosperd	Iron County Board of Supervisors	Hurley	
Steven Smith	Iron County Board of Supervisors, Aging Unit Board	14600 Ahonen Dr. Hurley	agatesrock@wildblue.net
Marie Jojtek	Price County Aging Unit	W6867 CTH D, Phillips	
Barbara Lofthus	Price County Aging Unit	P.O. Box 88, Phillips	Barbara.lofthus@price.co.wi.us
Carol Matson	Iron County Human Service Board	4528W S. French Lake Rd, Springstead	frenchconnection@centurytel.net
Carolyn Kolson-Janov	Iron County Human Service	300 Taconite St, Hurley	kolsonc@ironcountywi.org
Dennis DeRosso	Iron County Board Chairman	300 Taconite St, Hurley	derosso@ironcountywi.org

NAME	ORGANIZATION NAME	ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Jim Robb	Price County Board of Supervisors	N15113 Pike Lake Club Rd, Park Falls	
Gerald Luke	Iron County Board	2695W Hwy 182, Park Falls	
Opal Roberts	Iron County Board	3791 CTH FF, Mercer	tomiron@centurytel.net

Attachment E

Meeting Agenda

Iron and Price Counties Transportation Coordination Planning Meeting

**Monday, September 8th
9:30 am - Noon**

**Mercer Town Hall (Haines Civic Building)
2657 Railroad Street
Mercer, WI**

Agenda

9:30 Introductions

9:45 Transportation Programs & Purpose of Planning Meeting

⇒ State transportation programs and the need for a regional planning process
(handout)

10:15 Discuss/Update service (rides) inventory

10:30 Identifying Service Gaps and Needs

⇒ Existing and Future

11:00 Strategies for Coordinating Rural Transportation

⇒ Examples (handout)

12:00 Wrap-up

⇒ Where do we go from here?

Attachment F

Services Inventory Identified at Coordination Meeting

- Aging Unit of Iron (travel to MI and Iron)
- Highline Corporation (travel to MI and Iron)
- Caring Inc. and Villa Home Health (private - personal vehicles/ nursing home service)
- Care-A-Van (private):based out of Ironwood
- School District
- Ambulance Services in Mercer, Park Falls, and Hurley (Beacon) providing non-emergent medical emergency trips
- Volunteer drivers reimbursed thru MA
- Veterans use/take MI van service to Superior/Milwaukee
- Aging Unit-volunteer drivers

Services Inventory Identified by NCIL

Eight County Transportation
Providers Inventory (2008)

Iron

Abby Vans

Contact Name	W5621 Todd Rd	Neillsville	WI	54456	(715) 743-3364	www.a
Days/Hours of Operation	Mark Jones					
Description of Service	Reservation line is open M-F 8a-5p; transportation available 24/7, 365 days a year					
Reservations	special needs, non-emergency transportation					
	same day service available					

Type of Service	door-to-door, door-through-door
Service Area	Ashland, Price, Sawyer and Iron Counties
Type of Route	Demand Route
Route	
Type of Vehicles	Van
Accessible Services	wheelchair accessible, disability accessible
Escort Availability	escorts may be provided, escorts ride for free
Service Fee	flat rate; \$19.50 base rate + \$1.45/mile. Discounts available with contract.
Riders Served	seniors, people w/ disabilities, children, teens, adults
Rider Eligibility Criteria	None
Purposes of Rides	medical, employment, volunteer activities, religious events, social/recreational, childcare, shopping
Informational/Instructional Materials Available	Yes
List Materials	company brochure, website available

Aging Unit of Iron Co Inc

	Street Address	City	State	Zip	Telephone	website
Contact Name						
Days/Hours of Operation						
Description of Service						
Reservations						
Type of Service						
Service Area						
Type of Route						
Route						
Type of Vehicles						
Accessible Services						
Escort Availability						
Service Fee						
Riders Served						
Rider Eligibility Criteria						
Purposes of Rides						
Informational/Instructional Materials Available						
List Materials						

Care-A-Van Convalescent Transport Service Inc.

Contact Name	317 N. Lake St	Ironwood	MI	49938	906-932-4284	fax: 906-932-4284
Days/Hours of Operation	Eugene or Gail, Owners					
Description of Service	24-7					
Reservations	same day service available; 24 hours in advance appreciated					
Type of Service	door-through-door					
Service Area						
Type of Route	demand route					
Route						
Type of Vehicles	van					
Accessible Services	wheelchair access					
Escort Availability						
Service Fee						
Riders Served	people with disabilities					
Rider Eligibility Criteria						

Purposes of Rides medical/ healthcare, religious events, social/ recreational activities, shopping
 Informational/Instructional Materials Available none
 List Materials

Handi-Lift Inc.

1779 10th St Cumberland WI 54829 715-822-5077
 Contact Name Fax 715-822-5078
 Days/Hours of Operation M-F, 5am-5pm; Limited service available on Saturdays for dialysis needs
 Description of Service Non-emergency transportation company
 Reservations same day service IF available
 Type of Service door-through-door
 Service Area all of Northwestern Wisconsin
 Type of Route demand response
 Route
 Type of Vehicles vans
 Accessible Services wheelchair access, lifts, ambulatory
 Escort Availability escorts are NOT provided, escorts ride for free
 Service Fee medicaid; private pay is \$48.00 round trip for first 5 miles, \$1.47 per mile after that
 Riders Served seniors, people w/ disabilities, children, teens, adults
 Rider Eligibility Criteria
 Purposes of Rides medical/ health care, employment, volunteer activities, social/ recreational, childcare, shopping
 Informational/Instructional Materials Available none available
 List Materials

Highline Corporation

	Street Address	City	State	Zip	Telephone	website
Contact Name						
Days/Hours of Operation						
Description of Service						
Reservations						
Type of Service						
Service Area						
Type of Route						
Route						
Type of Vehicles						
Accessible Services						
Escort Availability						
Service Fee						
Riders Served						
Rider Eligibility Criteria						
Purposes of Rides						
Informational/Instructional Materials Available						
List Materials						

Iron Co Veterans Service Office

	Street Address	City	State	Zip	Telephone	website
Contact Name						
Days/Hours of Operation						
Description of Service						
Reservations						

Type of Service
 Service Area
 Type of Route
 Route
 Type of Vehicles
 Accessible Services
 Escort Availability
 Service Fee
 Riders Served
 Rider Eligibility Criteria
 Purposes of Rides
 Informational/Instructional Materials Available
 List Materials

New Richmond Transport

P.O. Box 209 New Richmond WI 54017 715-246-2933 fax: 715-246-2933

Contact Name Amy Johnson, Office Manager
 Days/Hours of Operation Office: M-F 8am-4pm; Driving: M-F 6am-6pm
 Description of Service non emergency medical transportation for handicapped and elderly to medical appointments or social outings
 Reservations must schedule 24 hours in advance *by noon the business day before*
 Type of Service door-to-door
 Service Area Central, West Central and Northwest Wisconsin
 Type of Route demand
 Route
 Type of Vehicles van
 Accessible Services wheelchair access
 Escort Availability 1st escort rides for free; 2nd escort must pay fare of \$25.00 per stop
 Service Fee flat rate, call for quote, Wisconsin Medicaid
 Riders Served seniors, people w/ disabilities, children, teens, adults
 Rider Eligibility Criteria If on Medicaid, must have physician fill out documentation of eligibility prior to service
 Purposes of Rides medical/ healthcare, employment, volunteer, religious events, social, childcare, shopping
 Informational/Instructional Materials Available yes
 List Materials brochures available upon request

Phelps Senior Citizens Club, Inc.

Street Address City State Zip Telephone website

Contact Name
 Days/Hours of Operation
 Description of Service
 Reservations
 Type of Service
 Service Area
 Type of Route
 Route
 Type of Vehicles
 Accessible Services
 Escort Availability
 Service Fee
 Riders Served

Rider Eligibility Criteria

Purposes of Rides

Informational/Instructional Materials Available

List Materials