

Price 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:

Barbara Lofthus, Price County Aging Unit, 104 S. Eyder Avenue, PO Box 88, Phillips, WI 54555
715-339-3943

Price 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, Price 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 representatives from Price 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 Price 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.

- Price County trips tend to be southbound with some to Minocqua
- Better coordination with physically/mentally disabled population
- Greater coordination with all transit providers within and throughout counties & areas.
- 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 with out 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 to 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. While the responsible parties are identified, other interested parties seeking to participate in realizing the overall strategies are anticipated to emerge as greater efficiencies and coordination occurs.

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. 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. Create a countywide transportation committee.
 - i. *Who:* Unit on Aging (lead), human services and other agencies.
 - ii. *When:* 2009
 - 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.

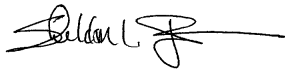
We need your help. The coordination process requires participation from a wide range of transportation providers (public, private, non-profit), human service providers, county board members, and members of the public. To make it a productive meeting, and to assess the needs of our counties and the region, 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

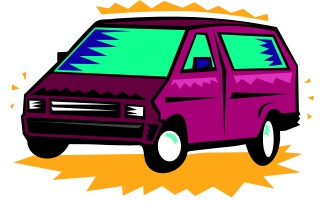
PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 4TH (whether you can attend, or not), by calling me at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

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
Barbara Lofthus, Price County Aging 339-3943

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
Price County Aging Unit	Barbara	Lofthus	104 South Eyder Avenue	Phillips	WI	54555
WI Job Center - Phillips	Genny	Stratil	1408 Pine Ridge Road	Phillips	WI	54555
Veterans Services	Ted	Harvey	126 Cherry Street	Phillips	WI	54555
Price County Dept of Human Services	Mary	Hahn	104 South Eyder Avenue	Phillips	WI	54555
Price County Board	James	Robb	N15113 Pike Lake Club Road	Park Falls	WI	54552
Price County Board	Ronald	Kardas	W6488 County Road O	Prentice	WI	54556
Price County Board	Richard	Kelnhofe	N10583 Swiss Point Road	Phillips	WI	54555
Price County Board	Bob	Kopisch	N16165 Lakeshore Drive	Butternut	WI	54514
Price County Board	John	Walasek	W9507 Billings Rd	Park Falls	WI	54552
Price County Board	Ronald	Heikkinen	W651 Pokela Rd	Brantwood	WI	54513
Price County Board	Richard	Schneider	N15880 Tower Road	Park Falls	WI	54552
Price County Board	Jay	Janssen	W5140 County Rd E	Phillips	WI	54555
Price County Board	John	Vlach	604 Beebe Street	Phillips	WI	54555
Price County Board	Russell	Kapitz	933 Maple St.	Prentice	WI	54556
Price County Board	Robert	Rogalla	W10339 McMullen Street	Kennan	WI	54537
Price County Board	Joseph	Rasmussen	N8460 Fir Road	Phillips	WI	54555
Price County Board	Eugene	Schneider	180 9th Street S	Park Falls	WI	54552
Human Services Board	Ronald	Kardas	W6488 County Road O	Prentice	WI	54556
Human Services Board	Richard	Kelnhofe	N10583 Swiss Point Road	Phillips	WI	54555
Human Services Board	John	Walasek	W9507 Billings Rd	Park Falls	WI	54552
Human Services Board	John	Vlach	604 Beebe Street	Phillips	WI	54555
Human Services Board	Robert	Rogalla	W10339 McMullen Street	Kennan	WI	54537
Human Services Board	Bob	Kopisch	N16165 Lakeshore Drive	Butternut	WI	54514
Human Services Board	Mark	Novotny	N1421 Hallberg Rd	Ogema	WI	54459
Human Services Board	James	Coe	W6905 Cty Rd I	Ogema	WI	54459
Human Services Board	Kenneth	Sutton	N9614 Sutton Rd	Phillips	WI	54555

Veterans Services Commission	Ron	Meier	West 710 State Road 86	Ogema	WI	54459
Veterans Services Commission	Gail	Redmond	N5025 Co Road J	Kennan	WI	54537
Veterans Services Commission	John	Weindorfer	N13947 Flambeau Avenue	Fifield	WI	54524
COA Advisory Committee	Karen	MacGregor	W410 Pine Forest Road	Park Falls	WI	54552
COA Advisory Committee	Sherry	Kandutsch	W6453 Little Chicago Road	Phillips	WI	54555
COA Advisory Committee	Marshall	Vich	296 S Lake	Phillips	WI	54555
COA Advisory Committee	Marilyn	Kitten	W7173 State Rd #182	Park Falls	WI	54552
COA Advisory Committee	Richard	Ross	N16872 N River Road	Park Falls	WI	54552
COA Advisory Committee	Loren	Nelson	W1729 State Rd #86	Ogema	WI	54537
COA Advisory Committee	Juanita	Strobl	N3718 Cty Road O	Catawba	WI	54515
COA Advisory Committee	Marie	Fojtik	W6867 Cty Rd D	Phillips	WI	54555
New Richmond Transport	Jason	Pape	PO Box 209	New Richmond	WI	54017
Price County Counseling Center	Gregg	Engfer	171 Chestnut Street	Phillips	WI	54555
City of Park Falls - Mayor	Tom	Ratzlaff				
City of Phillips - Mayor	Jeff	Fahl				
Village of Prentice - President	Brian	Schmidt				

**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, Hurley	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

- Price County Aging-contract with Park Falls taxi
 - contracts for Veterans transport
- Council of Development Center (CDC)-meal deliveries
- Human Services: supportive home
- Ambu-Van-Wausau
- Comfort Care-Medford based
- Heart-to-Heart-Ladysmith based
- 2 Nursing homes have private purchase vans for clients: Pleasant View & Park Manor -CBRF, Apartments, and Nursing homes
- North County Independent Living - Voucher program for residents with mobility (disability) issues @ .40 cents/mile for transport needs (Price and Iron Counties)

Services Inventory Identified by NCIL

Eight County Transportation
Providers Inventory (2008)

Price

Abby Vans, Inc

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

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					

Health Care Transport

	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

Key Care, Inc

119 E 4th St N

Ladysmith WI

54848 715-532-3727

fax: 715

Contact Name Tonya Sweeney, Business Coordinator
Days/Hours of Operation 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week
Description of Service non- emergency transportation
Reservations same day service available
Type of Service door-through-door
Service Area Rusk County
Type of Route demand response
Route
Type of Vehicles van
Accessible Services wheelchair access
Escort Availability
Service Fee mileage rate \$1.40, unload .50; Base rate \$13.50 for the first 5 miles
Riders Served seniors, people w/ disabilities
Rider Eligibility Criteria medicaid assistance accepted; if not private, must have medicaid necessity
Purposes of Rides medical/ health care; private pay for social activities
Informational/Instructional Materials Available none
List Materials

The Lauri Jean Zach Center Inc.

657 York Rd

Glidden WI

54527 715-264-6611

fax 715

Contact Name Liz Emmer, Director
Days/Hours of Operation M-F, 8:30am-2:30pm
Description of Service provide medical transportation under contract with Ashland County Aging Unit. Provide transportation for our clients to and from our day program activities
Reservations must schedule more than 2 days in advance
Type of Service door-through-door
Service Area Park Falls, Butternut, Glidden, Mellen
Type of Route fixed route, demand route by appointment
Route
Type of Vehicles bus, van
Accessible Services wheelchair access
Escort Availability escorts are NOT provided
Service Fee flat rate, discounts available
Riders Served seniors, people with disabilities
Rider Eligibility Criteria
Purposes of Rides medical/ health care, employment, social/ recreational activities
Informational/Instructional Materials Available yes
List Materials brochure from ACAU

New Richmond Transport

P.O. Box 209

New Richmond WI

54017 715-246-2933

fax: 715

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

Reservations to medical appointments or social outings
 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

Price County Aging Unit

	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						

Price County Veterans Service Office (Veterans Transportation)

	Courthouse, Room 104, 126 Cherry St	Phillips	WI	54555	715-339-2545 or fax 715-339-5	
Contact Name	Theodore Harvey, Service Officer or Jean Klimowski, Benefit Technician					
Days/Hours of Operation	M-F 8:00a- Noon; 1:00pm-4:30pm (office)					
Description of Service	Provide Transportation to the Veterans of Price Co, through Price Co Aging Unit					
Reservations	must schedule more than 2 days in advance					
Type of Service	curb -to- curb					
Service Area	Price County to any VA medical center					
Type of Route	demand response					
Route	from Veterans home to VA medical center					
Type of Vehicles	auto					
Accessible Services						
Escort Availability	escorts are NOT provided					
Service Fee	milage rate; .20 per mile					

Riders Served

seniors

Rider Eligibility Criteria

must be a veteran

Purposes of Rides

medical/ health care

Informational/Instructional Materials Available

yes

List Materials

Transportation Policy of the Price County Veterans Service Commission