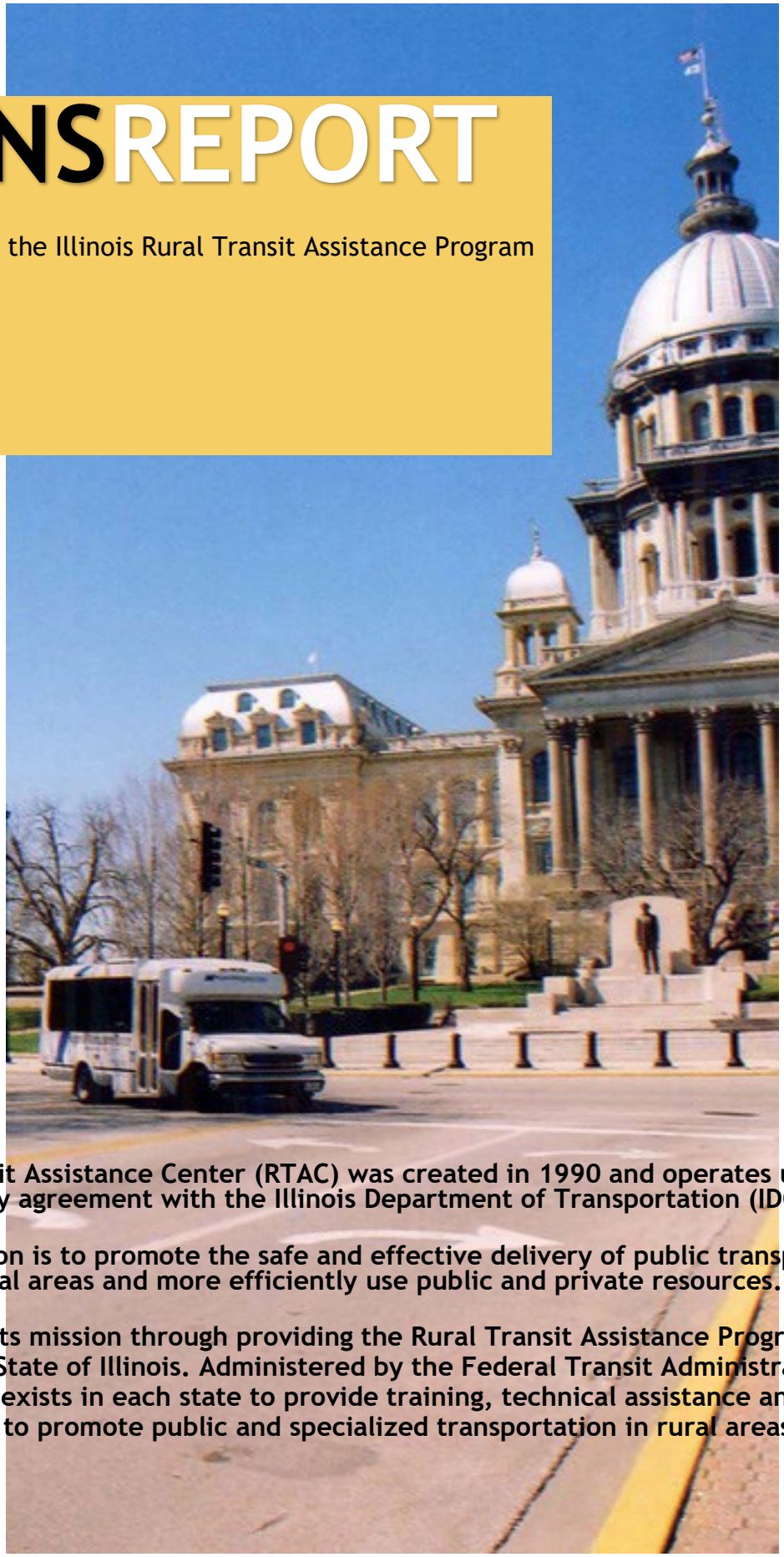
TRANSREPORT

The Newsletter of the Illinois Rural Transit Assistance Program

Fall 2021



RTAC Staff:

Dave Patton

Mable Kreps

Ed Heflin

The Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC) was created in 1990 and operates under an inter-agency agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The RTAC mission is to promote the safe and effective delivery of public transportation in rural areas and more efficiently use public and private resources.

RTAC fulfills its mission through providing the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) for the State of Illinois. Administered by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), an RTAP exists in each state to provide training, technical assistance and research, and to promote public and specialized transportation in rural areas.

RTAC Notes

Dave Patton, Director

Safe and good drivers are more than just accident-free or without moving violations in their records. In rural Illinois public transportation we strive to provide training and resources which help drivers understand what they need to do, and how to strive towards safety. RTAC provides many different training opportunities, but there are some approaches which should be considered, in addition to the traditional methods.

There is nothing like "ride-alongs" by managers and/or senior drivers. These experiences can both provide feedback to management about how drivers perform and satisfaction to the drivers who get to show their stuff. In addition to ride-alongs, managers can observe bus operation from a distance – either in a trailing vehicle, or on-foot near places where buses frequent. Unfortunately, recent studies are showing that just because a driver hasn't had a speeding ticket or accident in a long time, doesn't mean that he/she isn't actually just lucky and may have developed bad habits that haven't been detected. Driving skills and maneuvers like braking force, braking delay, acceleration, rolling stops, etc., all can be indications of actual, unsafe behavior which has escaped serious consequences. There are modern technologies out there which might be employed to help evaluate such situations. Many companies make software and tools, including the use of cell phones or tablets to record and detect. Check out this one by CEI. Features like Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS), telematics, and tracking and reporting apps can address safety behavior. An even newer and critically important tech is distracted driving products that detect when a driver is engaging with their phone.

It's also important to provide positive feedback to drivers for jobs well done and perhaps provide incentives to improve upon less-than-desirable driving tendencies. All good work should be acknowledged in tasteful and appropriate ways, including decorating a wall in the break room with driver achievements and awards – including safe driving.

Did you know?

19% of Americans live in rural areas but 68% of our nation's total lane-miles are in rural areas

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Highway Information Management, Highway Statistics **2020**

Word Search

G	K	D	M	N	E	L	L	I	A	R	B	H	L	K	G	R	J	C	O	F	C	U
G	R	Z	H	W	R	A	N	E	W	Y	S	O	X	I	E	H	B	K	D	C	B	R
R	D	T	Z	Y	G	W	P	I	E	Q	Y	Y	K	G	N	E	O	J	Z	I	W	A
U	L	W	F	A	V	Z	C	F	D	Y	S	L	T	A	C	T	A	H	C	R	J	M
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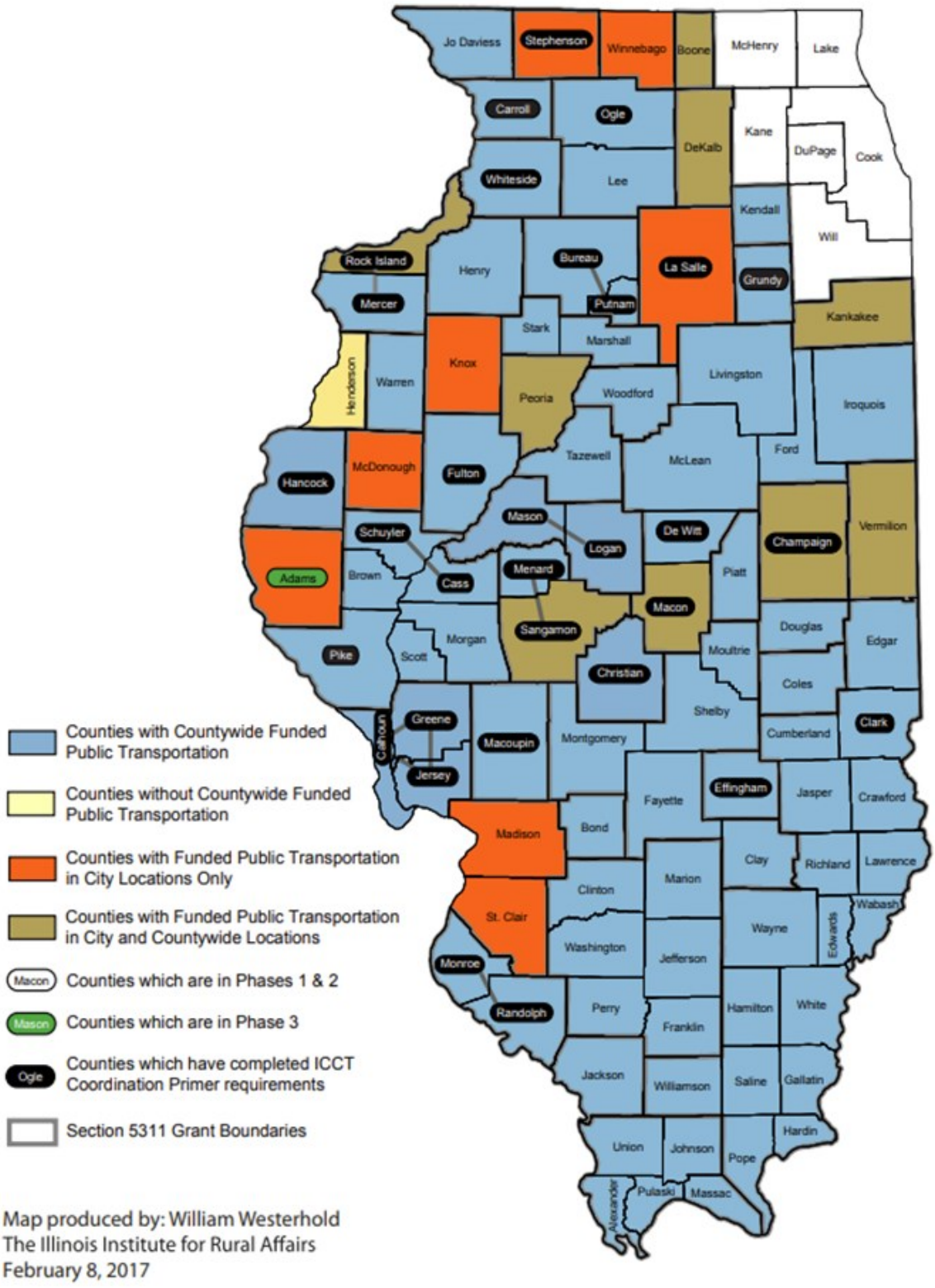
I	P	E	Y	I	P	I	N	G	Q	V	U	T	T	C	I	J	U	L	U	E	N	G
T	P	S	K	C	O	B	D	R	E	C	P	G	J	C	K	F	L	Y	D	E	U	K
F	K	I	W	D	G	X	L	B	W	P	A	P	G	U	X	X	T	S	N	H	C	I
M	E	D	I	C	A	I	D	I	O	M	K	R	A	F	H	O	S	H	M	W	Y	I

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

AUTHORIZATION
BOARDING
BRAILLE
DISEMBARKING
ELIGIBILITY
HOSPITAL
IDOT
INTERSTATE
LIFT
MEDICAID
RAMP
RURAL TRANSIT
TRIP
WHEELCHAIR

Section 5311 Service Map



Map produced by: William Westerhold
The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs
February 8, 2017

Here is the last CVP catalog -- IDOT is working hard to update this with a new set of offerings by the end of this year -- there are as many as 2000 vehicles in Illinois's rural transit fleet made up mostly of the four types of vehicles shown here.

Illinois Department of Transportation

Division Of Public And Intermodal Transportation
100 West Randolph Street / Suite 6-600 / Chicago, IL 60601

2017 Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Catalog

Minivan Paratransit Vehicle

5-passenger maximum seating

Light-Duty Paratransit Vehicle

12-passenger maximum seating

Medium-Duty Paratransit Vehicle

14-passenger maximum seating

Super Medium-Duty Paratransit Vehicle

26-passenger maximum seating

For additional information on the following specifications and warranty details contact:

Mike Healy
Section Chief - CVP
Illinois Department of Transportation
(312) 793-2184
mike.healy@illinois.gov

Specification information and photos are the latest available and is subject to change.

Revised 02/28/2017

Congratulations to all of the award winners.

FY 2021

REBUILD ILLINOIS

TRANSIT ROUND II AWARDS

Selected Projects and Funding Amounts

Agency	Project Description	Project Type	State Funding Amount
Greater Peoria Mass Transit District Urban	New facility construction and renovation	Facility	$8,000,000
Rockford Mass Transit District	520 Mulberry Street transit facility rehabilitation, renovation and expansion project	Facility	$16,000,000
St. Clair County Transit District	St. Clair County transit public safety center	Facility	$9,975,000
City of DeKalb	Transit maintenance and operations facility	Facility	$12,000,000
Springfield Mass Transit District	Maintenance south building remodel	Facility	$500,000
Rock Island County Metro Mass Transit District	On-street chargers at Centre Station, District Station, East Pointe and OMC	Equipment	$5,000,000
Madison County Mass Transit District	Collinsville park and ride	Facility	$3,250,000
Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System	Electric buses	Vehicles	$8,000,000
City of Decatur	Busport construction	Facility	$1,000,000
Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District	Solar array expansion – Phase 2	Other	$2,109,000
River Valley Metro Mass Transit District	Bus replacement	Vehicles	$3,500,000
Rock Island County Metro Mass Transit District	Centre Station renovations, vestibule, sliding doors and mechanical upgrades – HVAC	Facility	$2,500,000
Springfield Mass Transit District	Intergovernmental multimodal transportation center	Facility	$920,000
Greater Peoria Mass Transit District Urban	Transit center site improvements	Other	$3,000,000
Madison County Mass Transit District	MCT base facility improvements – Phase 3	Facility	$3,100,000

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TRANSIT ROUND II AWARDS

Selected Projects and Funding Amounts

Agency	Project Description	Project Type	State Funding Amount
City of Decatur	Hybrid buses	Vehicles	$2,760,000
Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System	In-ground maintenance lifts	Facility	$360,000
Jackson County Mass Transit District	Carbondale depot project	Facility	$1,662,599
Lee County	Building expansion	Facility	$2,676,020
CRIS Rural Mass Transit District	CRIS administrative and operations facility	Facility	$3,066,088
McLean County	Chenoa facility upgrade	Facility	$900,000
City of Quincy	Downtown transfer station relocation	Facility	$1,249,440
Kankakee County	Vehicle storage facility	Facility	$700,000
South Central Illinois Mass Transit District	Transfer station improvements	Facility	$500,000
DeKalb County	Administration expansion	Facility	$1,000,000
Grundy County	Grundy Transit System transit center building	Facility	$2,563,400
City of Macomb	Bus pads	Equipment	$240,000
Shawnee Transit District	Phone system	Technology	$85,000
Jo Daviess County	Building, security and safety updates	Other	$155,700
Kendall County	Multi-use facility	Facility	$4,000,000
Monroe Randolph Transit District	Replacement vehicles	Vehicles	$580,000

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TRANSIT ROUND II AWARDS

Selected Projects and Funding Amounts

Agency	Project Description	Project Type	State Funding Amount
Warren County	Dispatch software update	Technology	$58,000
Henry County	Rolling stock	Vehicles	$212,000
Rides Mass Transit District	Fueling canopies and tanks	Equipment	$746,500
Coles County	Vehicle storage facility expansion	Facility	$1,500,000
Macoupin County	Dispatch building	Facility	$575,821
City of Freeport	Camera project	Technology	$65,000
Tazewell County	Vehicle replacement	Vehicles	$189,891
Champaign County	Champaign County Area Rural Transit System vehicle replacement	Vehicles	$134,000
City of Galesburg	Dispatching upgrade	Technology	$100,000
Piatt County	New parking garage	Facility	$800,000
Carroll County	Garage	Facility	$536,000
Rock Island/Mercer County	Replacement and expansion vehicles	Vehicles	$124,000
Jackson County Mass Transit District	Murphysboro depot project	Facility	$1,543,000
Lee County	Replacement vehicles	Vehicles	$591,190
McLean County	Chenoa bus storage	Facility	$400,000
Kankakee County	Replacement vehicles	Vehicles	$360,000

FY 2021

TRANSIT ROUND II AWARDS

Selected Projects and Funding Amounts

Agency	Project Description	Project Type	State Funding Amount
City of Macomb	Macomb technology project	Technology	$67,000
South Central Illinois Mass Transit District	Website design and update	Technology	$51,000
Shawnee Mass Transit District	New bus tablets	Technology	$28,000
Monroe Randolph Transit District	Transit facility	Facility	$2,000,000
		Total Program Award Amount	**$111,433,649**

FY 2022 RTAC Classroom Driver Training

RTAC is pleased to provide to your agency this year's classroom driver training program. The RTAC trainers have created new true/false and multiple choice question tests for Defensive Driving, Emergency Procedures, Passenger Assistance, and an optional Passenger Emergencies training. Each of the written tests relates to the corresponding on-site training. All of the driver training classroom material will soon be available at http://www.iira.org/rtac/resources/

Also, please visit our website to view the library items that correlate with the four trainings.

How to proceed:

1. Have each driver take the written tests—these tests are not just for new drivers, but for everyone.
2. Fill out the sign-in sheet, which signifies that your drivers have taken the written tests. At the end of August 2022, RTAC will submit to IDOT-OIPI a listing of each agency that has completed the written tests/on-site training, broken down by employee name and which tests and on-site trainings the employee completed.
3. Call/email RTAC to schedule the on-site trainings: Mable Kreps at 309.298.2141 or MR-Kreps@wiu.edu
4. Mail, email, or fax (309.298.2162) the sign-in sheet(s) for the tests and on-site trainings to RTAC. Please do not send us the completed tests.

Here is what to expect during the on-site trainings:

Defensive Driving: The course focuses on driving techniques that will enable transit drivers to drive in a more defensive manner. It addresses issues such as stopping distance, field of vision, vehicle controls, speed management, and vehicle inspections.

Emergency Procedures: Focuses on emergency preparedness (safety checks the driver should conduct before leaving on the trip and types of emergency equipment that should be on the vehicle) and on procedures to follow in case of an actual emergency (evacuation of passengers, first aid, etc.).

Passenger Assistance: In addition to explaining proper securement of wheelchairs, use of the wheelchair lift, and various ways to physically assist passengers, this course also addresses sensitivity issues and the best way to communicate with people with disabilities, manual operation of the lift in case of mechanical failure, as well as a customer service component.

Passenger Emergencies: Topics discussed will include the types of passenger emergencies, effective communication, how to be proactive, and how to respond to a variety of passenger emergencies.

If you have any questions, please email or contact Mable at 309.298.2141 or MR-Kreps@wiu.edu

RTAC Offers TAPTCO Online Training!

RTAC has partnered with TAPTCO to provide online driver training. For over 30 years, the experts at TAPTCO Transit & Paratransit Company have been designing award-winning bus driver training programs with specialties that include fleet operations and safety, industrial psychology, instructional design, and media production. This breakthrough series of safety video programs and study guides for bus driver training are designed by our team of performance improvement experts with specialties that include fleet operations and safety, industrial psychology, instructional design, and media production.

This training, the Paratransit Operator Development Course, is widely used across the nation, and in an online form, is highly appropriate for training new drivers and refreshing experienced paratransit personnel. All Illinois Section 5311 grantees and operators are eligible for this free training, with Section 5310 providers on a secondary basis. The best way to take advantage of this online resource is to have an agency's training manager (or whoever holds this duty) send RTAC each trainee's name, and email address, and RTAC will set-up an account for that trainee, and send a return email to the trainee with a username and password. At present, in order to use the online system, each trainee must have a unique email address. If a trainee does not/will not have an email address, we can work around that. Each trainee will be able to access his/her account and step through the 33 training courses and quizzes. Agency training managers will be able to see each student's progress and when the course is completed, print out a certificate. Certificates may be printed at the end of each course, if desired. Some agencies are placing these certificates into each trainee's personnel file.

RTAC is taking registrations — please write Dave Patton at dc-patton@wiu.edu

RTAC FYI

If you're new(er) to rural transit, make sure to surf over to the National RTAP website and check-out the newly updated Transit Manager's Toolkit. This is a fantastic and comprehensive manual which explains almost everything you could need to know, from working with Boards, to understanding federal regulations, to operations and planning.

The document is 179 pages.

SAVE THE DATE

2022 RTAC Spring Conference

March 1-2, 2022

The Northfield Center - Springfield, IL

IPTA
ILLINOIS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

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Rollin Barton, Dept. on Aging

Sarah Nollman-Hodge, South Central IL MTD

Sherry Hicks, FAYCO, Inc.

Kim Zimmerman, North Central Area Transit

Morgan Lewis, Warren County PCOM

Cheryl Shutt, Coles County Council on Aging

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Our mailing address is:

Rural Transit Assistance Center, Stipes Hall 318, 1 University Circle, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455

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