

Minutes

Lyon County Transit Advisory Committee

5/20/2021, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. | ZOOM Meeting called to order at 9 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA APPROVAL

A meeting of the Lyon County Transit Advisory Committee was held by Zoom meeting caused by COVID-19 and social distancing. The meeting was called to order by Ted. Charlie moved and Russ 2nd to approve the minutes; carried. Charlie moved and Russ 2nd to approve the Agenda as amended; carried.

ATTENDEES/NON-ATTENDEES

In attendance were: Ted Stamp-chairperson, Chantelle Fogelson, Charlie Sanow, Russ Labat, Cathleen Amick, Shelly Pflaum; Nick Leske, Carmen Hailey

Absent were: Jim Knudson, Jessie Dehn, Molly Peterson, Shannon Dorenkamper, Melinda Estey-MnDOT

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM EACH BOARD MEMBER

No one had anything new; Ted said that legislators are going into special session.

2022 MNDOT APPLICATION

The 2022 MNDOT operating application is due June 30. This is a one-year contract. MNDOT will cover 100% of the approved budget. There is a CAP of 2% over budget. There is 0% local share. Cathleen mentioned that transit systems would like to go back to a multi-year contract.

MISSION AND VISION EXERCISE

Shelly covered a handout about mission and vision. The mission and vision of transportation has not been looked at in several years. Vision is an end goal, a picture of what the mission would look like, when it is accomplished. Mission is how to accomplish the vision. What is valued? Input from the TAC members about the mission would be appreciated. Ted thinks this needs more brainstorming. He asked what do the words of the mission really mean. Cathleen would like the mission to be narrowed down, not so broad. The words mean, what does it take to get from point A to point B. To connect people in different ways using different avenues. Ted said the mission statement should state the action. Shelly stated transportation is a trusted resource. The group that brainstormed these two mission options are open to wording which would make the mission statement clear. Charlie thought there should be a piece in the statement which shows transportation is economical or cost effective. Conversation ensued. Ted came up with some words, resource to help meet the needs. He also wanted to know what does UCAP family of services mean. Cathleen mentioned she could see this going back to the table for more discussion. Charlie and Ted liked option 1; Russ mentioned he would like to see a combination of the two.

FTA MASK MANDATE

Nick talked about Governor Walz dropping the mask mandate on the 14th. Transportation falls under the FTA rules. This means the mask mandate is in force for any type of transportation until September 14th. Volunteer drivers are also required to mask. Nothing, as far as the mask mandate, has changed for transportation. There will be continuing education for passengers.

BUS SHELTER GRAPHICS SELECTION

The shelter at 4th and Lyon has had many birds fall to an early death by trying to fly through the shelter. Graphics were made to try to help the birds see the shelter. It is a perforated design, which means it is basically see through. Nick asked for opinions on the two designs. Ted asked if a phone number or address could be added to the design. He also brought up the idea of a QR code. Nick said a QR code could be placed inside the glass cabinet inside the shelter. Russ agreed the need for adding a phone number. Nick said he could rework the design, then send it out to the TAC members in an email.

RTCC UPDATE

By the end of the month there should be word about phase III of the grant application. Work continues to fill council and advisory groups as well as the transportation resource guide. The resource guide will connect people to providers. A transportation resource list is a part of the Human Service Public Transit Coordination Plan. So, the resource guide will also help with this part of the plan which the RDC will begin in June. Shelly talked about the legislation about definition of volunteer driver and the tax subtraction being on Omnibus bills. Cathleen had just heard that the definition of volunteer driver has been dropped. The legislation about the tax subtraction is now in a conference committee. Shelly mentioned that the definition of volunteer driver may try to go through again next legislation session with some modifications.

STAFF UPDATES

Transportation is looking for part time help. Blue Route is on summer hours as of this past Monday until August 13. Runs are getting back to normal full hours. The state is open for 2020 bus orders. 2021 buses will be ordered by July. Nick said smaller buses are being explored; drivers would not need a CDL license for fewer passenger vehicles. MPTA is still lobbying for class A's to not have to start from scratch when it comes to getting a passenger endorsement. Larger company's can have their own examiner but cannot test outside their own company. As a MPTA member, Cathleen is also in discussion with DPS with this item as well.

Cathleen shared January – March analysis on the screen. Projected rides are 179,000 where before COVID the normal year is 238,000. But these numbers look encouraging. Fare coverage in revenue vs. expenses moved from 2% to 5%. There are many things planned for this year. Community Connections are back up to 100% coverage. Demographics were also shown on the screen. They are looking good when comparing to 2020. The numbers show encouragement. Ted closed the meeting out at 9:59.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Thursday June 17, 2021; 9 a.m.

If you cannot attend, please send a representative in your place.

Respectfully submitted: Carmen Hailey