

Minutes

Lyon County Transit Advisory Committee

10/20/2022, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. | In Person/ZOOM Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA APPROVAL

A meeting of the Lyon County Transit Advisory Committee was held by Zoom/in person. The meeting was called to order by Ted. The approval of the agenda and minutes were moved by Charlie, 2nd by Kris; motion carried.

ATTENDEES/NON-ATTENDEES

In attendance were: Ted Stamp, Charlie Sanow, Kris Hohensee, Cathleen Amick, Carmen Hailey, Shelly Pflaum, Michelle Miranowski, Nick Leske

Absent were: Jim Knudson, Chantelle Fogelson, Russ Labat, Shannon Dorenkamper

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM EACH BOARD MEMBER

Kris is working on open enrollment for Medicare prescriptions. Charlie has several items slated which he is working on as he is running for re-election as county commissioner. A few of the items are Medicare, Medicaid, PrimeWest, SWMH. PrimeWest gave SWMH a \$270,000 loan so they can stay on their feet until the funds for SWMH come through. Charlie said PrimeWest will begin in Lyon County in January after 1.5 years of debates. He said PrimeWest is better for providers and members.

SERVICE LEVEL DISCUSSION

Hopes were to start the Blue Route at the end of October, but with the loss of 2 more drivers this service cannot be put back on the road. Along with this loss, some staff are working 6 days per week and some staff have overtime. With that said Nick had a recommendation to suspend the Red Route and Dial-A Ride on Saturdays. Saturdays dial-a-ride averaging 6 passengers per it's 4-hour shift and the Red Route ridership is light. Charlie moved to temporarily suspend the dial-a-ride and Red Route on Saturdays until more staff can be hired; Ted 2nd the motion; motion carried. This new schedule will take effect November 6th. Information about the new schedule will be sent out and posters hung in the shelter stops. Michelle mentioned that with the shortage of drivers, too much is falling on drivers that were not hired for so much more. Cathleen mentioned that since this is a major change that UCAP would have to open it up for public opinion. When more drivers are hired services will be brought back in this order: Blue Route (M,W,F), run the Red Route later in the day during the week and then finally bring back Red Route on the weekends along with Saturday dial-a-ride. Nick mentioned that at the job fair, there were only 9 businesses that showed and only 20-30 people came through the fair.

ADA AND PASSENGER STOP IMPROVEMENTS – MARSHALL

Nick went over the stops that were discussed at last month's meeting. Nick said the plans go to Jason with the city, then to Kent at MnDOT who decides which stops will work. Ted asked about the Walmart stop. There is some Transit Alternative funding that could be used for ramp and sidewalk improvements. Nick submitted a letter of intent for work that would include the Walmart stop among others. This funding can be used during the 2023 or 2024 construction season. Jason at the City of Marshall is on board to partner with UCAP.

2023 MNDOT OPERATING GRANT

As of the last meeting, Nick was able to sit down with fiscal to shave off \$150,000 to get the budget down from 13% overage to 10%. The split this year is 95/5. The operating grant amount approved is \$4,329,900. The state is talking about the following year's budget to be a split of 85/15.

UCAP COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Nick sent an email to the committee members with a link and PDF about community needs. The deadline to respond is 10/31/2022.

RTCC UPDATES

Shelly let the group know that this is the last week to complete the local human services transportation coordination plan. Shelly and Amanda held their first in person volunteer driver training since 2018. Shelly said almost half of the volunteers were able to attend. Shelly was very pleased with the meeting. Looking for more volunteer drivers continues.

STAFF UPDATES

Other than the staff changes that were mentioned in Service Level Discussion, Michelle gave holiday services. Thanksgiving closed; day after Thanksgiving-limited services-Red Route 10:00-3:00, December 23rd limited service: 3 MAT buses running from 7am-9pm, 1 Lyon Bus and the Red Route running 10-3 (2 Dispatchers in office). December 26 and January 2 have yet to be discussed. Tuesday November 22 is All-Staff at Key Largo, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Transportation would need to shut down at 3:30 for the staff to be at the meeting on time. Charlie moved and Ted 2nd for transportation to shut down at 3:30 on Tuesday November 22; motion carried. Nick will send an invite out to all TACs.

Ted adjourned the meeting at 9:43.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday November 17, 2022, Community Room UCAP Marshall main office.

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

Respectfully submitted: Carmen Hailey