

From: Emily McFarland  
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 1:16 PM  
To: Jarred Burke  
Cc: Carol Quest; Megan Dunneisen; Mark Stevens  
Subject: Corner Service through Shared Ride Taxi Program

Good Morning,  
I have a bit of a random one for you today; I am writing today to share some updated information that we recently received following a state audit of our Shared Ride Taxi Program. As I understand it, our Shared Ride Taxi program has been providing a "corner stop service" that has been solely serving students getting to school. This program picks up at a certain location(s) and offers a ride at a reduced rate. The program is open to the general public; however, only students are using it. The concern DOT has about this is that the general public is not always aware of these corner stop locations. PTI (our shared ride taxi contractor) states that subscription riders are people that most often use this service, meaning they have a set schedule for their rides ahead of time. Because of this, DOT feels like it is potentially targeting one area of riders and being exclusive which then makes it not a shared ride service and therefore makes it ineligible for federal and state dollars.

I've inquired about alternate sources of funding paying for these riders (the city subsidizes this budget), and that is not an option unless we have taxi vehicles purchased with no federal dollars (which we don't). We've also inquired about having fixed routes that anyone can use; PTI does not feel that the City should implement a fixed route service at this time because we could run into the same issue as the corner service if students were the only ones to utilize the fixed routes. Unfortunately, where this leaves us, is that we are unable to continue the corner service for this school year and many school children use it. We should have data available early next week with more exact numbers on student use. While students can/will still continue to use the curb to curb option, there will be peak times and on-time arrivals and departures will be more difficult. Acknowledging our shared interest in working together to get children to school, we are asking the district - who knows the needs of students better than the city does - to provide suggested options that would work to meet the needs of students. We're hopeful that an option can be

produced that we're legally allowed to provide. The Transit Commission will have this topic on the July 31st agenda. We're hopeful the district will have options to share that will work for students that we can legally provide and are asking that those ideas be brought to that meeting. Our agenda packets are due July 26th (Megan can receive any materials from the district). Megan is also a resource to you all; if someone from your team is preparing ideas, Megan can certainly be the sounding board for if something will work or not.

I've cc'd in Carol Quest; Carol's team has been working on transportation as a part of our Community Health Improvement Plan so I wanted to ensure she had awareness of the outcome of this. Also cc'd is Megan Dunneisen; Megan is our City Clerk and she is responsible for the program, and Megan's Department Head, Mark Stevens (Finance Director). If you have any questions or suggestions on how to move forward, please let me know- we want to partner as best we can to serve these families.

Have a good weekend!

Thank you,

Emily McFarland  
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