

**Transit Plus Advisory Council
January 19, 2021 Minutes**

PLACE: Microsoft Teams Meeting

PRESENT: James Bahneman (Chair), Arlene Washington (Vice-Chair), David Buck, Grace Graves, Laurel Henschel, Danita Jackson, Mae Wingo

ABSENT: Gerald Balezentis, Laurel Henschel, Nilima Mehra, Jeanette Williams

GUESTS: Kevin Meyers – Transit Plus Client; Morgen McClelland - First Transit; Tracy Harrington – National Express; Fran Musci, Chris Fox, Jo Douville, and Lisa Walters - Transit Plus

CALL TO ORDER:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEES:

Driver/Reservationist Recognition Committee: Grace Graves and Arlene Washington were interested in joining Jeanette Williams on the Driver/Reservation Committee in 2021.

Membership Committee: David Buck and Marcia Perkins would like to serve on the Membership Committee in 2021.

Public Relations Committee: David Buck stated he would continue to service as the Chair of the Public Relations Committee in 2021. Mae Wingo also joined this Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lobby Remodeling: Fran Musci reported that the construction of the MCTS lobby has been on hold due to the lack of building supplies. Hopefully, the supplies will become available by mid-February so construction can begin.

NEW BUSINESS:

How Are Comments and Special Instructions Communicated: Jim Bahneman stated that when riders call for reservations they should let the reservationist know where they want to go and specify the entrance they want to use. David Buck also mentioned that this is important for medical appointments at clinics with multiple entrances and different services on different sides of a building.

COVID Procedure Update: Fran Musci reported that mask wearing is still a requirement. Trips cannot be denied so we can social distance riders only as much as it is possible. As

demand for rides increases it becomes harder as there is a limited number of driver and vans. As ridership increases there may be more people on the van. Last week Milwaukee County offered some vaccine slots for paratransit drivers.

Tracy Harrington also stated that Transit Express employees have been affected by the pandemic and have been exposed to people with COVID. If Transit Express has employees that are quarantined, they have less drivers available. Transit Express has stepped up disinfecting and is providing PPE and taking temperatures. It is not an optimal time and they are doing the best they can.

Arlene Washington was interested in knowing when drivers spray and wipe seats down. Fran advised that this is done when the van is empty of passengers. Morgen Mc Clelland confirmed that this is what First Transit is doing.

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Chris Fox reported that MCTS Next is their big project this year. Some routes are changing in March. They are reaching out to people who live along those routes. They are having their first public presentation about this tomorrow. They will be having ADA training this week for 9 new bus operators. They are not hearing much about snow issues this year.

Jo Douville reported that travel training is starting out well as they have received some new referrals and are beginning to give presentations to schools and other groups. They are doing a lot of planning right now. Geri is updating a list of business along the bus routes that are changing. They will be busy soon.

CARRIER REPORTS:

American United: no report

Transit Express: Tracy Harrington reported that they are struggling to keep their staff healthy. If a staff person is exposed to COVID they have to be quarantined for 14 days. They are having another driver training class with 4 people in it.

First Transit: Morgen McClelland reported that First Transit is also working through COVID related issues. They have people out every week who have had exposures. All First Transit staff are wearing masks at work. They are doing okay with drivers. They have enough drivers to keep routes covered. They have a class of 4 or 6 starting on Monday. MCTS is allowing the carriers to put extra hours on the road so this is good for on-time and arrival times.

TRANSIT PLUS: Fran Musci reported that MCTS Next will be changing fixed bus routes beginning in March. We will have a speaker at the next meeting to share information on this. Transit Plus service will largely be unaffected by the fixed route changes. Ridership is below 50% for our services. The Trapeze scheduling software has been upgraded. There are still some glitches to be sorted out. We are hoping to get them resolved soon. Fran will be submitting the names of those TPAC members whose terms expired but who want to continue to serve to Donna Brown-Martin. She will send a reappointment letter to you. We are working on our Department objectives for 2021 to meet the MCTS mission.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

David Buck advised that TPAC needs to decide when they want to take their 2021 summer break. It was proposed and approved that the break should take place in August. There will be no TPAC meeting on August 17, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT