



## Transportation Subcommittee Meeting Minutes August 22, 2017 8:30am – 10:00am

### Attendees:

Adelyn Van Tol (DAKC), Allison Rudi (Public Research Project Coordinator), Aruna Kamara (ACSET), Becky Fraser (DHS), Bob Mckown (United Way), Brianna Marshall (Calvin), Cherie Elahl (NKCS), Colene Johnson (DHS), Darlene Bentz (Senior Neighbors), David Bulkowski (Disability Advocates), Dawn Broene (Flat River), Joan Konyndyk (Hope Network), Johnny Melendez (Health Net of West MI), Karyn Pelon (Kent Co. Health Department), Kendrick Heinlein (AAAWM), Meegan Joyce (The Rapid), Sue Sefton (HNCP), Teresa Branson (Kent Co Health Dept), Wende Randall (ENTF), Bree Butler (ENTF)

### I. Introductions

### II. Citizen's Agenda

- a) The Rapid  
Currently expanding existing services. E-readers have been installed on buses and e-fare trials will begin next month.  
There is an electronic newsletter that is now available from The Rapid, people can sign up for it on the online website for The Rapid.  
The Rapid is doing a year long study about the enhancement and expansion of the The Rapid bus lines called the Alliance Study. The Rapid will giving a presentation to the Transportation and Economic & Workforce Development committee meetings in the future.
- b) Millage Renewal  
On ballot for the November 7<sup>th</sup> vote is the millage renewal. It is important to note that this is for a renewal of millage not an increase. There will be a fundraiser on Monday, August 28, 2017 held by Friends of Transit.
- c) Legislative Issues  
The last opportunity to pass the Millage Renewal will be next May if it doesn't pass on November 7<sup>th</sup>. If it doesn't pass this November or next May, by September 2018 it will effectively be cut to a bare bones operation, essentially going out of business. When talking to legislative representatives, be sure to ask about bus operating line item. This is the amount of money that each community gets, the amount has gone up this year.

### III. Strategic Planning

- a) Follow up on Municipal Assessment  
A list was presented of who completed the Municipal Assessment Survey. Each committee member will choose some names to reach out to of people who have not completed the survey.
- b) Strategic Plan  
The next meeting will look at the Strategic plan. Committee members are encouraged to think about the plan before the next Transportation Committee meeting.





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The VoiceKent survey has questions about transportation in Kent County that may be prevalent. The survey ends on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### IV. Ridelink

#### a) Current Status

Numbers are up a little bit. There will be a meeting to discuss routes that have been pulled for various reasons. There is currently a shortage of drivers, but continuing along. Currently thinking about an on-demand service similar to that of Lyft and Uber. This type of service would cost more than traditional routes but it would cover all of Kent County. There has also been discussion about bringing in another provider under the RideLink umbrella of services. It is currently hard to keep bus drivers. Bus drivers take the brunt of unhappy customers and there are more appealing jobs with the same amount of pay or more. The number of trips is down 13% from last year and there is a 2.4% increase in calls. The number of denials is up.

### V. Additional Updates

Wheels to Work: Currently talking to a lot of different groups over all. Getting calls from Georgia and South Carolina, so it seems there is a huge interest and information is spreading. Trips are increasing slowly, but not pushing anything because there are not enough drivers.

North Kent Transit: Accounting is looking at a different focus to spread transit around to make the most of funds. Currently forming a task force but it wouldn't start until July 18<sup>th</sup>. Trying to make rates same across the board and broaden service routes.

ADA Celebration: Join Disability Advocates of Kent County and community partners for food, music, and fun in the sun at the ADA Celebration on August 30<sup>th</sup> 4:00-6:0pm at the Kentwood Branch Library 4950 Breton Rd SE.

North Kent Community Services has opened the NKC Thrift Store! The store is located at the North Kent Connect campus, 10075 Northland Drive and will feature an assortment of household goods and clothing at affordable prices.

