



Transportation Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

9/25/18

8:30 – 10:00 AM

Attendees: Colene Johnson, Darlene Bentz, David Bulkowski, Gordon Moeller, Joan Konyndyk, Karyn Pelon, Kendrick Heinlein, Michael Bulthuis, Sue Sefton, Wende Randall, Debbi Coleman, Rich James, Joanna Bascom, Christina Hoelzle, TJ Achatz, John Mitchell

I. Citizen's Agenda

a. The Rapid-

- Ridership increases and on-time performance down during ArtPrize
- The Wave is going well – 20k taps so far
- Route 19 continues to exceed expectations; great ridership increases
- Question about if/when the Wave card will be implemented on the GoBus – that is the goal, but not sure what the timeline might look like

b. Wheels to Work-

- Results of FY2018 over 700% increase
- Potential need to purchase several more vehicles that expected
- Now serving some routes in Muskegon and Ottawa counties
- Continuing to hire drivers as the growth continues; also added a night dispatcher
- Have not heard back regarding the Mobility Challenge at this point; in the process of putting bike racks on the buses and rebranding for the new Wheels to Work.
- Spoke with Muskegon and Rockford area municipalities for additional funding, also, with many of the community foundations in Muskegon and Ottawa counties.
- There are limits to how The Rapid is involved due to routes; The Rapid transports people in Walker area, but not other areas.
- Questions to be considered: What are the ways to take advantage of the 32% match? How can Wheels to Work link more closely with The Rapid?

II. Strategic Planning

a. Strategies-

- The health through transportation policy has been a talking point for a significant amount of time; the good news is that the CDC has provided evidence.
- The article can be used as reference material for grant-writing around transportation funding. Plus, more and more companies that are connecting to mobility angle to the economic development.

III. Michigan Mobility Challenge

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- The first rounds should be announced soon. Notices were expected in the beginning of September, so they should hear something soon.

IV. Ridelink



Update to the charting for Ridelink include:

- Rides; tracks volume of rides, agencies providing the rides (by percentage of total rides)
- Number of denials by month and by time of day;
- Spikes in denials can be caused by weather events, driver shortages, mechanical issues with vehicles, etc. – generally, denials are due to capacity, of some sort.

The anomalies in the charts lead to questions of factors and how we, as a system, can appropriately project issues.

CSR will be adding mapping of concentrations of riders. Joanna will send out the link so committee members can filter with their specific questions including: Can we also overlay the data with the Municipal Survey results? Can we show municipalities that their residents are requesting/using rides when there is a sense of no awareness? Can we also show that residents of the six cities are using Ridelink to patronize business and services in the townships? How can we use this data to help push for a county-wide millage for transportation? (will be looking at 2020 county-wide ballot) When can we take this to the GVMC and the County Commission to share this information with decision-makers?

V. City of Tomorrow Challenge

Hope Network Transportation has submitted 2 proposals; one is focused on expanding “first mile/last mile” services.

Rail Service Program has been moved forward with the funding process (Patrick Waterman).

DAKC has been working with the City of Grand Rapids Diversity and Inclusion process; The City has submitted a proposal that may focus on information-sharing closer; there were a number of focus groups to gather input (Cassandra Wolf has more information).

If there is an opportunity to sign-on/endorse any of these proposals, please share these details with the group.

VI. Other

The City has an automated shuttle that will begin operation soon (May Mobility out of Ann Arbor/Detroit); they will supplement the DASH routes; this may help people get comfortable with getting into a vehicle without a driver.

Kendrick is serving on the committee for Age-Friendly City efforts; he will explore opportunities for additional organizations to be represented.

Early Childhood Millage presentation (Amy Turner-Thole): will be on the ballot in November. The goal of this millage: Children are born healthy and are supported and on track through their early development (people all over the county are using early childhood services, but funding is not sufficient to bring services to scale); it is an issue of equity, health, education, future success; a committee will be established to determine recipients of funding for services that are proven effective; estimate of 6 dollars of savings for every dollar spent; visit www.yesreadyby5.com; Non-profits can speak to/endorse this issue on the ballot

Dave provided a reminder of the statistic that initiated this Transportation subcommittee: that 42% of pregnant women on Medicaid identified transportation as the primary barrier to receiving prenatal care (2003-2004).

