



Transportation Subcommittee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 November 27, 2018  
 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Sue Sefton, Dave Bulkowski		
Meeting Attendees:	Sue Sefton, Rich Jones, Kendrick Heinlein, Karyn Pelon, Gordie Moeller, Dave Bulkowski, Meegan Joyce, Rebeca Velazquez-Publes, Joan Konyndyk, Bob McKown, Debbi Coleman, Darlene, Laura Madison, Whitney Ehresman, John Mitchell, Sherrie Gillespie, Claire Guisfredi <b>Staff:</b> Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	8:30	Time Adjourned:	9:45

<b>Introductions</b>	
Name, Agency, something about overeating/food/Thanksgiving	
<b>Citizen's Agenda</b>	
Discussion	
<p>The governor has floated a supplemental \$183 million dollars earmarked for roads. It would be great to have more of the additional funds available go to the comprehensive transportation fund. Call Rep. Rehuelen as he is a great supporter of public transportation, he will be working for Senator McGregor starting in January.</p> <p><b>The Rapid:</b> The Wave Card continues to be the newest thing. They are hoping to have the cards in stores – gas stations, CVS, Fam Fare, Meijer, Walgreens etc. They are working with Meijer separately as they have a different vendor. Go! Bus passes are able to be sold at Meijer, it was a misunderstanding that they couldn't be sold there. Wave card is at 10-15% of users, they are hoping to do more outreach to get more participants using the card. The Laker Line will likely be breaking ground in the spring. Dave asked how those who qualify for reduced fare get that fare on their wave card. Participants have to go to central station and get their photo taken and are assigned a card. There is also a youth card that has same process. Student rates differ depending on the school. Marie Tubergen (<a href="mailto:mtubergen@ridetherapid.org">mtubergen@ridetherapid.org</a>) is the best point of contact to ask about student rates. Darlene shared that it may be difficult for Senior Neighbors participants to go to Central Station.</p> <p><b>Wheels to Work:</b> They are doing a little over 9200 rides a month. They are hoping to expand into the airport corridor but need a little bit of seed money to get into that area. They have 38 active companies and 40 more companies are in various stages of coming on board. They are still recruiting drivers, particularly 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. There are part-time, full-time, on call positions available. See their website to apply.</p> <p><b>Michigan Mobility Challenge:</b> <u>Wheels to Work</u> is in the stages of putting together a plan for the app. As soon as the paperwork is completed, they will get their first allotment. The app will allow the rider to know where their bus is, add or cancel requests, and will notify riders of what their pickup window is. <u>The Rapid</u> did not get funding for the first stage but will get likely funding for the second phase. They are working with Ernst and Young to put together a proposal. They are also working with via, a micro transit company. The software develops routes based on who is riding. They have a phone call with MDOT to make sure they understand the concerns from the first application. MDOT was worried that they were talking too much about planning, and MDOT didn't want to provide funds for planning. They have to resubmit by mid-December. It will be a similar proposal just more to the point. Meegan assumes they will get the funds.</p> <p><b>North Kent Transit:</b> They met last month, there was a new structuring plan. They are hoping to simplify North Kent Transit. Everyone would pay the same rate; and service times would be the same throughout the county minus the 6 cities. There will still be a 20-ride limit, some townships will use</p>	





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their general fund to pay for the remainder of the rides. People from the townships can still go into the 6 cities. Phase 2 it will be implemented for people who live in the 6 cities to go out to the townships, depending on fund availability. Seniors will be referred to Ridelink. The new plan will be implemented in July. The pot of money will not belong to any individual municipality, but instead will be spent throughout the county. The plan will include Grand Rapids Township. If there is high demand and funds are depleted, this will show the need. Right now, there is likely not a sufficient amount of funds to meet the needs. There may be a commissioner who is pushing for a county-wide transportation plan starting in 2019.

**Cascade Township:** The Rapid is meeting with township officials, Meegan thinks they are trying to negotiate a different rate. Send email and copy the township clerk to ask them to extend the 3-year pilot, they will vote on the pilot next week. There are 800-900 go! bus trips go down the corridor a month.

**All Policies Draft**

Discussion

The group will reconvene. Dave will send out the metro council's lists for 2025 planning. They focus on roads, but The Rapid is in the plan as well.

**Ridelink**

Discussion

October was the best month this year. This is correlated to the fact that everyone is mostly full staffed. They are looking at the possibility of moving to a more electronic format, so rides can be updated more quickly. There were budget increases and unit rate increases going towards trying to increase driver wages. Red Cross volunteers still drive for Hope Network, they are getting new vehicles soon. Joan will share link for the volunteer drivers. Red Cross staff are now in the Hope Network building.

**Additional Updates**

Discussion

**West Michigan Rideshare** is looking at making an upgrade to their technology. They may end up partnering with the City of Grand Rapids down the road. They are hoping to have better technology in the Spring, including an app which they hope will increase riders.

**Age Friendly Grand Rapids'** topic to advocate for is older adults being bullied on the bus. Their plan is to share about other services that are available for seniors. If you have heard about bullying on the bus, let Kendrick know. Meegan suggested looking at The Rapid complaints, but she has not specifically heard anything. Whitney will talk to marketing coordinator and digital media staff as they do social listening. Be Nice focused on talking with some kids and coaching them to be mentors and helping them to be aware of how their actions can impact older people. That committee will keep this group posted. Busses can get busy when there are 10-20 teenagers who just got out of school and are excited and just being kids.

**Wheels to Work** will have a translator on their app, they are trying to determine what languages should be used and making it available via phone and web.

**Adjourn**

Next meeting: January 22, 2019 at American Red Cross

