



Transportation Subcommittee
 Meeting Minutes
 April 23, 2019
 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Dave Bulkowski, Sue Sefton		
Meeting Attendees:	Sue Sefton, Bob McKown, Aruna Kamara, Karyn Pelon, Kendrick Heinlein, Darlene Bentz, Gordie Moeller, Dave Bulkowski, Neil Carlson, Joan Konyndyk, Debbi Coleman, Joanna Bascom, Max Dillivan, Tamia McGlothlin, Walt Marston Staff: Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	8:40	Time Adjourned:	

Introductions		
Name, Organization, Wildlife on Spring Break		
Citizen's Agenda		
Discussion		
<p><u>The Rapid</u>: Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) – they interviewed 2 consultants and will be recommending a firm to their board at the May 15 meeting. They are also in talks around the West Michigan Express, they are starting to do route planning for the main trunk line from Holland to Grand Rapids. Get On Board for Public Transit Day is Thursday, the 25th. There will be mini pop-ups throughout the service area where people can ask questions, win free pre-loaded wave, and other giveaways. West Michigan Ride Share is upgrading to RidePro, a new database. This will launch June 1 in time for Active Commute Week (June 17-21). They are looking at extending route 24 to wrap around Canal and Fair Lanes to service Grandville YMCA, Mars Hill, and others. TOD along Division avenue – the Rapid is working with the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Kentwood and are putting together a scope of work for the project. Wave Card – they are working on a Partner Portal to manage and load funds onto cards given out for agencies who currently give out single ride tickets. They will not be moving away from paper tickets away until all systems with the wave card are functional.</p> <p><u>RideLink</u>: They are doing well; they are down with the number of denials they have had to issue. This comes with a decrease in rides due to weather and other circumstances. 5000+ rides in March. All agencies feel that they are where they need to be with the drivers. It will cost about \$95,000 initially and then about \$50-60,000 a year to implement and monitor a more flexible system for riders. They have been looking for grant opportunities, the price includes the hardware in each vehicle.</p> <p><u>Wheels to Work</u>: they have 48 employers on board and 52 in various stages of coming on board. There are new buses coming as well. They are working on getting drivers hired and trained. Magnum Years just came online. They will be starting a pilot program with the Herman Miller main campus in May. Currently, they predominately serve 2nd and 3rd shift, this is a change from the original where they served primarily first shift employees. The majority of riders stay more than a year, 69% plan on using Wheels to Work throughout their career. Much of ridership (67%) does not want a car, they are seeing a difference in younger generations not wanting to own a car. There has not been any progress on acquiring a day care stop. This will likely come after the app is well established and has the bugs worked out. What could it look like if Wheels to Work added childcare and health care stops, employers could be hubs for CSAs or other things? When there are gaps in rides, drivers pick up for RideLink or others. Interested employees can contact HR their person and let them know that they want to be part of Wheels to Work. RideWheelsToWork.com has links to all the companies they serve. Interested employees can contact HR through this website.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Michigan Mobility Challenge Updates		





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<p><u>Wheels to Work</u> – their app is being tested. They found a number of errors in the first round of testing. Now, they are working to fix the bugs and are hoping to test the app again next week. The goal is that the app will be working by June. Riders will be able to request rides, make changes/cancellations, see where their bus is, and link to the website. There are voice cues for additional accessibility.</p> <p><u>The Rapid</u> – Max will try to get an update for next month. In theory, their project is using a rideshare app, Via, in the southeast areas of town. The app would use the Rapid’s vehicles (Go-Bus) to have on-demand access and mobility throughout the day. From there, capacity for expansion could be grown.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Mobility-In-All		
Discussion		
<p>The Mobility-In-All draft is language taken from the health in all polices and adopted to mobility. The questions talk through basic rights and considerations to offer to decision makers around mobility. There have not been additional meeting schedules with municipalities yet. Once the policy is rounded out, they will begin putting together a packet that can be brought to municipalities. Additional resources may be available from the Michigan Municipality League. It seems that the state is trying to weave Health In All into all policies. Karyn will check to see if Transportation Department was at the meeting. LoWellness is hoping to get engaged with transportation, survey results indicate that people are concerned about transportation. Are any agencies looking at and tracking unmet needs in the community? 211 was tracking this in the past. KCCA is embarking on their community needs assessment, there should be more information on this in the summer. VoiceKent may be doing a small pilot survey this year, but a larger county-wide one throughout the county in 2020. There needs to be an infrastructure for analysis to unmet transportation needs, to show need. This will help leverage public support. Who is the logical neutral holder of data collected from public and private sources? Grand Valley Metro Council or multi-institutional academic alliances are two options. When the capacity for the data tracking is built, need to make sure the agencies around this table are included in that analysis. This is something that is important to have on the 5-year radar. Currently, the thinking around public transportation is that it is a bus. It does not include sidewalks, bike lanes, etc. From an advocacy standpoint, there is not a sense of community and system because different communities need different things. Venture capital investing in Uber, Lyft, and others is subsidizing the cost. They are hoping to get people hooked on apps like this, and away from the public transportation network. This is taking riders and thus funding away from the public transportation network.</p> <p>Planning opportunities to bring advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wyoming is starting their master plan process - City of Grand Rapids has approved overall strategic plan, is working on economic and mobility strategic plan. That steering group has been broken into groups around placemaking, employment, transportation (which is a smaller group). - Kentwood is wrapping up a planning process as well. <p>Connect with Metro Council around gathering data from different sources? If you have connections, contact with Wende. Dave has connections, Neil can frame some questions to consider. How do we coordinate the road construction projects that are happening on an interactive map? This is being</p>		





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considered, this may be a good time to connect with how other data can be included in this. Comprehensive data streams (Google Maps, StreetLight, etc.) already exist, but need to leverage legislation to encourage them to encourage companies to share this data as it is collected from members of the public. MDOT looks at how passengers, roads, etc. all come together.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Agency Updates

Discussion

Double Up Food Bucks – please take posters around Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) that your agency can share with participants. Posters have farmers and farmers markets, as well as stores where DUFb can be used. Some places will accept DUFb year-round. There are some smaller grocery stores and Family Fares that accept DUFb. Another key thing is communicating with participants and letting them know how they can use DUFb throughout the community. There are 35 farms and orchards in market guide, some accept food stamps and DUFb. Some are u-pick for cherries, strawberries, apples, etc. Connect with Gordie if your agency has events where there is an opportunity to connect with clients.

The Food and Nutrition Committee is working on planning an event with state and local officials around DUFb, info will go out once it is finalized.

ENTf is hosting a training around budget and advocacy at the state and federal level. Next Tuesday 9-12 at the Health Department. This will be a great introductory training to the budgeting process and opportunities for advocacy throughout the process.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 28, 2019.

