



Transportation Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
 September 24, 2019
 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Dave Bulkowski, Sue Sefton		
Meeting Attendees:	Walt Marston, Rich Jones, Bon McKown, Joan Konyndyk, Darlene Bentz, Taylor Hartson, Sue Sefton, Dave Bulkowski, Kendrick Heinlein, Tamia McGlothlin, Sherrie Gillespie, Laura St. Louis, Amanda Moore, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	8:40	Time Adjourned:	9:50

Introductions	
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Transportation Policies and Recommendations	
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Discussion

Wende shared that last month, she presented about the Transportation Policies and Recommendations report. The report was shared in draft version so everyone could react and provide feedback via email or during the meeting. Feedback included:

- Kendrick wanted to include a section with language specific to older adults, this will also tie into Age Friendly GR. He will provide language in the next few weeks.
- Amanda shared statistics that show the disproportionate amount of people who are injured while walking or biking as compared to travelling in vehicles. The impact is disproportionate to people of color and lower income residents. Wende noted a potential partnership with projects across the county around bike safety and linking them to adults and employment.
- Bob indicated that the Algoma Township suggestions should be reworked so that they reflect the reality of the community as a rural community.
- Sue suggested adding social determinant of health language. Wheels to Work Statistics would help point to this. Statistics around respiratory disease would add to this, could pull from Complete Streets policy. Sue can look into this. Center for Neighborhood ___ (Chicago) had statistics on housing and transportation. I.e.: if housing is cheap, commute may be longer.
- Could pull ALICE data from 2017 around housing and transportation costs and could pull data from the maps the Calvin made a few years ago. Wende will look into data on commuting distance across MI communities (may be by MSA).
- May be able to include info from the Equitable Economic Development and Mobility strategic plan later down the line.

Next steps: hone in on key focus areas for our key ask, take to township supervisors group meeting. In addition, can be distributed with an executive summary to 6 cities and other transportation-related groups.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Continue sending additional information and data so that revisions can be made	All	

Citizen's Agenda	
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Discussion

The Rapid – not present. Dave noted that their COA will kickoff on Thursday. State budget wise, flat budget was proposed in bus operating. In addition, there are some weird policies being discussed in conference committee. For example, there is a potential that the Rapid would have to contract with Uber and Lyft before they can use their own vehicles. This would likely lead to lawsuits as Uber and





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Lyft are not ADA compliant and do not want to be. There was discussion around the ramifications of this policy and the innerworkings of the local agencies to provide trips on demand.

RideLink – funding for 2020 starts October 7. Proposals and requests have been coming in. Everything is running smoothly. Things are ramping up with The Rapid as the Specialized Services Coordinator role has been filled. Highest ride total in 3 years, denials are down. The key to this is that driver positions are full. Hope Network has a job fair every Wednesday to help keep positions full.

Wheels to Work – the GM strike has led to changing schedules. They are doing 3 shifts from Magniers - Newaygo to Grand Haven. Tyson wants to start a Zeeland to Muskegon route. W2W has an office in Muskegon to help get them on board. They are looking for drivers.

Kent Community Transit – After 2 months, they are over budget due to increased service area and costs. There have been significant increases in service areas that were not served in the past, particularly Cedar Springs and Sparta. There is a meeting tomorrow where this will be a main topic.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Michigan Mobility Challenge Updates

Discussion

Wheels to Work – they are still working on their app, the goal is to have it done soon to help eliminate the number of calls coming in.

Rapid on Demand – Wednesdays are the biggest day. 15-20 rides a day on average. About 400 households are in the service area, and many of them do not have access to technology which is required. They are working with Via on a web portal so that hospitals and doctors’ offices are able to book rides when someone is done with their appointment. The full service area can be found on the Rapids website. There was group discussion around how similar programs have worked in the past and ideas of for further implementation.

Kaizen Health – this is mainly the Rapid and MobileGR. There will likely be similar challenges to Rapid on Demand as they get it up and running. The idea is that it will be all encompassing app which will determine which ride service will be the best fit (the Rapid, Lyft, Uber, others)

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Additional Updates

Discussion

Wende shared that KCCA is wrapping up their Community Needs Assessment. The full report is not ready to be released, but she provided highlights from the study that will be released in November. There were 620 respondents, 1 in 3 report daily problems in meeting transportation needs. Over half use their own vehicle. She noted that it is interesting that participants were not actively participating in some of the programs that this group regularly discusses. Common barriers in the assessment include cost of maintenance, cost of gas, insufficient number of drivers, stigma around service utilization, limited routes. Community forum questions focused on increased funding, increasing community engagement, creating regional system, need based discounts, more.

