Attendees:

Adelyn Van Tol (DAKC), Allison Rudi (Public Research Project Coordinator), Bob Mckown (United Way), Colene Johnson (DHS), Darlene Bentz (Senior Neighbors), Joan Konyndyk (Hope Network), Kendrick Heinlein (AAAWM), Meegan Joyce (The Rapid), Steve Burke (Network 180), Sue Sefton (HNCP), Bree Butler (ENTF), Joanna Bascom (CSR), Conrad Venema (The Rapid), Maxwell Dillivan (Williams & Works)

I. Introductions
State your name, agency, and favorite Summer Memory

II. Align Study

The purpose of the Align Study is to identify, analyze, and prioritize the transit system. The project has entered Phase 2, which involves refining and evaluating the study. The three phases are as follows; Phase 1: Identify corridors and projects (April – September) Phase 2: Evaluate and Prioritize (September – November) Public outreach and online interaction, which includes platform events and speaker series, these events will include translators and interpreters. Phase 3: Announcing to the public. Select corridors and projects. The project is a year-long study that will conclude in March 2018, so the project is about halfway through. In Grand Rapids, there is job growth and population growth but there is a disconnect between these areas and this is a challenge for the transit system. Transit begins and end with a walking trip so land use policy is extremely important.

About 84% of the time the buses are within 5 minutes of their stop time. The transit Score is highest in the densest areas of Grand Rapids. 2.3% of citizens living in the urban areas of Grand Rapids use public transportation to get to work.

The Align transit study is not aligned with the millage renewal on the ballot in November in any way. After an information session, the committee members participated in an interactive survey about The Rapid.

Max will send out further information about the Align study to the committee members this week.

Citizens Agenda

a) The Rapid

Keeping the Rapid Rolling is an event being held for non-profits to take action regarding the Millage Renewal issue. The event will cover issues such as; how to legally engage in this election as a non-profit, learn about the funding structure of public transportation, and go over specifics of the millage renewal on the November 7th Ballot.

b) Millage Renewal

The Millage Renewal vote is on the ballot on November 7th. If it's not passed there would be a loss of upwards of 50% of services. There is another chance to vote on it in Spring but regardless if it doesn't pass in November, The Rapids would have to start rolling back services. Adelyn will send out an electronic information sheet about the Millage Renewal.

Transportation Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2017
8:30am – 10:00am

III. Strategic Planning

a) Follow up on Municipal Assessment
13 out of 30 individuals who were sent the assessment have filled it out. One idea has been to compile the current results in a visualization of data that may serve as an incentive for the remaining individuals to fill out their survey. There should be one final attempt in sending it out.

b) Next Steps
Gather a list of the remaining individuals who still need to fill out the survey. Have committee members send personal reminders. Meet back up with Grand Valley Metro Council to see if they have had any results.

IV. Ridelink

a) Current Status
2nd highest month for denials. Ridelink is currently trying to expand services and add routes. A plan for an on-demand service is going to the proposal committee. It will be a ride service for 60+ year olds.
Continued difficulty around finding drivers. Hope Network has GoLux up and running. This is a ride service that features a black M1 van that is much more discreet. If individuals are qualified under Ridelink this service is only for a $2 suggested donation.

V. Additional Updates
Wheels to work has been extremely busy but is working. There have been between 10 to 15 applicants a week.

Hope Network has hired a third shift driver.