



Transportation Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

8/28/18

8:30 – 10:00 AM

Attendees: Allison Rudi, Bob McKown, Colene Johnson, Darlene Bentz, David Bulkowski, Gordon Moeller, Joan Konyndyk, John Mitchell, Karyn Pelon, Kendrick Heinlein, Meegan Joyce, Michael Bulthuis, Mindy Klein, Sue Sefton, Wende Randall, Debbi Coleman, Susan Cervantes, Rich James, Tamia McGlothia

I. Citizen's Agenda

- a. The Rapid- The new route 19 had its opening yesterday at Rosa Parks Circle. It is a no cost for rider route. It runs every ten to fifteen minutes. It connects with both Dash routes downtown. It is a three-year pilot. It is anticipated that Spectrum Health employees will use it heavily. The DASH has re-branded. The WAVE card is up and running. The first week had 5,000 "taps." The Rapid gave many cards away for free. The retail network is hoping to start within the next few months. Senior Neighbors would like The Rapid to come and start the WAVE program. If an agency wants The Rapid to come, they should reach out to Michael. The Rapid's new CEO Andrew Johnson started August 16. There was a 2.5 million dollar increase for funding.
- b. Wheels to Work- Last month was the highest ridership. The job fair that was held in August was able to hire ten new drivers. W2W started in Ottawa County and will service Zeeland soon. There is talk to expand into Allegan County to look for employers but since it is such a rural area, it is more difficult.

II. Strategic Planning

- a. Strategies- Wende will forward an article that the CDC put out that links transportation and health. Wende then shared a document that Kent County put out. It is a "Health Lens Checklist." The subcommittee would look at policies and see how transportation links to those policies. An example was the Tanger Outlet mall in Byron Township. Who wants to shop there, how do workers get there, is there income to shop there, etc? Dave shared an example of a Meijer that had no access to the bus system and there was a need for entry-level workers. Where on the other hand a Meijer that did have access to a bus line, there was no problem getting employees. Businesses always do not know or factor in public transport when developing. These should be forethoughts not afterthoughts. There was also a discussion around access to buildings downtown for parking Go-Buses. From a physical building perspective, distance is the enemy for disabled people. Our society is aging, 10,000 baby-boomers are turning 65 a day for the next 17-19 years. There needs to be a more intentional plan on addressing those population's needs as our society ages.
- b. Calvin Social Research Presentation- CSR shared their data with the Municipality Assessment. The policies that have the highest adaptation rate are "walkable" communities and snow removal. These surveys were self-reported, so the data could be a little inflated by the municipality that completed the survey. There was another



component to the survey to list which transportation services that a community has. Uber is in the most municipalities. An issue is that municipalities may not know of the services that is in their area or conflated two services. Sue mentioned that ITP was not included in the survey. There seems to be an education gap that this subcommittee can address. Dave asked what format this is in. Allison responded that this is in Tableau and it can be downloaded and worked into PDFs.

III. Michigan Mobility Challenge

- a. The first rounds should be announced soon.

IV. Ridelink

- a. 175 denials. Higher driver wages are being implemented hopefully in October.

