



Transportation Subcommittee
 Meeting Minutes
 April 28, 2020
 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Sue Sefton		
Meeting Attendees:	Kendrick Heinlein, Laura St. Louis, Jason Prescott, Tim Novak, Debbie Jones, Walt Marston, Gordie Moeller, Walt Marston, Debbie Coleman, Darlene Bentz, Sue Sefton, Joan Konyndyk, Colene Johnson, Tamia McGlothlin, Miguel Velasco, Tammy Britton, Taylor Hartson, Alicia Gaitan, Miguel Velasco, Bill Kirk, Taylor Vanderlaan, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:		Time Adjourned:	

Introductions	
Citizen's Agenda	
Discussion	
<p><u>The Rapid</u>: They are running on a reduced service schedule and are working to balance consumer needs with safety. Ridership is down 80-90% on most days. Staff are staying in tune with other systems to increase service when systems begin to re-open. They are working with the FDA to utilize CARES Act funding to put busses on road and keep their workforce in place. Safety and social distancing measures are in place on all busses. The Rapid has been working under an MOU with the Health Department to provide transportation for individuals experiencing homelessness to an isolation space. Processes are in place to ensure safety.</p> <p>The Wave Card roll out was planned for mid-June and has been pushed back for now. Marie is still working with institutional partners. If there are specific needs for ticket provision, please reach out to Marie and Bill.</p> <p>For paratransit, they are rotating staff in the call center and are down drivers. GoBus ridership on down about 75%. They do not refuse rides but are highly encouraging essential trips only. There is a new RideLink coordinator in place at the Rapid.</p> <p><u>RideLink</u>: Ridership is down. They are asking clients to wear masks and are providing rides for essential trips only. In addition, partners can deliver supplies and goods to clients. Partners are looking at new, innovative ways to provide good and services without having client in the vehicle. Some agencies have furloughed drivers and some drivers have chosen not to drive for the time being.</p> <p>Wheels to Work down to about 1/3 of normal trips. They are providing meal delivery for Meals on Wheels, Kids Food Basket, and Noor's Heaven. Many pantries have been doing their own delivery. ENTf has been encouraging agencies to use Hope Network and RideLink services as needed to help increase capacity. Volunteers in Service is also picking up food at pantries and has a few volunteers who are willing to grocery shop.</p> <p><u>Wheels to Work</u>: Currently around half of employers are not open. They are hearing that employers are struggling to get PPE supplies to return to work. Safety protocols are in place for drivers around seating and capacity on busses. Drivers do screenings for symptoms and have the authority to deny service if they think someone is ill. Amazon is continuing to hire heavily. Those with contacts at Amazon will reach out.</p>	





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<p><u>Kent County Community Transit</u>: Ridership is very low. They are mainly providing rides for medical, grocery, and work trips. They did receive additional funding from the County, but it may be under-utilized given the current situation. Their funding application for next fiscal year has been submitted with the full amount requested.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Michigan Mobility Challenge Updates		
Discussion		
<p><u>Via On Demand</u>: wrapped up March 13th. Staff feel this was a successful pilot, they are looking towards future opportunities though things are on hold during this time.</p> <p><u>Kaizen Health</u>: launch date pushed out indefinitely depending on social distancing guidance. They are looking at how to best proceed as things begin to re-open.</p> <p><u>Wheels to Work</u>: App has been put on hold because half of companies are closed so testing is unable to continue.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Moving Forward		
Discussion		
<p>In the past, the group discussed strategy for a county-wide transportation millage in 2022. This started out with information gathering and input from across the county. Since March there has been uncertainty of how to move forward. There have been conversations with GVSU around students researching/compiling info starting in the fall semester. The hope is to have more face-to-face interactions in June (smaller focus groups, interviews). As we see people running for seats, it will be important to make connections and listen to their community's priorities around transportation. A conversation around messaging and assigning volunteers to connect with contacts will likely begin in June.</p> <p>GR Chamber conversations around how to get people back to work. Concern around businesses ability to provide PPE and other supplies to employees. Concern that big businesses with funds and connection will be able to start up while small businesses may struggle. When gathering info and connecting with officials, may be fighting up-hill battle with larger companies/agencies dominating conversation as compared to localized and multi-modal mobility. Need to continue pushing messaging and having conversations.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Additional Updates		
Discussion		
<p>Mobile GR – waived parking fees except in emergency zones. Planning has continued for a micro-mobility pilot. Thinking about different modes of mobility (Scooters and bike-share) that folks will be</p>		





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using when returning to work. There is a link going around for mobility workshop at GVSU. This shows projects and ways that orgs can find ways to partner with Mobile GR.

Active Commute Week – This is typically sometime late spring, but there has not been news yet. Leadership may be shifting, those with contacts will reach out.

City of Wyoming Master Plan – There are some areas of the plan where mobility and transportation are featured. Wende encouraged advocacy with planning commissions/transportation commissions to explore varied options that promote different types of mobility and take into consideration safety, especially in terms of walking/biking in neighborhoods.

