

SRTA PWD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Attendance

Roger Jones
Carolyn O'Brien
Jodi Lubinsky
Cynthia Gibbs-Pratt
Sherry Marks
Jeff Iseman
Verna Patterson-Shaw
William Peterson
Liz Pabon

Mark Edwards
Steve Herman
Stacey Rice
Danielle Rudy
Sufyan Baig
Eric Orr
Sherry Welsh
Damar Lopez
Jaritza Nguyen

Londa Peterson
Pam Auer
Rich Farr

Rider attendees...
Dan Kerstetter
George Gilmore
Johnnie Chapman
Brooklyn Fleming

Meeting held @ 10:30am via ZOOM.

January 2022 minutes distributed via email prior to this meeting. Approved.

Opening Statements – Roger Jones

- Roger reminded everyone to be prepared for next month's committee elections.

Staffing - Rich Farr

SRTA has 73 openings across the system, 21 of them are in Dauphin County. SRTA's measurement of success is the number of trips completed, so this situation is daunting for everyone. MATP and ADA trips will always be accepted and booked but based on the number of drivers available and the number of trip requests, they have recently been turning away recreation trips, such as trips to the library. They have been trying to fine tune this skill set. This is not a long-term solution, the long-term solution is to hire operators, but in the meantime, they need to try an alternative. When they were accepting all reservations, people were waiting hours to get home.

CIL's should encourage their consumers to follow the CAT and Rabbit Facebook pages for real-time updates.

SRTA Transportation Updates - Sherry Welsh

- Train station bus shelters are being rehabbed in Harrisburg, March 1st through May 2023.
- Transit Development Plan is forthcoming. SRTA will be looking for trends as to where people are traveling and at what times.

Performance Metrics – N/A

Statewide Independent Living Council - Jeff Iseman

- SEDA-COG Susquehanna transportation committee has resumed its meetings. For more information visit, [Transportation Planning – SEDA Council of Governments \(seda-cog.org\)](http://seda-cog.org)
- PA Department of Labor and industry – OVR Driver training and vehicle modifications policy public comment period until 2/28/23.
- Senate Appropriations meetings – 3/20/23 4/14/23. The House will be announcing their meetings in the next few weeks.
- PennDOT Budget Hearing - 3/23/23. DHS, 4/12/23.
- PA Senate Appropriations CMTE hearings for state budget. Local state senators on this committee are Senators Rothman (R-Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin) and Phillips-Hill (R- York). [Senate Committee Meetings - PA State Senate](#)
- Senate Bill 35 passed the Senate, reducing the state gas tax. It has yet to go to the House PA transportation subcommittee and from there, the appropriations committee.
- E-Scooter Bill - There was a pilot program in Pittsburgh last year, the bill would expand the use of the scooters into second- and third-class cities (York, Lancaster, Scranton).
- [Public Transportation Modernization Memo-](#)

CCB quarterly update - Vernea Patterson Shaw

October, November, December 2022:

- Bus passes issued to MATP consumers, 425. 2874 total trips were taken on mass transit.
- 303 new consumers from Upper & Lower Dauphin.
- 21569 trips booked.
- Mileage reimbursement was provided to 83 consumers totaling \$10,457.45.
- Out of county/premium trips between Dauphin, York, Lancaster, and Lebanon, total 318. That includes 54 Amtrak trips to Philadelphia, 125 on Uber or Lyft.
- Average of 375-400 calls per day.

Other business:

- Johnnie Chapman, a veteran, and CAT rider, mentioned, in his opinion, what's causing part of the disparity is the drivers-to-pay status. Some of the applicants are finding out that fixed route drivers are getting paid twice as much as paratransit drivers.
 - Rich Farr's reply - Shared ride is funded differently than fixed route. Fixed Route is a deficit funded program. Shared ride drivers do not need a CDL, Fixed Route drivers do. The work required for both programs is different. Also, if driver rates are raised, the rider fair would need to be raised.
- #2...There should be a way that there could be a grid pattern set up on drivers across the board. That way accommodations can be done where both companies are working with each other to fix the shortfall for the moment until there are enough drivers.
 - CAT and Rabbit are not completely merged, right now your Shared ride driver could be traveling from any county. Our vision, and how we deployed services across our service area, is whatever bus is closest to you, is the bus that you're going to ride, because it's most efficient for the system and its best for you.

- #3...The GPS's may need to be updated in order to provide drivers the best routes possible to maximize resources, such as gas.
 - The GPS is a PennDOT issue. It's an Ecolane product. The mapping system that they use isn't real time mapping. SRTA is asking how to convert to the Google Maps. if you use Google trip planning, it will tell you when there is an accident or a road closure, etc.
 - Johnnie recommends Magellan GPS.
- #4... There are grants out there that are both state and federal that would help the transit companies to also have full back resources. Grant program should also be looked at for availability and what the requirements are to accommodate those grant programs in order to get the funding.
- Johnnie Chapman's statement - Thankfully the VA hospital has a DAV department that was able to accommodate 3 veterans that didn't know when a bus would be available to take them home.
- SRTA asks that riders schedule appointments at the times of available transportation. To find bus schedule times you can go to... <https://www.rabbittransit.org/schedules/york/schedules-maps/> or go to the website, click on Schedules, then Schedules & Maps.
- If a passenger is near his home, but the GPS is telling the driver to pass it, the passenger can ask the driver to call dispatch to redirect the trip.

Action Items:

- Rich Farr offered to discuss an issue with rider George Gilmore. Jeff Iseman will share the contact info.
- Sherry W. and Vernea will discuss The Rabbit Express.
- Sherry Marks will work with CCB on the complaints process.
- Johnnie Chapman will update SRTA with the times veterans need to make medical appointments. He can e-mail Sherry Welsh at swelsh@rabbittransit.org

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 15, 2023 @ 10:30 on Zoom.

Upcoming SRTA PWD Advisory Committee meeting dates:

April 19, 2023

May 17, 2023

June 21, 2023

Meeting Adjourn