

**CITY OF CONCORD
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF August 02, 2022**

The Public Transportation subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 12:00 noon, on August 02, 2022 in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Terri Paige, Chair
Councilor Brent Todd
Dick Lemieux – Chair TPAC
James Ziegra, Disability Rights Center NH

Absent: Kelly McCammon

Staff: Karen Hill, Transportation Engineer City of Concord

Guests Present:
Cindy Yanski – Region 3 Mobility Manager

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

2. Introduction of invited guests and potential new members

The Chair welcomed attendees and brief introductions were made.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 3, 2022 meeting were presented, but it was agreed that a vote to approve would be tabled until they could be reviewed by the committee members.

4. Referrals- None

5. Public Comment - None

6. Updates/Old Business

a. CAT Quick Report

Terri did a summary presentation of the Quick report. Here are short summaries of discussions generated by the report:

- A discussion ensued regarding current staffing situation. While hiring has been a little easier this past quarter, finding qualified staff is still a significant challenge. CDL driver payrates and the current climate of stiff competition for drivers in general. Currently there are two

open driver positions and one part time substitute driver position open. Terri also reported that COVID is still impacting staff coverage. Even though the current strain is less severe quarantine protocols still need to be followed when staff test positive which means that they are not able to drive for 5-10 days depending on each case.

- There was a discussion regarding higher utilization of the ADA Paratransit service and the impact that issues with the Medicaid brokerage system is having.
- Discussion occurred regarding the new Concord Senior Shopping Shuttle. Terri and Cindy described the service and explained the purpose. Councilor Todd noted that it would be helpful to also promote the existing Tuesday Shopping Shuttle for Penacook seniors. He requested that a report be generated specific to the Monday shopping shuttle so that success can be tracked.
- There was some discussion generated by the Mobility Managers report and the highlighted topics there.
 - Terri and Cindy gave highlights of the results from the Senior bus survey done in May.
 - The responses were very positive.
 - Councilor Todd suggested that we publish the results to highlight the positive responses, included a report out to TPAC. Dick Lemieux suggested a press release.
 - Terri noted that they are working on a plan to survey fixed route customers now
 - Discussion on alternatives to using Storrs street as bus stops when Main street is shut down.
 - North State street and Green street brought up as options. Karen Hill will bring it up with engineering department at their next planning meeting.
 - Addressing the issue of bus stop signs facing the street, not the sidewalk.
 - Karen Hill suggested that we put together a proposal of what is needed so that we can work with general services to create a replacement plan.

Terri went over the data reports provided. She noted the dramatic increases in ridership across all routes. Councilor Todd suggested that a summary of these clear indicators of success should be distributed to further support the service.

1. NHDOT's CAT Bus Service Study update

Terri reported that she has reached out to the consultant to restart the route change project and begin the planning process for the proposed expansion route from Penacook out to the new Merchants Way development, the Merrimack County complex and on to Franklin and Laconia.

b. CAT Vehicle Replacement Program

Terri reported that the fleet is currently updated and in good shape. She will be applying for 2 replacement cut-aways in the fall 5339 solicitation.

7. Other Discussions

a. Concord to Laconia Inter-City route

Terri reported that she received a proposed route map and suggested timings from RLS a couple of weeks ago. Terri is going to be applying for a Merrimack County ARPA grant to cover the match needed for operating fund for the route through FY 25. She is hopeful that a spring 2023 launch for the route will be possible.

8. New Business

a. 2020 Census Impact

Terri reported that if the 2020 census results will not be available now until the winter of 2022. Which means that FTA will not be making any decisions about redesignations until FY2024. This gives us a little more time before any funding changes go into effect.

b. New Service Model – Micro Transit

Terri reported that Cindy has been attending webinars and reached out to Wilson NC to introduce ourselves and see if we can set up a time to meet to discuss their process and experience. We are still working on finding a mutual date for the meeting. James Ziegler reached out to Montpelier VT and had a conversation with them about their experience. Terri and Cindy will be working with NHDOT, Central NH Planning Commission and RLS to put together a feasibility study and plan.

c. New Stop request – Catch Housing Sheep Davis Rd

Terri provided an overview of the request made by the developers for the new Catch Housing development on Sheep Davis Road. They are asking for a stop on the Heights bus route which would be in the parking lot of the proposed housing development. Terri explained the concerns that she has with this type of deviation. Accessing this site would require a left hand turn against traffic with no stop light planned. It would be a significant addition of service time and for just a 48 unit development it would not be a significant ride generator.

Karen Hill made the suggestion that the travel path of the route could be going past Walmart down to the traffic light beyond SAM's Club where the bus could turn right with a traffic light to circle back to the Catch Housing site. Cindy mentioned that the stop could be an on request stop only, like the ones currently serving Penacook Family Physicians and the Terrill Business Park. Terri will do some timing runs on these options and see if it is feasible.

9. Upcoming Meetings

The subcommittee agreed to set the next meeting for March 07, 2023 (first Tuesday of the month) at 12:00pm.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. (Motion – Ziegler Second –Todd; Unanimous)