

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

10:15 a.m.

Quincy Street Station

Committee Members present: Maria Ruiz, Brian Snodderly, Mike Nolting, Anthony Fadale, Mark Webb, Dennis Tenpenny, Shelby Fry and Deborah Dawkins.

Committee Members absent: Nancy Johnson, Mary Thomas, Libby Adams, and Linda Kehres.

TMTA Staff present: Al Bradley, Elizabeth Manson, Kris Luber and Mike Spadafore.

The meeting was called to order by Al Bradley at 10:15 a.m. Guest Shyla Mason with Community Resource Council was present.

There were no corrections to the prior minutes.

Mike Spadafore presented a slide presentation explaining what the KDOT Mobility Management program is, their current and future goals and how they connect mobility systems throughout the county. Every year the state legislature sets aside funding for transit projects. The Mobility Management program is the result from the 2012 long range plan. The Mobility managers encourage, mediate, and develop collaborations between agencies or programming, being a transit advocate. They have national support from FTA and the National Center for Mobility Management. They are currently working on developing a statewide network. Mike reports annually to KDOT.

Mr. Spadafore announced part of the KDOT requirements for those in the KDOT program will be to attend an Advanced Mobility Securement class. With the help of Shelby Fry, Jayhawk Pharmacy and KU, the class will be scheduled within the next month.

Mr. Spadafore announced Topeka Metro and the East Topeka Senior Center is working on developing a maintenance program to help service the Senior Center's vehicles in a more timely and cost effective manner.

Mr. Bradley updated the committee on the progress of Compassionate Care's parking/drop-off staging area. Our lift buses are not able to utilize the parking area without requiring the operator to back up the bus onto the main street, which is a safety concern. Currently, we are picking-up/dropping-off from the street. We have not had any complaints or concerns from passengers.

Mr. Bradley explained to the committee what a request for reasonable modification is and how Topeka Metro determines if the request is validated. The original request is reviewed and determined by Mr. Bradley. However, some requests may require additional input from our General Counsel, Chief Operations Officer, or the General Manager and may require a meeting with the individual requesting the modification.

Mr. Bradley reminded the committee personal care attendant's (PCA's) only ride free when accompanying a person on a paratransit ride or when accompanying a person using their FREEdom pass on the fixed route bus. Mark Webb commented that a service animal is allowed to ride for free, why not allow a PCA to ride for free.

Mr. Bradley announced Topeka Metro has proposed a series of changes in services and fares to take place by December 2019. Operating expenses continue to increase and without an increase in operating funding budget

reductions are necessary so Topeka Metro does not operate with a deficit. Topeka Metro will be holding public meetings in August to provide information and gather input on these changes. Meeting information will be posted on the Topeka Metro's website, social media and sent to the media.

Anthony Fadale asked how much the lift fare was going to increase. Mr. Bradley answered, it was undetermined at this time and he would forward the information to him when that information becomes available. Mr. Fadale questioned as to why the Capital Journal could report the fixed route increase but not the paratransit. Mr. Bradley suggested Mr. Fadale contact Denise Ensley for more information as he is not authorized at this time to discuss the specifics of the proposed increases. Mr. Fadale stated Topeka Metro should be more transparent on what the exact proposals are so the public can plan appropriately. Shelby Fry agreed with Mr. Fadale. Mr. Bradley stated he would forward their concerns to Denise Ensley.

The next ACATS meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th, however, Ms. Fry asked if the meeting could be changed due to the KPTA annual conference going on that week. The committee members present agreed to change the date to Wednesday, September 18th.

Mr. Bradley announced Quincy Street Station now has an inside/outside audio system that plays music, announcements, and educational messages.

Mr. Bradley presented the May 2019 ridership report. Fixed route ridership is up .7% compared to last year. Lift ridership increased by 14.6% over last year.

Mr. Bradley discussed various upcoming events at Topeka Metro:

- Kids Ride Free – 5/15 thru 8/15 – *fixed route only*
- ADA 29th Anniversary – 7/26
- Labor Day – 9/2 – All Topeka Metro facilities closed
- National Grandparents Day – 9/8

Mark Webb shared with the committee he learned of a new software program for blind and for those with visual impairments. Artificial Intelligent Remote Assistance (AIRA) has a travel mode that links through your cell phone that helps read street and business signs, gives walking GPS instructions, helps avoid road and sidewalk construction and avoid overhead obstacles. There is currently a partnership with the Massachusetts transit and AIRA to gather input to determine how effective the program is.

Upcoming meetings for 2019 are scheduled as follows at **10:15 a.m. at QSS**

- **Wednesday, September 18th**
- **Wednesday, November 13th**

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Manson
Topeka Metro Operations Assistant