

minutes



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To: RTA Transit Access Advisory Committee

From: Claire Serdiuk-Anderson Manager, External Affairs

Date: September 22, 2020

Re: Minutes from the February 3, 2020 RTA Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

The RTA Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board (RTACAB) met on Monday February 3rd, 2020. Below is a summary of the items discussed.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Greg Polman called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and asked all members of the board to introduce themselves.

2. Reading and Approval of the October 2019 Minutes

There was no quorum of voting members, so the October 2019 meeting minutes were not presented for adoption.

3. Public Comment Requests

Chairman Polman then asked if there were attendees present, who wanted to address the committee during the public comment section and 3 individuals requested time.

4. Standing Reports

a. Chairman's Report

Chairman Polman reported he is planning on attending an upcoming meeting with CTA, Pace and Metra regarding the RTA ADA Innovations Study, specifically focused on ADA services on demand.

b. Government Affairs

Claire Serdiuk-Anderson, Manager of External Affairs, updated the Committee on recent events in Washington D.C. and Springfield.

The RTA and Service Board continue to move forward on implementing the Rebuild Illinois state capital program. On December 19th, the RTA Board approved the region's 2020-2024 capital program and 2020 annual operating budgets. The capital program of \$2.1 billion in 2020 and \$8.3 billion over five years includes significant new funding from Rebuild Illinois, which was passed in June 2019 as the largest-ever State of Illinois capital program.

The RTA has been meeting with IDOT regularly to work through many of the administrative issues related to implementation of the Rebuild Illinois program.

c. Mobility Services Department Statistics

Chairman Polman asked if there were any questions pertaining to the Mobility Services Department Statistics, which were distributed prior to the meeting. There were none.

5. 2020 Regional Budget and Capital Program

Doug Anderson, Manager, Budget and Analysis, provided a briefing on the 2020 regional budget, and the five-year capital program, highlighting the injection of funds totaling over \$3.7 billion from the Rebuild Illinois program. The 2020-2024 Capital Program shows CTA receiving almost \$2 billion, Metra receiving nearly \$1.5 billion and Pace receiving \$340 million from the Rebuild Illinois Program that includes both State Bond Funds and PAYGO funds.

Chairman Polman asked if there will be debt on bonds issued by the State. Anderson replied there would be debt, but it will be paid by the State.

Chairman Polman then inquired if the RTA was receiving any money from legalized marijuana sales. Anderson explained that the RTA get a portion of all

sales tax within the region as has estimated \$3 million has come from those sales.

6. ADA Paratransit Innovation Study

Peter Kersten, Strategic Planner with the Planning and Market Development group provided a briefing on the RTA's ADA Paratransit Innovation Study. The study is being spearheaded by nationally recognized consultants and staff from both RTA and Pace. It is focused on identifying innovations that can be piloted or tested in the real world with the goal of addressing concerns regarding long-term sustainability of ADA paratransit service provided by Pace. Pace Chicago and Suburban ADA Committees, the Pace Citizens Advisory Board, and the RTA Citizens Advisory Board, are involved in guiding the study.

Several Board Members commented on how difficult riding ADA Paratransit is in the collar counties and asked that the study focus more on remedying that deficiency.

7. Orientation to the RTA

Michael VanDekreke, Director of Mobility Services, provided a refresher overview of the structure and purpose of RTA for the members of the Board to help them determine areas they would like to provide further input. He reviewed the leadership structure, the makeup of the agency, and the day to day responsibilities of each department.

Jamal Powell, Chairman of Pace Suburban ADA Committee, asked what computer software program is currently being used by TIC. He has experienced many mistakes. VanDekreke replied that the RTA will be employing a new software platform in conjunction with the Ventra app, that is projected to launch in the Summer of 2020.

8. 2020 Meeting Topics Brainstorming Session

Chairman Polman then opened the meeting up to suggestions regarding meeting topics for future meetings in 2020.

Chairman Polman suggested a briefing on the changes to the Federal Regulations on ADA Paratransit.

Emily Kerry, representing Lake County COT, expressed interest in revisiting MPC's study on ADA Paratransit in the Region.

Jemal Powell suggested getting regular updates on the recently passed Capital bill.

9. Service Board ADA and CAB Committee Reports

Jamel Powell, Chairman of Pace Suburban ADA Committee, reported the committee met the week before. Members were briefed on current service and route changes. The committee also toured a new bus.

Susan Dalton, Chairman of Metra ADA Committee, reported the committee will meet Tuesday February 4th. Items on the agenda include a new GPS system called Acorn, which focuses on accessibility needs. Also, a new high tech passenger information system for Chicago Union Station.

Melissa Fuller, Chairman of the CTA ADA Committee, reported the committee met on January 13th. The Committee was given a tour of the new 7000 series rail car, which features new seating configurations, rear boarding ability and chirp doors for opening and closing.

10. Public Comment

Heather Armstrong attended the recent Pace Northshore public hearing. She expressed concern for students with disabilities attending Glenview High School. She is worried that the new services will be an inconvenience for those riders.

Garland Armstrong reiterated Heather's concerns. He also stated that the RTA needs to provide more Paratransit services in the collar counties.

Michael VanDekreke explained that the RTA gives money to counties in order to supplement paratransit services but is not responsible for the how the service is run. Those services are governed by federal regulations.

Chairman Polman asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:03 p.m. Emily Karry moved the motion and Adam Ballard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Monday June 29th , 2020.

Attendees

Voting Committee Members Present

Greg Polman - Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind- Chairman
Jodi Hefler – DuPage County
Emily Karry – Lake County

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Michael VanDekreke, RTA Staff Representative
Melissa Fuller – Chair CTA ADA Advisory Committee
Jemal Powell – Chair Pace Suburban Advisory Committee

Other RTA/Service Board Staff Present

Claire Serdiuk-Anderson, RTA Staff
Susan Dalton, Metra Staff
Peter Kerstin, RTA
Mark Koljack, RTA
Doug Anderson, RTA
Peter Fahrenwald, RTA
Peter Kersten, RTA

Public Present:

Garland Armstrong
Heather Armstrong
Bob Panther

Judy Shanley, Easter Seals
Joe Surdam, Lake County DOT
Stephanie Levine, CMAP
Martin Menniger, CMAP