**RTA TRANSIT ACCESS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (RTACAB)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 24, 2022**

Call to order:

* Jackie Forbes, Committee Chairwoman, called the meeting of the RTA Citizens Advisory Board (RTACAB) to order at 10:03 a.m. on January 24, 2022

Attendees:

Voting Committee Members Present:

* Jackie Forbes, Chair
* David Ogunbode, Vice Chair
* Jodi Hefler, DuPage County
* Laura Saltzman, City of Chicago
* Joe Surdam, Lake County
* Sherrine Peyton, Suburban Cook
* Ryan Peterson, McHenry County
* Wendy Garlich, Will County

Non-Voting Members Present:

* Rachel Arfa, Commissioner - MOPD
* Joe Albritton, CTA ADA Advisory Committee
* Adam Kerman, Pace Citizen Advisory Committee
* Jemal Powell, Pace Suburban ADA Advisory Committee

Other RTA/Service Board Staff Present:

* Michael VanDekreke, Director – Mobility Services, RTA
* Peter Kersten, RTA
* Linnea Cummings, RTA
* Elsa Gutierrez, CTA
* Tina Fassett Smith, Communications, RTA
* Felisha Barbee, Mobility Outreach Manager, RTA
* Linda Chamberlain, Mobility Outreach Coordinator, RTA
* Jeremy Lamarche, RTA
* Sarah Blair, Mobility Outreach Coordinator, RTA

1. **Introductions**

* Jackie Forbes took roll call

1. **Approval of the October 2021 Minutes**

* Awaiting October meeting minutes before approval which will be done in next RTACAB meeting

1. **Public Comment Requests**

* No Public Comments requested

1. **Standing Reports** 
   * + Chairman
   * Presentation on Strategic Plan – Survey is still available and asking those to take if possible
   * Kane County change in administrator – Ride-N-Kane
     + Applied for 5310 funding
     + Finalizing agreements
     + Secure funding for full-time coordinator
       - Will be helping with registration, reporting, assisting customers
       - No change in service at this time
     + New service – JARC money still had funding – serving as sponsor for anyone in Kane County – work related trips or qualify as low income only
       - Will offer service until JARC money is gone
       - Sherriff’s office has program for those coming out of prison and they are looking for assistance through our program

* **Government Affairs** – Jeremy LeMarche provided update
* Congress passed Infrastructure investment jobs act that was signed into law on November 15
* Significant investment in nations transit systems
* Increase of $41 billion dollars up 63% from current transit spending levels
* Projections suggest that Chicagoland area will receive over $4 billion in formula funding
* $1.3 billion more in formula funding than what was provided in previous 5 years
* Includes state of good repair for discretionary program that has not existed before – funding set at over $300 million per year; up to three recipients per year to use for:
* $1.75 billion for station accessibility; upgrade legacy rail systems to bring infrastructure ADA compliant
* $5.2 billion over 5 years for low emissions bus grants
* **State legislation**
* Springfield passed bill that will allow three years temporary recovery ratio relief for 2021, 2022, 2023,
* The RTA act is a 50% regional recovery ratio requirements that mandates the RTA region annually generate at least 50% system generated revenue; if that 50% annual requirement is not meet, the law requires RTA transfer that money equal that amount of revenue shortfall
* In the bill, is a waiver period that if system generated revenue is not met, RTA will not have to cover that shortfall.
  + - **3rd Quarter 2021 Mobility Services Statistics**
* No questions
* **Regional Transit Strategic Plan Update -** Peter Kersten provided update
* Survey still open
* Engagement activities:
  + Guest blogger series
  + RTA speakers
  + Forum – UIC – in November
    - 1,000 responses from public survey – please share with others
    - Stakeholder workshops – happening Wednesday, January 26
    - Working groups – smaller groups working on smaller elements of plan
* Survey responses
  + Future of transit – reliable, etc.
* Greatest opportunity from strategic plan
* What types of changes to transit system should RTA prioritize?
* Create a more flexible system
* Invest in transit infrastructure in order to adapt to changing needs
* Improving fare integration
* Investing in sidewalks
* Strengthening regional policies to locate job opportunities
* Funding sustainability
  + Pursue additional funding sources for transit
  + How should RTA focus on funding
    - Capital investment
    - Operating funds
    - Seek new revenue
* Equity
  + Operationalize a racial equity lens
  + Establish goals and performance measures for equity
  + Prioritize access to those who need it most
* Next steps
  + - * RTA board directors meeting in February
      * Report on what we heard
      * Circulate document of public comment
      * Working groups tasked with measuring goals against strategic plan
      * Ongoing engagement, polls and virtual events

1. **Regional Mobility Manager Project Update**

* Purpose of project manager is to determine if regional project manager would be beneficial in our region
* One year study was done
* Three main areas of focus
  + - How a regional mobility manger might apply to Chicago region
      * Gage regional levels of interest
      * Gathering input from local transportation professionals on how a regional management position might be launched in region
  + Advantages to the position
    - Sharing what was done regionally and successfully
    - Relationships
    - Coordination of efforts
  + Drawbacks to the position
    - Boundary wars
    - Distinct needs in different area
  + Local feedback
    - Interviews participants – 91% Strongly agreed or agreed that manager was needed in region
    - 84% of survey respondents agreed the position was needed
* Recommendations came directly from research and under review
* Next steps – internal discussions still happening

1. **Demo of New RTA Fare Programs Online Portal**

* Online Portal allows for customers:
* Apply for RTA reduced fare/ride free
* Replace RTA reduced fare/ride free or ADA Paratransit
* Renew an expiring RTA fare permit
* Went live on January 18, 2022
* RTA tested over 100 portal testers
* Test all RTA application types; new, renewal and replacements
* Promoted portal, link on RTA website, social media, blog posts, press releases
* Website: Fares.rtachicago.org

1. **ADA Paratransit Certification Program Appointments Pilot**

* Those applying for recertification would not have to come in for an assessment, should nothing about their situation have changed.
* Assessment sites are not currently open
* Once we open, we will test the pilot for 3-6 months to see how it goes
* Only requiring people to come in if they are a new applicant or if someone is re-applying and they’ve had a significant change in disability or change in mobility aid
* Reduces need for Pace to pick-up
* Reduces need for customers to come in for re-assessments

1. **Service Board ADA and CAB Committee Reports**

* Adam – PACE Citizens Advisory Board update
  + - Pace is working on finding funding so all CTA passes can be accepted on Pace bus; exception Upass
    - Fare integration with hopefully positive developments
* Jamal – PACE suburban advisory committee – no new updates
* ELSA Guiterrez – CTA – filling in until they have a permanent replacement since Amy Serpe is no longer with CTA
  + CTA/ADA advisory committee – looking for a couple of new members and that notice will go out soon

1. **Public Comments**

* No public comments

1. **Adjournment**

* Meeting adjourned at
* Next meeting is April 25, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Daphine Phillips, RTA Mobility Project Coordinator