

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes for the board meeting of Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:30PM

Present: George McGurn, Deb Phillips, Bill Cooke, Hannah Walton, Tate Coleman, Jamie Minacci

Absent: Bill Barth (West Stockbridge), Justin Wald (Sheffield), Lyn Saberski (Monterey), Gabrielle Brussel (at large)

Guests: Melanie Vicneire, Ben Elliott

Call the meeting to order at 6:50 PM

Approve minutes for the following meetings: August 31, 2023; October 25, 2023; November 5, 2023; December 20, 2023 and January 24, 2024

Motion to approve: Deb Phillips

Second: Bill Cooke

Unanimous in favor

Board positions (review/discussion) • Treasurer - Open position

• Unrepresented towns: Lee, Lenox, Sandisfield and New Marlborough

Richmond Council on Aging has reached out to see if they can become a part of the program.

Lenox has also reached out to participate.

Tri-Town Micro transit Pilot update

• Update on progress, ridership report

Ridership is posted on website and town breakdowns are not accurate; will be updated in the next month. Total rides/month are mostly accurate. January and February will come from our new software and should be readily available.

All previous months came from software, this month from driver report.

Ridership is increasing – Nov 1100, Dec 1258, Jan 1407, Feb 1729

The new software tracks on time performance – January 80% on time (rides greater than 10 minutes late), February 87.6% on time; averaging low 90% for the first two weeks in March. There is no evidence of the software dropping rides with the new

software, there may be some driver missing rides that are scheduled last minute – working with drivers to pay more attention. Some people cancel because the ride is too late – occasional rides do run 20-25 minutes late, nothing more; drivers need to engage with tablet for accurate recording of on-time or the whole schedule looks off.

Positive reports in TripShot. Goal is 95% on time performance by mid-summer. 20% of rides are booked by the app; increasing number of pooled rides.

Community partnerships –

- Elizabeth Freeman Center – host account to book for clients
- Commonwealth Collaborative - host account to book for clients
- Berkshire Interfaith Organizing – help to leverage resources for funding.

On a side note, the BRTA South County ridership has also increased so we are not replacing their service but rather meeting a different need.

Compliance review update

End of last month received notification all improvements approved by the state.

• Future/structure of the micro transit program

Early April we should hear about our innovation application to the state – this would roughly double the budget for this year and hire 4 full time drivers and a half time HR position. We now have 7 vehicles 2-3 vehicles first half of week, 4-5 second half so we have vehicle capacity to increase service.

We have been receiving applications for drivers.

Deb is working with Smitty Pignatelli to secure the future of the program both from a funding perspective and a management perspective.

We are still waiting to receive the \$200,000 from the economic bond bill from last year; had anticipated it by end of calendar year 2023 but it has still not arrived. We are presently covering this with our next fiscal year funding but are in dire need of this funding if the program is to continue. Secretary of transportation needs to sign something to get the money moving.

Funding – each town is assessed an amount based on ridership and time/distance (80% of rides are within GB); NM is seniors only, otherwise GB, Stockbridge, Egremont, Monterey, West Stockbridge, Sheffield (Sheffield Connector)

Stockbridge and W Stockbridge have contributed vehicles and their upkeep which is considered in the formula for their assessments but all towns are paying some \$.

Bus shelter art contest – pass over.

Treasurer's report – not prepared; we have expended our budget, and the next year budget was removed.

Outreach expenses can come from the Tri-town Connector budget.

New & old business

Thanks to Tate for all his hard work to make this happen.

Next meeting Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30

Citizen's speak - none

Adjourn meeting by agreement at 7:45