

September 28, 2020 RTCC Board Meeting – via Zoom

Recording Attendance: Marcy Petersen

Minutes: John Przybylski

Meeting began at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

Introductions of participants.

Alissa called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the August minutes. Lindsey motioned, Kris seconded, no opposed, the August minutes are approved.

Alissa asked for motion to approve the September agenda, motioned and seconded, approved.

Transportation Provider Updates:

Shawn from MATBus – Ridership at 50%, ground transportation center should be up by Oct 1.

Beth Heinrich – Ridership at 50%, will continue half price service until at least middle of October. DAC opening up, university contributing ridership.

Brenda Brittin – 66% ridership, back at pre-Covid except DACs, Grand and Pope have not started up, Douglas and Todd at 50%.

Daryn – 50%, limiting the number of riders, using electrostatic sprayers. One employee diagnosed with Covid, but situation is coming back to pre-Covid normal. Trying to operate as normally as possible, busy with preschoolers. Not sure if will get back to commuter routes from Fergus to Moorhead. People calling hoping that they will do that, will play it by how well things go. Electrostatic units are handheld devices which contain water and a tablet, battery powered, takes less than two minutes to disinfect a bus. Heard about the technology from an ambulance company. They are expensive but worth it. Plan to use them long term, they are used at least once per day. Covered by grant funds.

Lindsey asked if there is any downtime after using devices, Daryn will look into that, the buses are sprayed at the end of the day and allowed to air out before reuse in the morning. At least 15 minutes are given between disinfection and picking up a passenger.

Daryn – There is also plexiglass between the drivers and passengers. Looking to resume normal fares October 1.

Volunteer Driver Committee Update

Alissa – Working on marketing materials, need more and backup volunteer drivers, they are operating at about 50%. A lot of volunteers are older and do not feel comfortable driving. They were able to meet requests for ride due to not operating at full capacity. Alissa listed the pre-driving forms which will be presented in October. Alissa met with another RTCC committee member over Zoom, will have a meeting to collaborate with planning and will share information with rest of the board. Alissa asked for questions about that, no questions.

MNDOT update

Sue deferred to Michelle.

Michelle – Has done one on one meetings with other RTCCs, has deepened understanding about needs of our RTCC. Might have more update about volunteer driver forms, communication within MCOTA is key and their website will be updated with information about individual and all RTCCs. Looking at enhanced technology capabilities with MNDot, to make sure the RTCCs have an opportunity to engage in that conversation. RTCCs have had a roundtable with MNDot. Consultants then realized how to deliver the most difficult ride to deliver, considering the various transportation methods. Turned over to Elliott.

Elliott – Works at MNDot, manages Greater MN Shared Mobility Program. Focusing on van share, ride share and autonomous vehicles. This spring they applied for an innovation grant, received, will build mobility as a service platform including 7 transit agencies. This is a pilot; the idea is to learn and create a system which can be scaled statewide. This ties into the technology of one call, one click. A deliverable is to deliver a data standard for data. Information can be formatted in many ways, they want to develop a data standard across platforms, to make it much easier to incorporate services across different platforms. AARP is also involved, and Elliott is working with them. Will be developing that with a 2021 to 2022 launch date.

Michelle – appreciated that update and will be working closely with the effort; Elliott will be in the quarterly RTCC meeting in October.

Heather asked if anyone has any questions re: technology, no questions.

MCOTA

Tom – has been moving ahead with goals laid out at July 24 meeting. Volunteer driver piece was moved forward. Operations work team is especially important to MCOTA. A 7-day series of agendas will be soon sent about future meetings. Covid positive client transportation has been released on September 4, intended to be medical transportation for non-emergency transportation. Transportation is very patch right now for Covid positive riders. Limited services including non-emergency ambulances. Some public transit systems stepped in to assist. STS service providers – riders do not need to be citizens of MN, looking at 1st week of October to implement. SEMCAC majorly involved. Asked the RTCCs to assist with information about transportation services to SEMCAC. Award was given to SEMCAC last week, working on contract with SEMCAC.

Heather – Have been working since July to develop performance measures for RTCCs and TCAP (metro area providers). Progress particularly good, working on draft to present to MCOTA for November meeting, looking at performance measures for MCOTA and partner state agencies. Looking at access and trip acceptance and denials, working very closely with public transportation providers. Provide guidance on how each jurisdiction can provide program specific measures. Gathering quality of information from across the state to better understand how users are benefitting from transportation. Meet every other week. Once a draft is produced and approved by MCOTA it will be presented.

Tom to Daryn: Non-STC providers not eligible to do non-medical trips at this time. Heather added that there are times we can use TMCC and there are levels of TMCC where the technology pieces will pull together. Do we want to be a TMCC level 3 or go all the way to level 5, that will be down the road? Tom – we have basically reached the qualification for TMCC level 1, MN is currently seeing the highest level

of level 3 at this time. Level 4 and 5 are on the level of Uber or Lyft, on their own platforms. We are there on different levels, each region will have its opportunity to put its own particular “flavor” to it.

Task Update

Alissa asked Kris from Car Care to give update.

Kris – car donations have not slowed down, continuing to repair vehicles. Have had some setbacks with Covid, word of mouth is important to car donations. Up to 2 years down the road, they look to be a centralized hub in a particular county to use volunteers to repair vehicles. Doing a version of that now. Alissa asked for questions, Tom suggested talking about repairing buses as well as cars and partner shops with other entities. Look at diversity of partnerships that RTCCs can bring to the table. Daryn suggested using their lift and garage space even though they do not have a mechanic at this time. Kris welcomes all sorts of ideas.

Alissa asked for other comments/questions, none. Alissa thanked Kris for the foreplanning they have in place especially during this Covid time.

Travel Training – Alissa and Marcy will start their next course this week. Each are at about 98% for grades in their courses.

Knute Nelson has applied for the 5310 grant, Lindsey Sand explained that they are about a year out from having a vehicle, possibly a van, but something to allow them to be more flexible in their transportation planning.

Alissa – Age Friendly Alexandria. Alissa and Marcy will attend their meetings, there is great focus on their health planning re: Covid. They plan on meeting in October and November and look at goals this group can specifically work on. Lindsey introduced Alissa to the Age group.

Secretary

Alissa explained that Lori needed to resign, John is doing that today but need a board member to do that function, matter of taking meeting minutes going forward. Would need to be consistent attendance for person doing this function. John suggested recording the meeting for doing the notes. No obvious interest at this time in anyone volunteering for this function. Katie volunteered to take the notes. John could be the backup to take the notes. Alissa thanked Katie very much. Alissa – we did calling to nursing homes this past month, mailed out 330, they are basically closed to non-residents due to Covid. There might be another directory printing in the near future. Alissa has spoken to Mary with Golden Retriever, her idea is to open October 1, on an extremely limited basis, she will have 1 van, 1 driver. She is waiting to hear about her insurance and for information from MNDot. She will let Alissa know if that date is changing. She is not in our recent directory but will add Golden Retriever if it becomes operational again.

Alissa asked for any questions or anything to discuss.

There being none, the next meeting will be October 26 on Zoom, the meeting was called to a close by Alissa at 2:17 pm.

End of Minutes – Respectfully submitted by John Przybylski at 2:24 pm on 09/28/20.