

Transportation Services Advisory Council
Minutes of October 18, 2024 Meeting
Via Web Ex

Members/Ex-Officio Present: Joshua Bokee, Aaron Heiner, Councilmember Renee Knapp, Alderman Kelly Russell, Carol Sepe, Thomas Davy, Christina Forbes, Christine Traini, and Hongwei Xu.

Staff and Guests: Denis Superczynski, Fred Punturiero, Jaime McKay, Mary Dennis, Roman Steichen, Shayne Boucher, Shraddha Praharaj

Call to Order: Roman called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Introductions: Roman facilitated introductions, and members introduced themselves. Attendance was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting were approved as submitted. Noting the July TSAC meeting was cancelled due to a worldwide outage.

Chair Comments:

- Summarizes FNP article about Transportation Road Show.
- Advocacy from both the City and County agencies on route 15 corridor.
- Create and circulate a TSAC letter of support for the corridor.

Council Member Comments:

Council Member Renee Knapp made the following comments:

- Council signed the letter to appeal for funding for the consolidated transportation program and sent letter to the State to appeal to restore funding.
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Elected Officials' Comments:

Alderman Kelly Russell made the following comments:

- City Government making changes to transition to the City Council from the Board of Alderman – there is a meeting on Thursday
- MDOT Tour- A good opportunity to make a case for Route 15 improvements

Transit Update: Roman Steichen, Jaime McKay, and Mary Dennis reported:

- Acknowledging no red light or speeding tickets.
- Wrapping up FY 24 and working on submitting NTD reporting.
- FY 25 Q1 wrap up and starting the budget cycle for FY 26 with the County and MTA.
- 10 buses ordered but slow to receive them.
- ARPA update- 9 bus shelters, over 60 bus stops completed. Worked with the City of Frederick, and continuing to identify unmet needs. Prioritizing next steps regarding bench and shelter purchases.
- Explaining the process of bench and shelter installation- issues with blocking traffic, property agreements
- Question asked about how the Planning Commission can help with bus shelter process. City and County developing requirements for shelter regulations. Many shelters were placed without formal outline of maintenance considerations. Examples: Target welcomes a bus shelter but needs a formal design and engineering plan, which Transit cannot produce. South Frederick Corridor: plans for shelters and bus stops while in the

building/construction phase

- Question about bus stop/shelter placement: Combination of Transit data and stop ridership along with local business interest.
- End of bus network redesign- Introduced mid-day service to the 20 and 50 routes and added mid-day trips on the Emmitsburg/Thurmont Shuttle. Now a mid-day trip every weekday on ETS route.
- Adopt-a-Stop: 9 total adoptions and a couple more in process. Great PR for organizations and businesses.
- Transit rebranding update: Official logo rebrand launch in early September. Positive comments about rebrand. Slow roll out of the logo on buses.
- Rideshare Program: Shared vanpool subsidy information. Need help sharing that Transit offers these resources.

Agency Updates:

Josh Bokee reported:

- Action item - Letter of recommendation from TSAC and bus shelter process formal guidelines
- Shout out to Charlie for keeping the fleet clean

Christina shared:

- Congratulates Transit staff on TAM award

Hongwei reported:

- Acknowledges TAM award.
- Commission of Aging: Transportation services and a transfer point from Carroll County to Frederick County. Roman addresses the question: Met with the board and we do provide trips to the Senior Center in Mt Airy.

Denis reported:

- South Frederick Corridor: Shared PowerPoint and provided updates about plans for the corridor.
- Question about timeline expectancy: Depends on developers, the market, at least 20-30 years. Progress within the next 10 years is expected.
- Question about 270- Already congested and no plan to improve the roads
- Bikeways- Question about how to work to ensure multimodal gets incorporated into the plan. Comprehensive plan is being updated.

Chairman Concluding Remarks:

Next Meeting: The next TSAC Meeting will be January, 17th, 2025, via WebEx, at 9:30 am.

Submitted by Mary Dennis, Communications Manager

