



MUNICIPAL PARTNERS TRANSIT COMMITTEE

**Council Chambers, Orono
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Members:

Karen Fussell, City of Brewer
Kyle Drexler, Town of Orono
Belle Ryder, Town of Orono
Barbie-Jo Lord, Maine DOT via Phone
Lori Brann, Maine DOT via Phone

Community Connector Staff:

Laurie Linscott
Sherri Clark

BACTS Staff:

Rob Kenerson
Connie Reed
Cindy Meservey

Guests:

Lisa Feldman, Transportation for All
Darcy Cooke, Transportation for All

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Karen Fussell. Introductions were made.

Approval of September 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Belle Ryder made a motion to approve the September 11 meeting minutes as presented. Karen Fussell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Financial Report – Budget to Actual YTD Revenues and Expenses: Laurie indicated the budget was on track. Advertising continues to lag in performance. A new advertising campaign will be rolled out centered around the new buses. Utilities will be higher next quarter due to winter months. Maintenance is a little higher because Laurie had to buy a new engine. This bus will become a spare once the next order of new buses arrives.

Belle Ryder noted that the fares amount is higher and asked if this meant the ridership was higher? Laurie will need to look at the numbers to see if that is the case. Most winters ridership does increase. Once the weather gets warmer again, the ridership goes back down.

The Community Connector has hired a few more drivers. They are in a two-week training now. Prior to hiring, there were 27 drivers. The minimum needed is 32. However, 37 would be ideal to allow for time off and more flexibility.

Karen Fussell stated she would like to see where the final numbers for the local share are at. This will help the municipalities understand what the trends are.

Ridership Report: Connie didn't receive the final numbers in time for her to create a report, so she told the Committee they would be looking at a great deal of numbers. She will create a report and send it

out to Committee members.

The number of ADA paratransit trips for 2019 has increased by 3.3%. However, the total of all rides for the year has decreased. However, the decrease for this year is less than the decreases seen in previous years.

Laurie pointed out that the number Connie had was different than Laurie's number by 2. Connie explained that that was due to 2 riders in the free fare column. The updated pages passed out during the meeting had the corrected number.

The numbers for voting day were very good. Laurie told the group that 84 people used the trolley from Pickering Square to the Cross Center to vote. Belle noted the increase from Beal, EMCC, and Husson. Laurie explained that the schools are very good about getting the word out about the bus to their students.

FY20 Transit Program of Projects for TIP: Connie had sent out a list of the projects that will be included in BACTS TIP. Laurie asked Connie to add the transit study money as she is going to roll that over. Lori Brann indicated that WIN 22769.20 should be included in the list.

Karen asked how the list relates to the budget. Connie explained that the numbers correspond with Federal Capital on the budget. The 5339 numbers are not included in the budget.

FY20 Transit Asset Performance Targets: Each year transit agencies are required to develop performance targets. MPOs do not have a requirement to set regional annual targets, but they must revisit targets when updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Community Connector has revised some of the benchmarks, causing the MPO targets to be slightly different. It is not federally mandated to match. However, Connie told the Committee that she would like to discuss this with the Policy Committee to align the targets with those set by Community Connector.

Belle Ryder asked what the differences are. Connie explained that the Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) is 12 years rather than 14. This benchmark helps plan the Capital Improvement Plan. Laurie explained that when a bus is purchased, the manufacturer tells them what the ULB is. Depending on the size of the bus, it can be replaced from 10 to 12 years after purchase. All buses must be kept at a state of good repair through all the years. Belle said she is fine with the lower numbers but feels 14 years is more reasonable. Laurie explained that she can change the number at any point, but she feels more comfortable using the lower number to create the capital plan.

Community Connector Projects/Initiatives Update:

The FY16 grant of \$1.4 million discretionary funds has been totally expended by buying five buses. The FY17 grant of \$1.9 million discretionary funds have also been used to buy five buses. The Community Connector has received three of them.

Gillig will be in Bangor next week for post operating inspection. They will also be training operators and mechanics.

November is Ride the Bus month. November 30 will be the first Rider Appreciation Day in partnership with Transportation for All and downtown businesses. All fares are free for the day. There will also be drawings for prizes. The trolley will be running downtown.

Laurie received the report from the Triennial Review. There are nine findings in six areas this year. Community Connector has 90 days to respond to the report, listing the steps to address the findings.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2020. Location to be determined.

Adjourn: 11:07 a.m.