

MINUTES

COORDINATED TRANSIT COMMITTEE



Wednesday, January 17, 2024 | 10:30a

Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88291194676?pwd=VEhWaGJiUTg2cXVld0FTTW5qRjNHUT09>

Attendees

Voting Members

Rich McFall - Nebraska VR
Vicki Quaites-Ferris - Empowerment Network
Alicia Johnson - Metro Transit
Amanda Parker - City of Bellevue
Natasha Wilks - Black Hills Works
Jane Bird - Black Hills Works
Tammy Bradley-Larsen - Florence Home
Tami Jenson - City of Council Bluffs
*Kaily Stanley - City of La Vista
*Melanie Davis - Munroe Meyer Institute
*Wendy Sliva - Region V Services
*Cindy Petrich - New Cassel
*Donna Montelegre - City of Papillion

Non-Voting Members

Lee Myers - AARP
Brandon Smith - OPS
Stefanie Torres Chan - Heartland Workforce Solutions
Mary Angus
*Jerad Covey
*Kasia
*Anne Brodin - UCP of Nebraska
*Mary Stockwell
*Christi Crosby

MAPA Staff

Court Barber
Michael Blank
Carlos Morales

*Attended virtually

Meeting called to order at 10:34 am.

Members of the committee introduced themselves.

The meeting was not in quorum.

Action Items

For CTC Approval

1. [Approval of Meeting Minutes from the October 18, 2023 CTC Meeting](#)

Quorum was not met so a vote was not taken.

No revisions were asked.

Discussion Items

1. MAPA Liaison Transition

Court Barber, taking over for Travis Halm, set expectations for the next few months for the CTC as the new MAPA Liaison.

2. Regional Public Transportation Service Discussion

Court Barber, Rich McFall, and Melanie Davis kicked off a conversation about service availability and requirements within the region.

McFall said a question that arose was when the place someone was employed moved from Douglas County to Sarpy County, and the resulting paratransit service disconnection despite that the home of the person stayed within Douglas County.

Johnson said the person is still eligible for MOBY, just that the usage to work was now no longer eligible. MOBY transit only follows fixed route service areas, not express routes, which has caused confusion. MOBY service is a $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile area surrounding fixed route Metro transit.

Davis proposed that this may be a topic going forward in future CTC meetings to discuss ways to resolve transit access. In the future it may be possible if it's decided to let the public know that they can contact the CTC for questions of discussion regarding how to improve paratransit access across the region.

Johnson said a future agenda item could be a discussion on what MOBY is, and who is eligible, to clear up confusion on what it is. MOBY is primarily a safety net for the Metro fixed route service areas to capture those who cannot access the nearby fixed route services due to accessibility issues.

The paratransit for Metro fixed route services in Council Bluffs was decided by the city to be SWITA, however it is overseen by Metro.

Morales said one ongoing problem at the moment is that many employers are locating their businesses well outside of paratransit service areas, or even fixed route transit services, which is making it difficult for their employee base to access work.

It was suggested that data for paratransit services for the providers funded under 5310 should be given, such as ridership information.

Another suggestion was to create a website or tell service coordinators about updates, as well as provide transportation services with more advanced training on how to treat people with disabilities and tie wheelchairs properly.

MAPA has been very beneficial in providing maps and information, however it would be beneficial if more data could be received regarding how adequate paratransit is for those with disabilities.

There is an ongoing problem where some paratransit providers are unwilling or uninterested in providing service to people with disabilities who are not as close to fixed route service as is convenient for the providers.

NDOT offers training to 5310 drivers for people with disabilities.

3. 5310 Program Update

Court Barber provided an update on the status of the 5310 program.

We are continuing to deliver awarded funds through service contracts, however vehicle procurement remains significantly delayed. There have also been changes to staff at NDOT.

4. Additional Business & Public Comment

The future meetings of TTAC, the MAPA Board, and RPAC, were briefly discussed.

Angus moved to adjourn the meeting, no members were opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.