

MINUTES

COORDINATED TRANSIT COMMITTEE



Wednesday, February 21, 2024 | 10:30a

Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86871433554?pwd=TzllcmNHQVU0bXNXKytUjM5WEdEdz09>

Attendees

Voting Members

Amanda Parker - City of Bellevue
Tami Jenson - City of Council Bluffs
Vicki Quaites-Ferris - Empowerment Network
Tammy Bradley-Larsen - Florence Home
Alicia Johnson - Metro Transit
Rich McFall - Nebraska VR
Donna Monteleagre - City of Papillion
Melanie Davis - UNMC Munroe Meyer Institute
*Kaily Stanley - City of La Vista

Non-Voting Members

Brandon Smith - Omaha Public Schools
*Rich Surber - Lutheran Family Services
*Carolina Padilla - Intercultural Senior Center
*Anne Brodin - UCP of Nebraska
*Marie Keller - Black Hills Works
*Sarah Soula - NDOT
*Jodi Gibson - NDOT

MAPA Staff

Court Barber
Michael Blank
Carlos Morales

*Attended virtually

Meeting called to order at 10:32 am.

Members of the committee introduced themselves.

The meeting was in quorum.

Action Items

For CTC Approval

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the [October 18, 2023](#) and [January 17, 2024](#) CTC Meetings

Barber noted that two people previously not listed as attending the January 17th, 2024 meeting were added.

Jenson asked for herself to be added to the January 17th, 2024 meeting.

McFall asked for Stefanie Torres Chan to be added to the January 17th, 2024 meeting.

McFall asked for Mary Angus to be added as the person who moved to adjourn the January 17th, 2024 meeting.

Bradley-Larsen motioned to approve the October 18th, 2023 and January 17th, 2024 meeting minutes, Monteleagre seconded; motion carried.

Discussion Items

1. Regional Public Transportation Service Discussion

Court Barber, Rich McFall, and Melanie Davis will lead a continuation of the conversation started at the January 2024 meeting about service gaps and what the CTC can do to help.

Bradley-Larsen noted an issue with some of their residents having trouble getting the Moby app working.

McFall asked for the Moby application to be presented at the next CTC meeting to go over it.

Davis noted that we may want to make it more accessible the definitions of fixed route, paratransit, and so on for the public.

McFall suggested the creative idea of having a bus relay where people go from one place in the city to another on multiple buses to have them understand what taking the bus is like.

Johnson noted the importance of raising public awareness of public transit.

Davis suggested having categories whereby you rank them by how good or bad certain criteria were met.

Quotes-Ferris asked for clarification regarding criteria and definitions on Metro for the public, which was answered by Johnson.

Davis suggested utilizing the Metro website for some CTC functions for public outreach, and the benefit of helping to inform the public on the different types of transit.

McFall noted the importance of standardizing website formatting for a webpage for CTC comments.

Barber noted that he heard three CTC proposals. One is to talk about the Moby application and to assist Metro in that, two is to assist with and work on the Metro website for the CTC. A third item is a transit field trip, but we need to figure out when that is, how often it is, who is invited, and so on. For the third item, should we invite partner organizations and if that goes well, we could invite elected officials such as the MAPA Board to take part. Ultimately the CTC can do anything. For the first and second items we could work on this during CTC meetings.

McFall noted that he sees four separate items. One is to review the Moby app. Two is to review the Moby application process. Three is to propose the Transit field trip starting with CTC members, then partner organizations, then TTAC, then Board. Four is the website.

Davis asked if there is a deadline for the Moby application review. Johnson noted that Metro would like comments within the next few months.

Johnson noted the benefit of reviewing the Moby application and doing the field trip before submitting comments to Metro. Additionally Johnson noted that the review process can take a while.

McFall suggested having a checklist before review.

Davis noted there is not much prep for a Moby application. It's 35 pages that people need to do.

McFall suggested ways to improve the time it takes to take the application.

Davis noted that what takes a long time in the Moby application is when you have to explain your disability experiences, which is not something you always think about and can take a long time.

McFall asked if we wanted to be prepared to do a test run of the field trip in April. Davis noted that should work, but also warned that she gets dropped off around 9 am, and is here until around 12:30 pm.

McFall asked what the bylaw restrictions are for the CTC for where the meeting can be. Barber replied that the Open Meetings Act from Nebraska and similar laws in Iowa do not apply to subcommittees such as the CTC.

Johnson noted that she could present the current Moby application and an overview of the requirements.

McFall suggested having the review process during a CTC meeting and the benefits of doing this to provide feedback to Metro. Barber noted that the CTC can do this and it may be worthwhile for the CTC and Metro. Then the CTC can conduct the field trip, and then we can provide feedback to Metro. He noted on this timeline we would provide Metro feedback on the whole process by June, which Johnson noted that this should be fine.

Johnson noted that Metro wants public feedback during the revision process, which Quaites-Ferris clarified that is something the CTC could do. She further discussed the potential for the CTC to make it possible for communities to provide broader feedback to Metro.

Padilla noted that the elderly in Omaha have issues with transit due to extreme temperatures and weather causing risks for waiting. The Senior population has also had issues with special fees coming up when taking transit, which is a problem when the cost of living is higher.

McFall asked if there are separate costs for different transit. Johnson explained the different costs for transit, paratransit, and transfers, as well as some reductions in cost depending on certain factors and programs like for elderly people age 62 or older, people with disability, as well as people on medicare. She further noted that she can send the CTC information on this.

Davis asked if the discounts and cost reduction programs apply to paratransit. Johnson noted that it does not due to the limited budget at Metro.

McFall asked what Moby's focus is. Johnson noted that the purpose of Moby is just a safety net for the fixed route to service people in the catchment area of the fixed route that otherwise cannot access the fixed route service near them.

Davis noted that compared to many other cities, Moby is cheaper to use, so we are doing well relative to others, but we could do better.

Davis noted that while at UNMC she couldn't reach the building that takes the ID photos, so they allowed her to submit a photo to them. She suggested that Metro and other organizations could do something similar to make the ID process more accessible.

Barber explained some of the previous meeting conversations at CTC, and the good ideas brought forward at this meeting that could benefit Metro toward improving the understanding of Moby.

McFall asked if CTC can get approval from Metro for this process and ideas by March. Johnson said that should be feasible.

Barber suggested that if we establish a good process for Metro, CTC could do something similar for other paratransit providers in the region.

Johnson noted that she does want to revisit the Metro half-fare program as well as help raise awareness on it, and hopefully that will occur this year.

2. Additional Business & Public Comment

Johnson noted that Metro transitioned to a regional transit authority in 2021, and as a result of this Metro now has an elected Board of Directors which is running for election this year. The deadline to file to run is the end of March. Information for this is on the Douglas County election website. Additionally, Metro has a position open for the Moby manager.

Barber noted that NDOT has a new transit manager. Additionally there is no new information on vehicle availability from NDOT or Iowa DOT.

Padilla asked when the next CTC meeting would be, Barber clarified that it should be in the third week of March.

McFall moved to adjourn, none were opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.