

Minutes

COORDINATED TRANSIT COMMITTEE



Wednesday, August 14, 2024 | 10:30a

Boardroom - Main Level of the Metro Transit Building

Virtual Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846024200?pwd=9lWrdKlPgnZsDWcyrdvrOmNvHlJkY1>

(All voting members must be physically present to vote; virtual attendance counts for maintaining voting status)

Committee members or members of the public seeking accommodations to attend or provide feedback to the meeting should contact Court Barber, Transportation Planner, at 402-444-6866 or cbarber@mapacog.org.

Attendance

Court Barber - MAPA

Michael Blank - MAPA

Carlos Morales - MAPA

Rich McFall - Nebraska VR

Brandon Smith - Omaha Public Schools

Alicia Johnson - Metro Transit

Tammy Jenson - City of Council Bluffs

Melanie Davis - UNMC Munroe Meyer Institute

Tammy Bradley-Larson - Florence Home (may want to correct this around the document)

Cory Hale - Community Alliance

Shannon - Community Alliance

Amanda Parker - City of Bellevue

Mark Lander - SWITA

Kaily Stanley - City of La Vista

Jessy Hubbard - City of Papillion

Stefanie Torres Chan - Heartland Workforce Solutions

Vicki Quaites-Ferris - Empowerment Network

McFall called the meeting to order at 10:33a.

Meeting meet quorum.

Action Items

For CTC Approval

1. Approval of Minutes from the [April 17, 2024](#), [June 12, 2024](#), and [July 17, 2024](#) Meetings
Barber presented the meeting minutes from the prior meetings for approval.

Bradley-Larson noted that she was missing from the July 2024 meeting.

Jenson noted that an update needs to be made to include the name of the person who motioned to approve the first action item in the July 2024 meeting that was sitting next to her.

Jenson moved to approve the April 17th and June 12th minutes, Bradley-Larson seconded, motion passed.

2. Election of Officers for MAPA's Fiscal Year 2025

The CTC made nominations for, and voted to approve, officers for the new fiscal year.

McFall was nominated by several members for the first chair position. McFall nominated Davis.

McFall was voted by the committee to be the first chair position. McFall abstained from the vote. McFall accepted the position.

Davis was nominated by several members for the second chair position.

Davis was voted by the committee to be the second chair position. Davis abstained from the vote. Davis accepted the position.

Discussion Items

3. Ongoing Regional Public Transportation Service Discussion

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

Davis explained the problem she recently had where she no longer had transportation to medical care. Medical care keeps getting pushed out west where some paratransit providers often do not give access, or if they do, they charge a high price. Another problem is some paratransit providers do not have space for her service animal.

McFall brought up the issue of changing benefits regarding financial assistance for paratransit, as well as paratransit related to retirement. He noted the Enable Savings Plan, information available here: <https://www.enableavings.com>

Davis noted that people will at times not know how their paratransit service benefits work related to medicare or other financial assistance, as it is quite complicated.

Barber suggested we could ask Omaha if transit and paratransit access is brought up during site review for new medical facilities. Davis noted that recently a facility that helps people with maintaining their wheelchair is moving out to the western suburbs of Omaha where it will be harder for some people with wheelchairs to access. Barber suggested that we could bring this up with politicians, and make local or state policy regarding medical facilities and transit access. Parker was concerned about making legislative limits on where businesses could locate, but was also confused why they are moving that far west if they are making it hard for some of their customers to reach them. Davis noted that most medical care facilities don't even understand that transit doesn't reach that far, it's an issue of educating those in medical companies that make these decisions of where to locate facilities. Davis noted that you can rent a vehicle that can transport you and your wheelchair, but it is quite expensive.

McFall was curious how United Way helps with transportation. Davis noted that her understanding is they can give credits, along with 211. She also noted that often wheelchair users cannot use uber or lyft. Jensen noted the problem of people sometimes calling 211, but

not getting a response. McFall brought up the idea of going through the process of getting a Moby service during a meeting to give the committee the understanding of how it works.

4. Review of MAPA's Website

McFall and Barber lead a review of MAPA's website for accessibility, information availability, and navigability. Barber noted that MAPA will be making updates to the website and would like notes on what to improve. Examples include identifying issues with finding data or other information, ways to make the website more accessible, and any other tips would be helpful.

McFall brought up the idea of discussing the Metro website at some point.

Davis explained that she had worked with people who have used the MAPA website, and are confused why people should go to MAPA, instead of going directly to the providers. Barber noted that typically MAPA redirects people to where they need to go, but MAPA will also have information on the CTC, public feedback, planning information, and so on. Overall if you are looking for transit service, you should not go to MAPA. Barber further noted that MAPA is open to suggestions on what to include for the website, such as translation services.

Davis suggested developing a panel on those who need accessible websites to give feedback to MAPA on their ability to access the website, and what improvements should be made. McFall noted that he typically goes to the MAPA website for the transit plan, but often it takes a long time to get through the MAPA website to find it. He typically likes to show this plan during meetings with other organizations, and would prefer that it's easier and quicker to find.

Barber noted to the committee that if you want to email him suggestions in the near future for the website, that will work as well. Ultimately MAPA's C&O department is handling the website update. Davis asked if there is a specific format for people with accessibility needs to submit comments. Barber responded that MAPA does not have one yet. Davis strongly suggested having accessible language, not just plain language, and that she can send some resources to Barber on examples. McFall suggested reaching out to commissions that oversee disabilities to get feedback, such as for the blind and visually impaired.

5. Additional Business & Public Comment

McFall suggested having another bus activity. Davis liked the idea but was concerned about winter approaching and issues of the cold while waiting for fixed transit service, and advised having a Moby tour. Barber said that we can look to schedule that around late Winter or Spring, and that we could bring this up to TTAC if anyone from there wants to join in. McFall stated that we should make sure that those who are knowledgeable in transit are present if anyone from TTAC joins in so they can help explain the process.

Bradley-Larson motioned to adjourn, Hale seconded, motion carried.

Future Meetings & Events

TTAC: Friday, August 16, 2024

MAPA Board of Directors: Thursday, August 22, 2024

CTC: Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Meeting Quorum: The presence of 1/2 (currently 5) of the members of the CTC at an officially called meeting shall constitute a quorum.