

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Via ZOOM (M. Putts)
November 5, 2021**

Members Present

Maria Isaza
Matt Putts

Staff Present:

Janet Ackerson Jefferson DAR
Melody Bundy Rutgers TIPS
Christine Hellyer Director of Special Transportation
Marcy Merola, SR Transportation Mt. Olive
Pat Petrillo Aging
Michelle Woehle Jefferson DAR

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Christine Hellyer, and she announced the meeting is being recorded.

**II. Approval of Minutes
September 8, 2021
Motion: M.I. /M.P.**

Staff Report- Christine Hellyer

Are rides have increased recently. We have 1 new driver with experience in driving, and one starting November 15, 2021.

TNC Transportation Network Companies

We met this week with Trans Options with our program side and theirs, and we hope to start this November 22, 2021. We have a \$40,000 budget

This is the requirements:

- Must be a MAPS registered riders; elderly or disabled
- Must be ambulatory
- Must have cell phone to receive messages
- Currently not for rural riders

We will ask riders if they would like to participate if MAPS can't provide the trip.

1st Phase

Operation would be between 6:30am-9:00am and 3:30pm-5pm, because of our subscription trips, to start so MAPS office staff in case a problem arises. We intend to start small in November and December to work out any issues should they arise.

I am also budgeting \$2500 per month (Budget is \$40,000 per year) so it can run through December.

2nd Phase

Book after hours and week-ends

- Service after *MAPS* hours service
- Booking available up to a week in advance

3rd Phase Service during *MAPS* hours (6:30am-5:00pm)

- Expanding what *MAPS* can do.

We will prioritize transportation for booster shots for the Covid 19 vaccines. Countywide J&J vaccines were provided to the homebound in the summer. We are looking into how we can provide booster shots. VNANNJ (Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey) is accepting referrals for initial vaccinations and booster shots. The booster shots are available to clients that received their vaccine from our homebound program.

Maria asked if *MAPS* riders are required to be vaccinated?
Christine no, but masking is required by our drivers and participants.

Our Nutrition program has started opening some Congregate sites, and this will affect our ridership.

We currently have 4 sites open, and two more in November. And more in the first quarter of 2022.

We have a total of 15 sites, 10 of which are sister's sites with the same staff, (open Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and one site Tuesday and Thursday; and we have four that run five days per week and one that runs Tuesday and Thursday. And this will affect our *MAPS* ridership.

Maria asked when the web-based requests will be available? Because sometimes I have to cancel late at night, and I have concern as to whether the message will be received in time.

Christine I had a staff member create a brochure and it was just completed:

- What is it
- What it looks like
- How do you sign-up

We did run into issues with booking rides. Cancellations are up and running, but I would like to try it out.

I think you would be good to pilot this program
Maria agreed to it.

Maria How is Eco-Lane going?

Christine I am very happy with it because it is web-based, I do not think *MAPS* would have been successful during *COVID* without it. The staff was able to work from home and in the office.

The data produced now is much better, especially during COVID the rural transportation was equal to what we were previously reporting because we weren't reporting it correctly. And because its federally funded it is very important to get that right.

CHTP Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

The contract with Rutgers was signed to prepare this plan. We are looking at December/January start. We will have more at our first meeting in 2022.

The plan is to see

- What is **currently** available to Human Services
- What are the **gaps** in services
- What are **goals** in the future to continue to plan.

Importance of the plan includes Federal funding of programs.

Mount Olive does not receive funding from Morris County.

They are wonderful to attend our *MAP CAC* meetings. And for them to apply for funding on their own through the federal government, they need to identify what gaps of services they have and are meeting according to this plan.

If this plan isn't updated, we are doing a disservice not just to ourselves, but to the monies that can be coming into our program.

Jefferson and 5 town DAR receive funding from the County.

Rutgers NJTIPs is also partially funded through this plan.

A new member for 2022 for MAPS CAC was recruited: Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey, Director and CEO William Schuldt

Maria asked if we are still looking for MAPS CAC members
Christine yes

In 2022 the meetings will go back to first Thursday of the month, and I am looking to offer hybrid.

Also, I will ask Isabel to send us a report. And we will e-mail it to the members.

Adjourned : 10:30am

Motion: M.P. /M.I.