

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Human Services Building
340 West Hanover Avenue
Ground Floor Conference Room
Morris Township, New Jersey
February 14, 2019

MINUTES

Members Present:

Tom Pappas
Jean Perlman

Staff Present:

Christine Hellyer, Director of Special Transportation
Marcy Merola, SR Transportation, Mt. Olive
Lisa O'Hara, Sr. Center Chatham's
Georgia Pease, Jefferson DAR
Pat Petrillo, Aging
Patricia Rogalsky, MAPS
Isabel Rojas, NJ Transit
Dana Stukenborg, 5 town DAR
Michele Woehle, Jefferson DAR

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 10:39 am by Christine Hellyer. Committee introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from November 14, 2018 were accepted and approved.

Motion: T.P./T.R.

III. Staff Report-Christine Hellyer

- At the County level, Department Head Jennifer Carpinteri, is leaving her position March 1, 2019. She will be the Regional Mental Health Coordinator at Atlantic Health
- MAPS had a Compliance Review in January. We think we did well, but we await any recommendations we receive. They were very impressed with the maintenance and cleanliness of our vehicles.
- April 16, 17, 18, 2019 N.J. Transportation Action Conference in Atlantic City.
- We are looking to expand our MAPS services general public and rural in 2019.
 - ✓ MAPS priorities are employment and medical trips, shelter workshops, and educational needs.
 - ✓ We would like to provide services that are more ancillary: shopping, banking, entertainment.

- ✓ We are still working on purchasing tablets for our MAPS vehicles. The Morris County budget is not approved yet to make the purchase.
- ✓ If we can't get them through this request, we are looking at other avenues for that. (NJ Transit)
- ✓ We are going to be sending out over 850 customer service surveys the end of this month, to our previous riders from the last six months. We are looking to do this maybe yearly or every two years.
- ✓ We are in the process of hiring two *CDL* drivers to our staff.
- ✓ I reached out to *UBER* and *Go-Go Grandparent*, but I didn't receive a response from either. I printed this handout for *Go-Go Grandparent* web site for you to review.
- ✓ As of now we have three official members on this board. I would like to increase membership to this *CAC* board. Maybe have riders attend. Please bring them as guests to our next meeting. If we get more attendee's, I will look at the by-laws.

IV. NJ Transit-Isabel Rojas SCDRTAP 5311 & Innovation Grant

- FY 2019 SCDRTAP Morris County allocation \$900,480.00 Casino Revenues.
- FY 2019 S5311 (rural and general public)
Federal allocation is \$239,089.00 State and Local match funds \$119,544.50 for a total of \$478,178.00.

FY 2018 S5310:

FY 2017 S5310: Morris County, Mt. Olive Township, and Township of Jefferson and Township of Pequannock Five Town Dial have applied.

- ❖ We received 88 applications
- ❖ Reward letters: inclusion/non-inclusion letters will go out shortly, end of this month or early March.
- ❖ Vehicle Request: \$18,707,625.00
- ❖ Mobility Management Request: \$5,788,916.00
- ❖ Operating Funds: \$8,589,680.00
- ❖ This is a competitive grant. Please keep that in mind.

FY 2016 S5310: Inclusion letters have been sent out already.

- ❖ Morris County- Ext. Van 8 seats, 1 securement location and Operating \$75,000.00 with local match \$75,000.00.
- ❖ Five Town Dial-a-Ride- Minibus, 12 seats, 1 securement location.

FY 2015 S5310: part of the current procurement package and we anticipate vehicle deliveries from 2019 through 2021. It is a lengthy process.

The following were awarded :

- ❖ Morris County minibus 12 seats, 1 securement location and Operating \$75,000.00 with local match \$75,000.00
- ❖ Five Town dial-a-Ride Extended cutaway low floor and Operating \$25,500.00 and local match \$25,500.00.

FY 2014 S5310: part of the current procurement package and we anticipate vehicle deliveries from 2019 through 2020.

- ❖ Morris County- standard cutaway rear lift 2 accessible locations & extended cutaway low floor 3 securement location and Operating Federal Award amount : \$75,000.00 (50% FTA & local match) = \$150,000.00 towards project
- ❖ Pequannock Senior Citizen Housing- Extended van 8 seats, 1 securement location & operating federal amount : \$25,000.00 (50% FTA +50% local match) = \$50,000.00 towards project.

FY 2013 awards will be delivered in 2019/2020:

Morris County Special Transportation- Minivan 2 seats, 1 securement location and Operating funds of \$200,000

Pequannock Senior Citizen Housing- Mini-van 2 seats 1 securement location

Jean Perlman questioned why the vehicle delivery is so far behind? She said she feels it's an unsatisfactory process.

Isabel responded the following in reference to grant awards:

- Grants have many processes when they are reviewed. There are issues with the purchasing (procurement), recalls. We also send inspectors out to review the work.
- And the 2015 and 2016 vehicle requests were completed in 2013. I can't fully explain to you the FTA process.
- We are currently catching up now and vehicles are being manufactured at a quicker pace.
- She also suggested for all providers to continuously apply for these grants whether you get rejected/accepted.
- The FTA (Federal Transportation Administration) had issues with funding.
- We are catching up now with the vehicles, and are pretty much on schedule.
- The vehicles are also brand new for the year of manufacturing.
- The next grant will be 2018, so we are current.

Jean: Why is NJ Transit not pro-active, instead of retroactive.

Isabel: We have been very proactive since I joined NJ Transit. I can't explain why the applications are made in one year and the finalization is years later. It's at the federal level and I don't have the answers for you. A procurement process can take up to 2 years, and it is a free vehicle.

Jean said is not free, tax payers are paying for the vehicles.

Isabel Its federal funding and some does come from the taxpayers.

Trish asked **Isabel** if the **2013** vehicles were about to be delivered?

Isabel said no, in the winter of 2019 or early 2020.

Jean also asked if the Casino funding will be increased with the revenues from sports/online betting?

Isabel answered yes

V. New Business- Go-Go Grandparent- Christine (see attached) read the attached.

I feel it's a good idea to discuss these areas, but it's not a substitute service for what we all provide.

Jean Perlman said these are costly rides for some seniors. It is 27 cents per minute plus the fee for the ride.

Isabel stated Essex uses Tran step as their 3rd party for setting up rides for clients, and Sussex County will be their own 3rd party, applied for funds from NJ Transit to have this service.

VI. Public Comments

Marcy asked what is MAPS hours of operation?

Trish Monday thru Friday 6:30am-5pm.

- ❖ Medical appointments have to be from 9:30am and pick up by 3pm, (get riders home and drivers get back to office by 5pm) and we need a weeks' notice.
- ❖ We travel five miles out of Morris County. We transport veterans to and from Morris View and VA Lyons Hospital every day.
- ❖ We have a partnership with some of you to meet you and pick up your passenger, and continue the trip.
- ❖ We can only take appointments one month in advance only.

Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Motion T.P./J.P.

Next meeting:

April 11, 2019