

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Via ZOOM hosted by M. Isaza for MAPS meeting**

**February 3, 2022**

**Members Present**

Maria Isaza  
Stephany Maldonado  
Marc Molde

**Staff Present:**

Debra Eckert-Casha  
Kasey Errico Director of Human Services  
Christine Hellyer Director of Special Transportation  
Marcy Merola, SR Transportation Mt. Olive  
Pat Petrillo Aging  
Diane Pezzuti Pequannock 5DAR  
Grace Rhinesmith-Jefferson DAR  
Trish Rogalsky MAPS  
Carol Stoltz Aging  
Dana Stukenborg- Pequannock 5DAR  
Nancy Toolen-Employment Horizons  
Michelle Woehle Jefferson DAR

**Guests**

Louis Hoffman- NJTIP Rutgers  
Cecelia Feeley-Twp of Hanover

**I. Call to Order** Christine Hellyer thanked *Maria Isaza* for hosting the ZOOM meeting for the MAPS CAC meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by *Christine Hellyer*, and she announced the meeting is being recorded. A roll call was made.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

November 5, 2021

**Motion: M.I. /M.M.**

## **Staff Report- Christine Hellyer**

**MAPS** is currently operating at 75% capacity. And hopefully, March 1, 2022, it will be 100% capacity.

**MAPS** has started a pilot program. They partnered with Trans Options to offer Lyft rides to some MAPS consumers.

The requirements are:

- Registered *MAPS* riders (seniors, or adults with a disability), must be ambulatory (no wheelchairs, and must be able to get in and out of a vehicle unassisted and must have a cell phone with text message capability for confirmation of ride.
- Available currently *Monday to Friday*, 6:30am-5pm. Riders **can not** request this service, if a ride can not be completed by *MAPS*, then they will be offered to use form of transportation.
- We look to expand to holidays and weekend in the next phase, in the next quarter. This program is in sections:
  - Currently offered from 7:30am-5pm., so that someone at the *MAPS* office is available in case an issue develops.

We will meet with them next week to discuss with Trans Options.

Holidays and weekends hours

After hours and early morning hours

*Michelle* asked is this curbside to curbside or enter driveways?

*Christine* it would be up to the individual driver.

*Marc* if you get a request from a wheelchair bound customer would it be denied?

*Christine* this why this service currently is available during *MAPS* operating hours, we would determine if *MAPS* had a wheelchair accessibility vehicle available for this request.

*If yes, we will provide service if not we will not be able to accommodate this customer at this time.*

*We kicked off our first meeting for our Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan in Partnership with Rutgers that we contracted with late in 2019. We are redoing the whole plan. We want to see where are the gaps and our strengths. We are studying the gaps outside of MAPS and local Dial-a-Rides for after hours access and weekend /holiday service. Positive feedback was on the service MAPS and local Dial-a-Rides provide. You will be asked to participate in focus groups and /or surveys to assist in a robust plan for the County. The positive was the service MAPS and DAR's (Dial-A Rides) provide.*

**Nutrition Congregate** sites for *January* and *February* were closed due to *COVID 19* increases.

We are anticipating the following sites to re-open by *March 1, 2022*:

*Long Hill, Roxbury, Butler, Denville, Madison, Morris Mews Montville, and Mt. Olive.* The other sites either the hosts or the congregated participants is low.

We hope to open at 75% capacity by the summer.

The Home Delivered Meals clients are receiving their meals. Pick-up/grab and go is also available at the sites, for those that don't wish to be in a Congregate setting.

## **New Jersey Emergency Mortgage Assistance**

**Mortgage Assistance Program (ERMA)** provides financial assistance to eligible

homeowners who have experienced a significant decrease of income or increase of expenses due to COVID-19 and have been unable to remain current with their mortgage payment. Application and more information are available at [njerma.com](http://njerma.com).

*Kasey Errico* added that the income guidelines for ERMA are accessible for Morris County homeowners.

**Small Business Grant Program** will begin **accepting on-line applications** at **9a.m. February 14, 2022**, to aid local small companies, entrepreneurs, and non-profits impacted by the pandemic.

**Details:** may be found at [morriscountysmallbusinessgrant.com](http://morriscountysmallbusinessgrant.com) on eligibility guidelines, supporting documents required to submit an application and more.

We kicked off our first meeting for our Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan in partnership with Rutgers that we contracted with late in 2019 to assist in redoing our entire Plan. Several participants from across the County were in attendance that are leaders in certain demographics across Morris County.

We want to see where the gaps and the strength in our service and goals are for the future. And, the gaps outside of MAP/DAR's for after hours access and weekend, and holiday service.

Positive feedback was on the service *MAPS* and local *Dial-a-Rides* provide.

You will be asked to participate in focus groups and /or surveys to assist in a robust plan for the County.

**NJ Transit Report- Isabel Rojas** (e-mailed to members after meeting)

➤ **SCDRTAP, 5311 & CARES**

- **FY 2022 SCDRTAP/5311**-Application reviewed for accuracy and completion

- **FY 2022 SCDRTAP**-State allocation \$1,082,125.00. Agreement sent 2/2/2022 for execution
- **FY 2022 S5311**-Federal allocation is \$269,193.00
- expend in 2022.
- **FY 2020 CARES S5311-\$642,552** (Supplemental FTA funds due to the Coronavirus, effective March 1,2020). Should fully expend in 2022.

*Christine added that Morris County has a balance of \$6,000 to be used by June 2022*

➤ **Section 5310**

- **FY 2021 S5310**-Application will be released in 2022
- **FY 2020 S5310-State Committee Review scheduled for Friday February 11, 2022, at 9am-4:30pm.**
- **FY 2019 S5310 awards:**
  - ✓ Morris County: Operating funds \$125K federal (**please note, there is no local match requirement for this grant. The FTA (Federal Transportation Administration) has permitted specific grants under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) to be awarded at 100% Federal share**) and 1 (One) Standard Cutaway Rear Lift with 2 Accessible Securement Locations
- **FY 2018 S5310 awards:**
  - ✓ **Morris County:** Operating funds \$100,000 with a \$100,000 local match and 1(One) Standard Cutaway Rear Lift with 2 (Two) Accessible Securement Locations
  - ✓ **Township of Jefferson:** 1 (One) standard Cutaway with Rear Lift and 2 (Two) Accessible securement Locations
  - ✓ **Mount Olive:** Operating funds \$25,000 with a \$25,000 local match

**TNC**

- *Contract extension UNTIL December 31, 2022*
- *Approved TNC Pilot Program \$20,000 (NJT) /\$20,000 (County Match)*

**General Announcements**

*The Local Programs and Community Mobility department is requiring all sub-recipients to check their website for the following policies. These policies must be easily accessible for your riders and on agency letterhead.*

*Should you have any questions or concerns, or need assistance with policy development, please reach out to your local *Regional Program* and/or *Grant Administrator* or check the *S-RIDES* home page under "Technical Assistance".*

- *ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Complaint Policy*
- *ADA Complaint Form*
- *Reasonable Modification Policy*
- *Title VI non-Discrimination Policy*
- *Title VI Complaint Form*

*Christine added we are in the process of updating our Title VI Complaint form, and we are in compliance with the others.*

*If you have any questions e-mail Isabel or myself.*

### **New Business**

We hired an additional driver in December and started in January.

The federal level has changed the CDL (Commercial Driver's License) requirements. The individuals now must attend specific training companies to acquire their CDL license. This is a positive when you look at safety requirements. But it makes it difficult for the hiring process.

*Maria asked if this is for new CDL drivers only, or everyone with a CDL?*

*Christine yes new cdl drivers only.*

*Maria asked if we can offer the training in this area?*

*Christine replied no, there are too many regulations. But we do have a relationship with Morris County Workforce and Training Services that have training company connections.*

*Maria how many driver vacancies do we have now?*

*Christine 5.*

Marcy added that they now service Washington Township effective January 1, 2022 (Hackettstown, Chester, Long Valley and Mt. Olive) for shopping and physician appointments, providing the same service.

Diane stated that she made a 2020 5310 grant applications, and was asking if it was being reviewed? And there were no 2020 5310 invitations.

Christine said yes, 5310 are a year behind, and they are on fiscal year (covers 2 years) verses calendar years. The 5310 2020 application awards are being reviewed on February 11, 2022. And 2021 will be available in 2022.

Debra asked if services are available for residents in assisted living facilities for after hours? Does any transportation provide service to them?

Christine said no and will discuss further later in the meeting. We will come back to this in Public Comments

### **Old Business**

**MAPS** is currently operating at 75% capacity. And we anticipate, March 1, 2022, it will be 100% capacity.

### **TNC (Transportation Network Company)**

Morris County was approved to receive TNC (Transportation Network Company generic term for Uber/Lyft) Pilot Program \$20,000.00 NJT (New Jersey Transit) \$20,000.00 County match. The contract extension is until December 2022.

**MAPS** has started a pilot program. They contracted with Trans Options (non-provider) to offer Lyft rides to some MAPS consumers.

The requirements are:

- If **MAPS** approves them with a rider, they will schedule the rider with the service.
- Registered **MAPS** riders (seniors, or adults with a disability), must be ambulatory (no wheelchairs, and must be able to get in and out of a vehicle unassisted and must have a cell phone with text message capability for confirmation of ride.(this is for confirmations )
- This is not a requested service. **MAPS** makes the decision to offer this service
- Available currently *Monday to Friday*, 6:30am-5pm. Riders **cannot** request this service, if a ride cannot be completed by **MAPS**, then they will be offered to use form of transportation.

- We look to expand to holidays and weekend in the next phase, in the next quarter.

*This program is in sections:*

- Currently offered from 7:30am-5pm., so that someone at the *MAPS* office is available in case an issue develops and assist the rider.

We will meet with them next week to expand this service, so that *Trans Options* will have this availability and how to facilitate it.

- Holidays and weekends hours

After hours and early morning hours are more difficult and will be the third step of the

pilot

*Essex and Sussex Counties* have similar programs.

*Essex* is very successful because:

- Their provider is not County staffed, not County run
- *Essex* is mostly suburban/urban areas
- More people and more driver's availability

*Sussex County* also contracts *Trans Options*.

- Lack of drivers because it's a rural area

My concern with *Morris County* is not *Dover, Morristown, Parsippany*, more than likely the availability for these trips

I am concerned with *Jefferson, Butler, Washington Townships*. If we book a trip and drivers don't pick up. I don't want anyone stranded and able to call if there is an issue.

***This service is not a substitute for MAPS, but to expand what MAPS can do***

*Michelle* asked is this curbside to curbside or enter driveways?

*Christine* it would be up to the individual driver.

*Marc* if you get a request from a wheelchair bound customer would it be denied?

*Christine* this why this service currently is available during *MAPS* operating hours, we would determine if *MAPS* had a wheelchair accessibility vehicle available for this request.

If yes, we will provide service if not we will not be able to accommodate this customer at this time.

*Grace* asked if this service is for recreational trips?

*Christine* not at this time. It is one of our goals for 2022, and we have to have a recreational policy in place.

### **Public Comments**

*Christine* addressed *Debra's* question from earlier in the meeting:

*Transportation for residents in Assisted Living facilities.*

*Assisted Living Facilities* have *Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Nursing Home*.

*Residents that reside in the Independent Living side* are serviced.

*But the residents that are considered institutionalized assisted living side* are not.

*They might have transportation options through their long-term care services.*

*MAPS* doesn't provide this type of service. I think *DAR's* have the same policies.

*Debra* said she understands the constraints, maybe we can include this in the long range planning. She also suggested that the presentations at future meetings be shared with residents of facilities.

*Diane* suggested that the persons mentioned contact their medical provider and see what transportation they provide.

*Christine will e-mail the Transportation Plan committee with this concern.*

*We also need a Chairman and a Co-Chairman for this committee. We can have a nominating committee, or are there any volunteers? Please e-mail me by the end of this month*

*We are also recruiting new members by putting flyers in MAPS vehicles by the next two weeks. I would like riders. We meet five times a year. We hope to Hybrid future meetings*

*Pre COVID, we had a speaker/presentation at these MAPS CAC meetings. If anyone has ideas/requests, please get back to me by the end of this month, so we schedule for the April meeting. or I will assign 2 people to a committee to do this for me.*

*Louis NJTIPS is in search of an individual to be a companion to travel with him and see shows. Please reach out to me.*

*We are still offering classes and trips to individuals for travel training.*

*Diane added it is dangerous to accommodate persons with driveways because some are narrow and can cause damage to vehicles, and spotters are needed to back up buses.*

*Christine asked if DAR's are running at full capacity?*

*Diane 5 DAR yes, we are: shopping trips, mall, and we are waiting for Nutrition sites to open Michele Jefferson work programs, medicals and food shopping, no recreational trips, also waiting for Nutrition sites to open.*

*Grace Jefferson we went from 9 drivers to 3 since beginning of pandemic. We don't have clients that are ready to go out again they are still nervous.*

*Michele added the 3 drivers also are the office personnel.*

*Marcy Mt Olive we are at 100% capacity. We are not using the bus for shopping trips; they are individual. We also offer Quality of Life trips: hair salons, cemeteries, restaurants, shopping, and senior centers.*

*Christine added MAPS are only denying subscription trips for 3 time a week requests for the future.*

*Maria asked when will the auto cancellation be available?*

*Christine we will have an update by April 7.*

*Our next meeting will be hybrid.*

**Adjourned : 11:03am**

**Motion: M.P./M.I.**

**Next meeting: April 7, 2022**