

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 4, 2021**

Members Present

Maria Isaza
Matt Putts

Staff Present:

Janet Ackerman Jefferson DAR
Christine Hellyer Director of Special Transportation
Marcy Merola, SR Transportation Mt. Olive
Pat Petrillo Aging
Trish Rogalsky MAPS
Isabel Rojas NJ Transit
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

April 9, 2021 without *Marc Molde's* presence the approval of these minutes will be presented at Septembers meeting. Two corrections: Marc's name misspelled and remove Michelle she didn't attend.

Christine Hellyer MAPS

Thanked committee for agreeing to move meeting dates. And also thanked *Matt Putts* for providing *ZOOM* for the meeting.

Staff Report- Christine Hellyer

I am currently planning to schedule the *MAPS 2022 Public Hearing*, probably before the September 3, 2021 meeting. Last year our meeting was late, because our *SCDRTAP* application came out later due to *COVID*.

And currently our conference rooms are not open to the public.

I also want to see what NJ Transit guidance is with Public Hearings this year.

Please check your e-mails for updates.

We also want the MAPS CAC feedback for the *SCDRTAP* application.

MAPS is currently operating their buses at 75% capacity and minivans 50%.

We are currently deciding whether to go to full capacity. Employment Horizons is looking at July to have full capacity employment.

The denial rate (no openings in the availability) in the in the first two weeks of May about 10-12 per month, we are seeing an uptick in that.

At the last NJ Cost meeting it didn't seem other paratransit's were full capacity

Maria asked why we have denials? You didn't have capacity?

Christine: yes

Michelle- If some of MAPS requests service evenings/weekends do you count that as a denial?

Christine: yes

Christine added should we move forward and go full capacity we will use our Floodgate Program which auto-generates calls to our ridership that there has been a change.

Isabel added NJ Transit is running at full capacity, and ridership is low.

NJ Transit – Isabel Rojas

2022 5311 SCDRTAP applications are currently being worked on some revisions and finalizations. They will be out to the County sometime this month.

So, you can start looking into scheduling *Public Hearing* meeting dates.

We encourage if you prefer virtual meetings. We also suggest to advertise and get the word out.

NJ Transit is still deciding on their Public Hearing being in person or virtual.

2020 5310 Grant Applications are currently being scored.

2019 5310 Grant Award inclusion/non-inclusion letters will go out this month.

TNC (*Transportation Network Companies*) contract will be extended through December 2022, so you can attract interested parties.

The **TSA** (*Transportation Security Administration*) has extended their mask mandate from May 11, 2021 to Sept 13, 2021.

USDOT (*United States Department of Transportation*) Mask-up and Tool Kit campaign is aimed at educating travelers and transportation providers.

Link available in CHAT

New Business- Christine Hellyer

The *SCDRTAP* application will be received and will be due before our September meeting. We utilize most of this funding on salary/wage of *MAPS* drivers.

And most of that funding is used for drivers' salaries. They did receive a small increase with their settled contract, so the starting wage is about \$14.75 per hour.

Maria asked if *MAPS CAC* uses social media? I was thinking for hiring if that can be used?

Christine said that's a great suggestion, and we don't utilize it as much as we should. Any inquiries on *SCDRTAP*, that we should think we should keep in mind or consider doing differently when applying for that grant?

Mark asked if we pay for CDL training at *MAPS*, if a person is interested. And is that a cost to *MAPS*?

Christine: First, I would see if they were eligible at One-Stop-Career Center, it does training for *CDL* certification.

Currently you can get your learner's permit, and receive on the job training, at no cost to *MAPS*.

There was legislation to change that, but that was in *February*.

Old Business-Christine Hellyer

*The TNC (Transportation Network Companies) grants for shared ridership, similar to LYFT/Uber, I had a request for quote that I put on **Bid-Net.Direct** (an internet version of the newspaper that any company can see), but no replies.*

I also sent a second request for quote to Go-go Grandparent, Trans-Options and EZ-Ride and they are due June 18, 2021.

The way I applied for the grant was to have a third party administer the contract and be the scheduler and pay for it, with Uber/Lyft or other similar transportation providers. We would reimburse them for their administrative fee and UBER AND Lyft.

If I don't get any replies, after these 2 quotes, I will discuss with Kasey Errico, our Director of Human Services and NJ Transit, to see if I could remodel my grant request to have MAPS be the administrators, and do a Human Services bid.

Human Services: Juvenile Detention Center, Office of Temporary Assistance, Community Development, that might benefit from having a ride-share contract, and be bigger than just MAPS. I feel Human Services would benefit from it.

The extension of 2022 is to my benefit.

Isabel added you can make the changes, but give me an update on scopes and milestones.

Before talking to a company directly, we must go out to bid twice with no responses. If we go out to bid, I then might ask a member from MAPS CAC to sit on the review committee of the bids received.

This is a two-step process.

This will help us with our driver recruitment shortage. MAPS cdl drivers can continue to transport wheelchair accessible riders and move the others to this program.

CHTP (Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan).

I knew nothing about this, when I took over as Director three years ago.

This plan is supposed to be updated every 5 years. I was working on updating and COVID 19 hit.

It was last updated in 2013.

After reviewing it, I spoke to NJ Transit and I will be able to use carryover unused funds from SCDRTAP previous years to pay to outsource and contract a company.

I will still look at MAPS perspective.

My next step is to work it out with our replacement QPA Purchasing Agent coming on board shortly.

Isabel offered Christine support and assistance with this project.

Isabel said one issue was getting transportation providers to come to the table, and discuss where the needs are, where there are gaps, and bridge the gaps, within the County.

Maria how far in advance is this plan updated? And what happened in 2013.

Christine every 5 years. In 2013 it was updated. When I came on board, I couldn't find information on how it was being sustained. These programs and requirements are here for a reason.

We will have a plan on sustainability, and in five years when the next update comes I won't have to go out to contract again.

I also want to see how to get the DAR(Dial-a-Ride) in Morris County to attend the CHTP meeting.

Mt. Olive and Jefferson will really benefit, because they receive 5310 funding, to make sure it comes back to the CHTP plan.

I am hoping Trish and her staff who have a rapport with the DARS can fill that gap and persuade them to attend the meeting.

I reached out to Middlesex County that is using Rutgers, but I have to make sure its done properly.

Isabel added Warren County are going out to bid

Announcements

Marcy said they are looking to provide shopping trips for the seniors in July.

Michelle we currently have 3 full time employees.

Our 2 permanent and 4 on call drivers positions were eliminated.

Adjournment: 10:29am

Motion: M.I./M.P.

Next meeting:

September 3, 2021 at 10am.

More than likely it will be virtual at 10am. If you have any ideas for presentations please let me know.