

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Hybrid meeting  
April 6, 2023**

**CAC Members Present**

Maria Isaza  
Stephany Maldonado  
Marc Molde  
Nancy Toolen

**Staff Present:**

Christine Hellyer- Director of Special Transportation  
Marcy Merola- SR Transportation Mt. Olive  
Pat Petrillo- Aging  
Diane Pezzutti -5 DAR

**Guests**

Louis Hoffman Rutgers

**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, followed by roll call.

**II. *Approval of Minutes*  
February 2, 2023  
Motion: M.M./ S.M.**

**III. *Staff Report- Christine Hellyer***

*Patricia(Trish) Rogalsky*, MAPS Office Manager, retired February 28, 2023. She was with the County for 28 years.

The position is currently vacant, and I will have an update by June.

*Dawn Skrinak*, is currently the point person at MAPS.

We also filled the bilingual office clerk position. We filled that position with a driver for *MAPS*. It is now a clerk/driver position.

Stephany added she was happy that the gap was filled, and my clients have been pleased with that addition.

***General Announcements***

*SNAP* (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) program is currently renewing applications, and with the pandemic ending there will be a decrease in the minimum benefit of \$50. Shortly after our meeting Governor Murphy increased the minimum to \$95 eligible individuals.

If an individual is approved to receive the federal minimum payment or any amount less than \$95 New Jersey will add a supplemental payment, so the amount received will be \$95.

#### **IV. New Business**

We have been holding "Hybrid" meetings. And attendance was low. I propose that the next June meeting be virtual only.

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

I would appreciate it if you could please make an effort and attend our September meeting in person.

#### **V. Old Business**

1. **TNC** (Transportation Network Company) grant program continues to grow. We continue to utilize this service when our MAPS drivers call out. We are looking at the cancellation policy. Last year (the way our grant was written) Avenues in Motion charged a \$5 cancellation fee. Non-profit that 25cancellations: forgetting the ride was booked, or they would be late. We don't want our funding to cover just the \$5 cancellation fees. We are working on how we will move forward with repeat offenders abusing this service.
2. **SCDR TAP** contract is close to being executed, we had to make budget revision and we hope it to be finalized shortly. With this funding I am planning on purchasing back-up cameras and dashboard cameras for accident prevention and protection. We recently had an incident with a broken window on a vehicle. So, we now have MAPS vehicles parked in a lot with security cameras.
3. **Morris County** continues to support MAPS with capital funding projects. We are looking to purchase/replace 4 vehicles this year. We are hoping to get 2 mini- buses, that have the ability for 4 wheelchair securements, but they are flip seats, so when not in use it can accommodate 8 passengers. I don't know if it will be in 2023 or 2024. The cost of these vehicles has increased 30-40% from prior years. And 2 standard minivans, that didn't have circulation vents, (out of service since COVID), and plexiglass between driver/passenger. (There wasn't ample air condition circulation). We are looking to replace two standard minivans.

We also have a larger bus vehicle that needs service continually and difficult to replace: 5 or 6 wheelchair accessible

We are hoping to get 2 mini- buses, that have the ability for 4 wheelchair

securments, they are flip seats, so when not in use it can accommodate 8 passengers.

And replace our two standard minivans not wheelchair accessible.

I don't know if it will be in 2023 or 2034.

We must continue to meet the needs of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) population.

**MAPS is the wheelchair accessible transportation option**

**Voter registration** has been delayed. We are actively working to be current with this project.

Every MAPS registered rider or any rider with a change in address within the last two years is on the mailing list of about 1500. And moving forward new registrants will receive.

**Rutgers** has submitted a draft recommendation to me to review the **CHSTP** (Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan). They anticipate sharing with the Transportation Committee by the end of April. We will also share with MAPS CAC. Hopefully in May/June it will be completed.

Remember it is not just MAPS, yes, it is a part of it, but it is looking at all transportation in Morris County.

An outside entity was the right choice for this.

## **VI. Announcements**

**The Office on Aging** annual **Needs Assessment Survey** is currently available.

It's available as a survey monkey and hard copy.

This assists our Office in how we rank our future grants. For the past five years transportation ranked in the top three.

In 2021 it dropped due to COVID 19. In 2022 we thought it would go up, but it was in the top five.

I would also like to partner with Dial-a-Rides to have them available for their consumers. Although they are not "self-addressed" you can send them in bulk to us or we will arrange pick-up.

**New Transit effective** January 1, 2023, has a grant with EZ RIDE, that **offers a 50% discount for medical trips** provided through EZRyde4Life. program while funding lasts.

The membership based "**EZ RYDE4Life**" program uses Lyft and Uber to Provide rides for seniors without a smartphone.

Seniors call EZ Ride at 201-939-4242, option 4, to request a ride, and a Transportation Coordinator will send a Lyft or Uber car to take them where they need to go.

The program is available statewide and requires members to **register**, set up a transportation account using a credit or debit card, and then seniors can call when they need a ride. Riders pay the fare charged by Lyft or Uber and an administrative fee of \$2.50 per trip.

The discount is available to EZ Ryde4Life members participating in any **ONE** of the following programs:

1. **Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged & Disabled (PAAD) Program**
2. **Senior Gold prescription Discount Program**
3. Beneficiary of both **Medicaid and Medicare** programs

EZ Ride will provide a maximum of eight rides a month for medical purposes **ONLY. Dialysis patients are eligible for an additional eight rides a month.** Rides will be provided on a first come first served basis. For more **Information, please contact Kinga Skora, at 201-939-4242 ext. 131.**

**Louis Hoffman** added **Avenues in Motion** held a Municipal Transportation Forum for municipalities, on their perspectives on transportation and pedestrians in general.

I also am working with high schools in Jefferson, Hanover, Madison. We also had a meeting with Employment Horizons and DAWNcil on Disabilities Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).

DAWNcil will be holding its annual **FAMILY FUN DAY** on May 21, 2023.

I also put a transportation plan together in Highland Park, where people would walk or use transit to the local supermarket. The market recently closed, so I put together a list of other supermarkets in the area using a bus.

I will put a transportation plan together and I will be glad to do an actual trip with a group in Morris County via a bus trip.

Open to seniors and disabled and others in the community.

**Any of the plans must be on a New Jersey Transit route.**

**Christine** added there is a Morris County senior housing unit and their local market is too expensive, and currently MAPS does a shopping trip to

Shop Rite twice a month. I would like to explore this with you.

**Marc Molde added** DAWNcil will be holding its annual **FAMILY FUN DAY** on May 21, 2023, Central Park. There will be vendors, food trucks, entertainment, and activities for all.

**Adjourned : 10:49am**

**Motion: M.M./ S.M.**

**Next meeting June 1, 2023, virtual**