

Local Advisory Council (LAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

LAC Member Attendance

District One	Andre Bryant	Present
District Two	Tamara Perrin	Excused
District Three	James Jones	Present
District Four	Tammy Black	Present
District Five	Sabrina Simmons	Present
District Six	Yvonne Roundtree	Present
District Seven	Fayne Chennault	Present
DAAA	Rick Spivey	Present
DAAA	Anita Owen	Excused

Notes

This was a virtual meeting. Seven of Nine LAC members were in attendance.

Sixteen administrative staff members attended.

Thirteen community members were present

Announcements

The interpreter was unable to attend the meeting. If a transcript of the meeting is needed, please let Don Lozen know so he can make sure you get it.

Call to Order

Andre Bryant, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.





Opening Remarks/Chairperson

Mr. Bryant welcomed Michael Staley to DDOT and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Approval of the May 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve was initiated by James Jones. Seconded by Faye Chennault. Motion carried with no objections from committee members.

Chairperson's Report

Nothing to report.

DDOT Administrative Reports

A. Executive Director-Mikel Oglesby

Mr. Oglesby cited many changes made over the past three months.

- Launched 4 new electric buses into the fleet. Received a grant to purchase 2 more electric buses.
- Replacing 28 buses. 10 by December and to phase the others into the fleet during the first quarter of 2023.
- Bus shelters are being strategically placed.
- Rosa Parks doorways now have all the ADA features working properly.
- Hiring drivers-113 so far this year but have only retained 36.
- The “Reimagined” program is progressing to eventually develop the transit system that meets the needs of the citizenry.

B. Assistant Deputy Director of Administration-Maryann Walsh

Actively hiring drivers and managers for the Paratransit system.

C. Assistant Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance-Melvin Barkley

Thirty two operations personnel have taken the De-escalation training to help reduce conflict on the buses. Six new Road Supervisor were hired. This



should reduce incidents and complaints.

D. Manager of Paratransit-G. Michael Staley

Mr. Staley thanked everyone for the warm welcome to DDOT. He gave a brief summary of his experience which includes: Thirty-six years working in paratransit, primarily working for private companies and eighteen years of experience consulting. He hopes to hire managers to assist with the oversight of MetroLift by October 1st. DDOT will take full administrative oversight by January 1, 2023.

E. Chief of Transit Police-Ricky Brown

Hired one new officer but has need for several more. Managing safety concerns at Rosa Parks.

F. Manager of Planning and Scheduling- Steve Patrinick

Discussed the “Reimagined” program.

G. Safety Director- Richard Czeck

Stated that all ADA features on the entry doors to the Rosa Parks Transit Center have been updated and are working properly.

H. Maintenance Superintendent-Robert Granger

Two maintenance training instructors have been hired. Emphasis is on teaching mechanics the new technology found on the buses.

I. Maintenance Manager-Geo Joy

Working to make sure the electric buses are functioning properly and that the Twenty-eight diesel buses are appropriately brought into use.



J. Grants-Eunice Lovi

Submitted the MDOT application for Fiscal Year 24.

K. MetroLift Manager- Simone Moore

Taking applications for New Freedom in spite of the program to be completed by December 31st. Big Star Transit Company has started to provide services for MetroLift. Reservations should be made as early as possible, usually seven days in advance is the best, however, same day service is available.

L. ADA Coordinator- Don Lozen

Mr. Lozen read the report submitted to him by Riki Yamakura, Project Manager. DDOT was awarded \$7 million to obtain Hydrogen electric buses and infrastructure. The State Fair Terminal project-construction to begin soon accessibility being considered during each phase. The Coolidge Terminal project-the architectural and environment assessment continues.

Mr. Lozen stated that the city continues to work on ensuring the website is WCAG 2.0 compliant. Masks need to be worn on all transportation In spite of it being optional. The MetroLift app continues to be problematic, Sabrina Simmons is working with MetroLift to iron out issues. A mailing was sent to people who attend LAC meetings prior to 2020 to inform them of this meeting.



Old Business

No old business

New Business-LAC Member Questions

James Jones-District 3

Question: Last year he asked about the bus stop at 7 Mile and Ryan. It is a very dangerous stop. Traffic does not stop, and passes which makes for an unsafe situation. **Response:** Mr. Oglesby did go to the intersection to review. The plan is to evaluate all city bus stops with similar situations to determine a solution for all.

Yvonne Roundtree-District 6

Question: Concerned that more people need to get outside the city for doctor appointments. If New Freedom is phased out, what provisions are being made to help people get to their appointments. **Response:** New Freedom may be extended to ensure funds are spent and to develop an alternative to New Freedom. It is actively being discussed.

Rick Spivey-DAAA

Question: Requested information of how New Freedom is to work until the funds run out. **Response:** Mr. Oglesby explained the New Freedom program and it is current operation. He again discussed a need for a long-term solution.

Sabrina Simmons-District 5

Question: Ms. Simmons asked that DDOT investigate other forms of Paratransit



that could address county wide concerns for travel. She thought a combination of taxi, Uber, and Lyft could be used to travel outside the City of Detroit. She also mentioned that she has been working with Simone Moore and the app vendor to fix several issues. **Response:** Mr. Oglesby will have Mr. Staley and the Paratransit Administrative Staff to evaluate and figure out a solution.

Andre Bryant-District One

Question: Are drivers receiving sensitivity training? **Response:** Don Lozen stated all new drivers receive training. A Refresher Course was offered December 2020 and January-February 2021. **Question:** Are Transit Police able to monitor buses for safety. **Response:** Chief Brown stated that the program continues and will be expanded with more officers. **Question:** Are ADA concerns addressed at the RPTC. **Response:** Rich Czeck stated the center is assessed daily for all maintenance concerns. Presently, the ADA push buttons on the entry doors have been updated and are working properly.

Public Comments

Steve Handschu

Mr. Handschu had several comments related to concerns with the operations of MetroLift, from making a reservation and the problems associated with it, to Operational concerns. (i.e.) drivers. He also had issues with the Southfield fixed



route being inconsistent in operation and with several fixed drivers not doing their job. Mr. Oglesby met with him and other Representatives of the Federation of the Blind to discuss issues and concerns.

Jamie Junior

She asked why she needed a medical verification form for New Freedom if she is a MetroLift Rider. She was told she did not need another verification form. She also suggested that DDOT work on an electronic payment system for MetroLift.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by James Jones with support by Faye Chennault. The motion passed unanimously at 11:28 a.m.

The next meeting will be November 15, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Donald C. Lozen
Regulatory Compliance Officer-ADA

Andre Bryant
Chairperson, Local Advisory Council