



## Meeting Minutes

### Riders' Advisory Council February 11, 2021

#### In Attendance:

##### Riders / Public

Astamay Curtis  
Duretha Smith  
Kristen Fulton

##### RTA Staff

Cole McCarren  
Jason Quan

##### Partner Staff / Commissioners

Bruce Gartner  
Chris Wells

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#### 1. Approval of November 12, 2020 meeting minutes

The November 12, 2020 meeting minutes were approved without requiring any edits.

#### 2. RTA Announcements

- COVID-19 response updates
  - RTA is still disinfecting all vehicles and facilities nightly with hospital-grade disinfectant in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, following all local and state guidelines for mask usage, etc.
- Reintroduction of fares, for both bus and Mobility service, occurred for January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021
  - This included the originally planned GPT Mobility fare increase, which would have taken place back in October if we had been charging fares then
- RTA Leadership news
- November 1<sup>st</sup> service updates
  - Jason informed the group that Cristin Tolen has left RTA for a regional VP role with First Transit
  - Jason has left his position at Howard County and is RTA's new General Manager
  - Sue Poole is no longer Director of Marketing and Communication
  - Currently hiring a new safety/training lead, other positions within the agency

- Mobile Ticketing Launch
  - Going great – soft launched in February and have, to date, had 71 unique people purchase tickets
  - Active marketing, student sign-up features, and more launching next month (March)
  - Go on Transit App and try it out when you get a chance

### 3. RAC Announcements

- Applications will be sent out as usual with this set of minutes
- Looking in to getting future dates posted in all vehicles – but as always, these meetings take place the second Thursday evening of every February, May, August, and November.

### 4. Public Comment

- Chris shared a technical snafu where a Zoom meeting join code did not match up to tonight's meeting – RTA will look in to the posting in question
- Astamay inquired about the Ellicott City service changes that were mentioned last meeting
  - Bruce responded that Howard County is having ongoing budget discussions and currently determining project feasibility
  - Jason advised that the specific ideas are to transition the current 405 to an Ellicott City-focused circulator with no service to Columbia, and add a new route 505 that connects Columbia, Ellicott City and Catonsville, MD (in a routing that resembles the current 405 that operates Mon-Sat evenings and Sundays)
  - To accommodate new expansions in to Catonsville, more conversations need to be had and 402B and 407 extra weekday service would not be introduced back when other service gets reinstated
  - This service would connect directly in Catonsville with MTA core bus service
  - Public hearings and lots of outreach will need to happen for RTA and Howard County to pursue these service changes, so much more to come
- Kristen shared that 401 peak hour service are getting crowded
  - RTA will look in to this and current tripper (additional services) policy and protocol
- Astamay asked about the Ellicott City Walmart stop
  - Jason advised that no final determinations have been made yet, but that RTA is still evaluating all options
  - We still prefer the stop being away from the high-traffic area with lots of carts and pedestrians, and that a county road with county right-of-way makes it possible to add a trash can, bench, and other amenities to the stop
- Astamay asked about the point raised last meeting – that changes be made to Mobility service drop-off policy
  - Jason advised that no further conversations have been had on that subject, due to difficulties presented in regard to how Mobility services must compare to fixed-route services available to the public

## 5. Adjournment

### Future Meeting Dates:

Next Commission Meeting –

Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, 1:00PM ([meetings.transitRTA.com/CMTMC](https://meetings.transitRTA.com/CMTMC))

Next RAC Meeting –

Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6:00PM ([meetings.transitRTA.com/RAC](https://meetings.transitRTA.com/RAC))

Frequently used acronyms

RTA	Regional Transportation Agency
RAC	Riders Advisory Council
TDP	Transit Development Plan