



MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the Central Maryland Transportation & Mobility Commission and the Central Maryland Transportation & Mobility Consortium

March 23, 2021

Allen Cornell called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Present were:

Commissioner Members:

Allen Cornell (Chair)
Judith Davis (Vice Chair)
John Spencer
Michael Dyer
Robert Love
Christine Wells
Ron Skotz
Claudia Barber

Staff:

Jason Quan, RTA
Andrew Johnson, RTA
Stephanie Dittman, RTA
Shawn O'Meara, RTA
Victor Jimenez, RTA
Cole McCarren, RTA
Gabrielle Tibbs, RTA
Cristin Tolen, First Transit
Bruce Gartner, Howard County
Allison Calkins, Howard County
Anthony Foster, Prince George's County
Ramond Robinson, Anne Arundel County
Astamay Curtis, RAC Chair

Commissioners Not Present:

1. Welcome – Allen Cornell

2. Open Public Comment Period

No comments were provided during the open public comment period.

3. Approval of the December 8, Joint Meeting of the Central Maryland Transportation & Mobility Commission and the Central Maryland Transportation & Mobility Consortium Meeting Minutes.

The December 8, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

4. Review of RAC meeting minutes from February 11, 2021

Astamay Curtis provided a report, based on the February 11, 2021 draft meeting minutes. (see attachment).

The February 11, 2021 RAC meeting minutes will be reviewed for approval at the May 13, 2021 RAC meeting.

5. General Managers Report

Jason Quan gave the (December 2020 – February 2021) General Manager’s report (see attachment).

- Triennial Review completed with zero findings
- Two staff members (Diane Adams Grants and Compliance Manager and Tonya Fly-Heartless Fixed Route Operator) passed away, due to medically related factors, not COVID-19 related.
- 13 employees have tested positive to COVID-19
- Staff are independently receiving the COVID-19 vaccinations
- Safety Lead and dedicated Classroom trainer positions hired from within for the Safety department. The HR Coordinator position was also hired from within. All three filled positions left vacancies as Road Supervisors and Dispatchers
- Sue Poole is no longer with RTA. Currently her work is being redistributed with the concept idea to replace the position as a Marketing Outreach Coordination position.
- Driver vacancies are not creating a large OT expense
- Eleven (11) new transit buses have been ordered, to replace older buses, with production expected early 2022. Funding for the 11 buses comes from; the Annual Transportation application from the State (6 buses), the Bus & Bus Facilities Grant (3 buses), the VW Grant (2 buses). Local match will be required.
- Funding for the 6 new Sedans (primarily for Paratransit Services) are from local dollar funding. Additionally there are some savings funds in our current budget for the current fiscal year along with any surplus grant money from the 11 new buses.
- The original battery warranty expiration dates for the three Electric Buses have been re-set due to multiple battery problems.
- Soft launch occurred in February of the mobile ticketing app through Token Transit. Integration of the Mobile Ticketing App., with the Transit App., offering planning trips, tracking your bus and purchasing fare tickets available in one user interface. Official launch this week of the mobile ticketing app.

6. FY 2021 Financial Forecast

Shawn O’Meara provided information on the FY 2021 Financial Forecast

- Income has been greatly impacted, 65% of budget
- Budgeted subsidy 15.7 Million, closed at 14.1 Million, with a 10 % difference
- Advertising revenue has exceeded the budget by 94%. The advertising budget was for \$91,000. Anticipated to end the year at \$118,000

7. FY 2022 Draft Budget

Shawn O’Meara provided an overview of the FY2022 Draft Budget.

- There was discussion regarding the Draft Budget

- Revenue fare is 40% of the FY21 budget, based on current ridership
- Expenses budgeted to increase less than 1%
- Net income will increase the subsidy by 4.5%
- Expense for Cab transportation reduced due to ridership decrease. Senior Centers remain temporarily closed.
- Anticipate July 1st as the ridership restart date for full ridership
- Discussion on the projected fuel costs of \$2.50 per mile, reduced to \$2.35 per mile based on the expense that has been lower than projected
- The Commission budget approval will be voted on at the June meeting, scheduled for 1 week earlier.

8. Service Restoration

Andrew Johnson provided updates for the service restoration.

- Routes 406 and 414 to be reinstated July 7th, providing service to business areas and Howard Community College. Service hours to remain 6:40am – 9:15pm

9. July service change

Jason Quan and Cole McCarren provided an overview for the July service change

- The change will modify and restructure routes
- Possible April Commission meeting to be held for approval to proceed to the scheduling of a full Public Hearing
- Anticipate service to be provided from Ellicott City to Catonsville. Outreach needed with Baltimore County and MTA, requiring a lot of coordination and service re-alignment

10. Mobile Ticketing

Cole McCarren provided information on the Mobile ticketing

- The mobile ticketing app. has been integrated with Transit app.
- Transit App., displays the ticketing bar on the bottom of the screen to “buy ticket”. You will see the RTA logo and the different fare products available to purchase.
- Riders show their cell phone screen to the driver when boarding the bus.
- Single ride fare purchase, is valid for 90 minutes from when “activate now” timer starts. Once the timer is activated it cannot be stopped. The pulsating timer disappears from the phone screen after 90 minutes.
- Students are required to apply through Transit App., for qualified verification approval to receive the student discount
- RTA is the only Transit App. /Token Transit ticketing App. to offer trip planner integration in the state of Maryland.
- Purchases for MTA routes are not available through RTA, with purchasing required through the Charm Pass app.

11. Baltimore Regional Plan

Bruce Gartner presented the Baltimore Regional Plan

- MTA adopted a plan October 2020 for the Central Maryland Region. The 25-year plan is for improving public transportation in Central Maryland.

- This year MTA & local jurisdictions will focus on 2 of the 30 Corridors. Ramond Robinson was the Commissioner of the Commission and Bruce Gartner was staffed to Howard County
- Corridor 16, within Howard County, will provide service from Ellicott City to the Convention Center, providing options to expand Transit
- MTA has a schedule for the potential launch for Outreach in mid-April. Commissioners Allen Cornell and Chris Wells in addition to Astamay Curtis will be part of the MTA stateholder group.
- Further discussion ensued regarding the information in the packet.

Mike Dyer opened discussion on if there is a need for the Commission to take any type of position regarding Maglev. The Maglev service will not affect services provided by RTA transportation primarily due to the cost of the fare and the available stops offered by the proposed alternative travel. The DEIS deadline in May, will provide a lot of points to be raised after the report of comments becomes available. The final DEIS will be in the Fall. If it takes money away from public transit would be a hook to oppose it. Although privately funded, the Feds have already put in Millions of dollars in funding for the study. The purpose of the project is to provide transportation from DC to New York City, both tunnel and elevated. It was noted that the proposed project would wipe out half of the Greenbelt forest reserve.

12. Adjournment

Future Meeting Dates:

Place holder for Service Change Proposals Commission Meeting, April 20th, 1:00PM

Next Commission Meeting – Tuesday, June 22nd, 1:00PM, RTA Administrative Office

RAC Meeting – May 21st, 6:00PM, Howard County Public Library, Central Branch, Warfield Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.

Acronyms

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| AAC | Anne Arundel County |
| PGC | Prince George's County |
| RTA | Regional Transportation Agency |
| RAC | Riders Advisory Council |
| TDP | Transit Development Plan |
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