



MINUTES

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

June 28, 2022

Allen Cornell called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Present were:

Commissioner Members:

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

Staff:

Josh Drucker, RTA
Gabrielle Tibbs, RTA
Shawn O'Meara, RTA
Preston Reed, RTA
Bruce Gartner, Howard County
Astamay Curtis, RAC Chair

Commissioners Not Present:

Robert Love

Carrie Anderson-Watters, Howard County
Vic Weissberg, Prince George's County

1. Welcome – Allen Cornell

2. Open Public Comment Period – None

3. Proposed Draft FY2023 Budget Recommendation was unanimously approved by all CMTMC partners

- Shawn O'Meara provided revenue and revenue assumptions updates that have occurred since the last CMTMC meeting on May 17th:
 - Based on the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecast released on June 7th, RTA's fuel expense was increased by 60% for 2022 and 2023
 - Fare-free bus ride holiday was extended from three months to four months covering periods from September to December (Fixed Route only)
 - Increased advertising revenue that reflects the forecast for FY 22, was increased by 55%

- Increased paratransit revenue by \$137,000 to reflect the FY 22 actuals forecast
- Bruce Gartner commented that Howard County will apply Federal ARP funds to make sure that the increases do not result in a partner-share going up for the new fiscal year

4. Free-Fare Holiday – Bruce Gartner

- The free-fare campaign has been extended to the end of the calendar year
 - It does not include paratransit rides
 - Objective is to increase ridership service in November

5. GM Report – Joshua Drucker

- **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- New Payroll Administrator, Ms. Latoya Johnson.
- The Safety and Training Manager, Ms. Tammie Noupa, has left the RTA
- Recruitment efforts are still on-going for fixed route (CDL) drivers, part-time Customer Service Representatives (CSRs), a Grants and Procurement Specialist, a Planning and Special Project Manager, and a Classroom Trainer/Instructor
 - Hiring for a Classroom Trainer/Instructor will be put on hold until the position of Safety and Training Manager has been filled
 - a. Gabrielle Tibbs noted that the CDL training program is uninterrupted by the vacant position, and continues to move forward with recruitment of CDL trainees, training, MVA certification appointments, and assignment as RTA fixed-route drivers
 - The next training class is scheduled for August
 - Allen stressed that all efforts must be implemented to recruit and retain qualified CDL drivers
 - a. Ron Skotz noted that the competition to recruit CDL drivers is very intense – noting that Allied Trucking has outdoor postings offering a starting salary of \$30 per hour
- Current vacancies are as follows:
 - Administration – 1
 - Call Center – 2
 - Drivers – 22
 - Finance – 1
 - Safety – 2

- **EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY**

- RTA is planning a day of appreciation for its employees
 - Employees would report to work as usual, and take a short break to grab some food, snacks, etc.

- a. The event will be catered
- b. A portion of the event will focus on ‘appreciation’ awards - thanking employees for their various years of service

- **SERVICE**

- Monthly ridership has been averaging 50,000 one-way trips.
- FY2022 fixed route ridership to reach 600,000 one-way trips. This accounts for approximately 75% of our pre-covid fixed route ridership levels with service levels between 19 and 24 percent.
- FY2022 paratransit ridership to reach 60,000 one-way trips and also accounts for approximately 75% of our pre-covid paratransit levels.
- On July 10th, RTA will be restoring the services that were reduced in February due to shortage of drivers.
 - This restoration includes:
 - a. An increase for early morning and evening services on routes 301, 403, 404, and 405
 - b. Reinstatement of route 406
 - c. Bringing back the all-day hourly frequency for route 503
- New vehicles
 - 6 new Toyota Sedans are now in Paratransit service
 - 11 new fixed-route buses are scheduled to arrive in August-September timeframe
 - 9 new paratransit buses are scheduled to arrive this Fall
 - Allen noted that he was not pleased with the 70% on time statistics, and would like for RTA improve
 - a. Joshua noted that the goal is 100% on time
 - b. Bruce noted that there has been discussions in the region (i.e. MTA, Ridershare, etc.) to develop a region-wide on-time performance standard, which is typically set at 75%
 - Ron Skotz noted that ‘early arrival’ is also an issue, and should be addressed as well
 - Joshua noted that RTA has plans to improve both late arrivals and early arrivals

- **MAINTENANCE**

- Preparing buses for the summer.
- Road Calls
 - a. Charging issues

- b. Starting issues
- c. Power loss issues
- d. Coolant leaks
- e. Passenger door issues
- f. Exhaust leaks
- g. Air Brake Valve issues
- h. Total road calls for the fiscal year were 370
 - i. 121 of the road calls were towed

- **PLANNING AND OUTREACH**

- Mobile Ticketing Project
 - Utilized an MTA “STIG” grant to purchase hardware that will electronically validate mobile tickets purchased by riders – reducing fraud and making it easier on our operators.
 - These validators will also open up the future ability to accept other fare products (like other products with barcodes, mobile wallets and credit/debit cards, etc.)
 - FY22 Gross Sales approximately \$91,000 (26% of total fare box revenue)
 - a. Christine Wells wanted to know how does this 26% compared to other transit agencies
- Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) Project
 - Majority of fleet up and running and providing good historical data
 - FTA validation process ongoing
- Automatic Stop Announcement
 - Pilot Program in 2 vehicles by the end of December 2022
 - a. J suggested looking at using similar technology at major transit hubs – which announce and/or display when a given bus is arriving (it is a consideration for those who do not use RTA’s transit app)
- Live vehicle crowding information is ready to be published on passenger facing applications

- **SAFETY**

- RTA experienced 3 preventable vehicle accidents, 7 non-preventable accidents, and 3 workers comp injury during the quarter so far.
 - Preventable Vehicle Accident Summary
 - a. RTA operator was involved in an accident with the vehicle’s bike rack (no injuries)
 - b. RTA operator accidentally made a turn too tight and swiped another vehicle (no injuries)

- c. RTA operator accidentally hit the door of another RTA vehicle in the lot. The second vehicle was conducting a pre-trip inspection (no injuries)
- Non-Preventable Accident Summary
 - a. 5 – RTA vehicle side-swiped
 - b. 2 – RTA vehicle rear ended
 - c. 0 – Sleeping passenger fell out of seat
 - d. 0 – Passenger slipped on last step of vehicle
- RTA experienced 0 major passenger incident
- RTA experienced 1 non-major passenger incident
 - a. A passenger pulled hard on a handrail and the handrail fell on the passengers head.

6. RAC Minutes – Astamay Curtis

- Astamay commented that she received the minutes late, which did not allow her enough time to prepare a presentation

7. Next Commission Meeting (9/27/2022) – Joshua Drucker

8. Adjournment

Future Meeting:

Next Regular Commission Meeting – Tuesday, September 27th, 1:00PM

RAC Meeting – TBD, 6:00PM, via Zoom

Acronyms

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