

**ACPD and APAC Joint Committee Meeting
July 12, 2022 – Time: 10:00 am – 12:15 pm
Microsoft Teams Remote Meeting**

Minutes

Welcome, Meeting Protocol, Agenda Review

Jody Erikson, APAC Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She provided the welcome, meeting protocol and agenda review.

Roll Call - In attendance

1. Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities:
Brenda Carney, Jamie Lewis (Chair), Earl Lee, Kristen Trustman, Greg Martinez
2. Access-a-Ride Paratransit Advisory Committee – Jody Erikson, Facilitator
Brenda Demattio (Laradon), Lindsey Dent (Global Down Syndrome), Tex Elam, Jennifer Fires (Rocky Mountain Human Services), Julie Jennings, Melisa Mascarenas (Shalom/Denver), Merv Martin, Dawn Russell (ADAPT), Craig Towler (Center for People with Disabilities), Cynde Vaughn
3. RTD Board Members:
Kate Williams
4. RTD Staff:
Larry Buter; Eric Farrington; Patrick Meester; Paul Hamilton; Gretchen Vidergar; Henry Stoppolecamp; Karl Ballard; Gabe Christie; Michael Davies; Tameka McMillan; Carl Green; Christopher Quinn; William 'Bill' Sirois; Farrah Champliss; Erin Vallejos; Michelle Murz-Hutchingson; Dave Jensen; Barbara McManus
5. Contracted Staff:
Marcellinus Andrew, First Transit; Al Klepadlo, MV; Joey Camp, Lisa Ford and Sarah Meredith, Transdev; Ty Coleman, Via; Sarah Bohar, MTM; Brenda Romero, Via Mobility
6. Others and Public:
Tom Quinlan, Streetwise

Safety Moment – Gabe Christie, RTD ADA Manager

Gabe Christie, RTD ADA Manager, extolled the attendees to wear sunscreen throughout the summer, and to take note of the signs of heat stroke when outside.

Public Comments

Tom Quinlan, Streetwise Presenter, shared that persons with disabilities often cannot simply get to cooler areas and to plan for heat concerns prior to travel.

Access-a-Ride Paratransit Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

1. Updates for ACPD Committee:

a. RTD Wayfinding Improvement Survey and Focus Groups

Gabe Christie, ADA Manager, Civil Rights Division provided an update on the current status of the Wayfinding Improvement Survey and Focus Group Sessions. Gabe stated that the survey has been out for approximately 3 weeks and had been completed approximately 20 times. Gabe also stated that there has been minimal interest in Focus Group participation and has asked committee members to take the survey, sign up for focus groups, and distribute the survey and focus group sign up materials to members of the community. Jamie Lewis asked for the materials to be distributed following the meeting to which Gabe stated he would redistribute the survey.

b. Zero Fare for Better Air

Michael Davies, Government Relations Officer, Public Relations, provided an update on the upcoming August Zero Fare for Better Air. Michael stated that Zero Fare started with the Accountability committee recommendations made to RTD. The Accountability committee recommended that RTD use federal funding to support zero fare transit – which RTD pushed back on as the funding is limited to one time funding, which is to provide support for lost fares. RTD stated that it would look at more measured approaches and used the Bay Area Rapid Transit's Spare the Air Days as a model for the Zero Fare for Better Air Project.

In support of Governor Polis' air quality budget, the state legislature passed a bill in May 2022, which earmarked grant funding for transportation departments across the state to provide at least 30 days of free transit through the Energy Office . RTD is responsible for 20% of the funding of the 30 days of service. On June 29-30 RTD held stakeholder meetings to inform partners about this upcoming zero fare program. During the month of July RTD has and will continue to advertise the program. Regular service will return at the close of August – with fare

collection returning in September. There are few examples of agencies like RTD experimenting with zero fare transit so this will be a novel experience. Michael highlighted the importance of zero fare as an experiment to understand the positives and negatives of the zero fare experience. Funding is available for 2023 and RTD will determine if it would like to continue the program following the close of the program.

Earl Lee asked if Zero Fare would extend to Access-a-Ride. Michael Stated that Access-a-Ride is included. Earl also asked if the Uber connection would be covered as well. Larry Buter stated that Access-a-Cab customers will have the first \$2 of the trip covered but would be responsible for any amount over \$14. Uber customers will be responsible for any amount over \$22 on the Uber. Jamie Lewis asked if this program is effective and fixed route busses are over full is RTD able to provide back-up/ extra buses and then report that need to the state? Michael stated that RTD was clear regarding its challenges with operator staffing and its ability to support surging demand. RTD will have a limited ability to provide extra buses, but it will be able to address high demand and track the demand. RTD will produce a November 1 report to the State Energy Office regarding the impact of zero fare and subsequent policy challenges. Bus Passengers will be counted via automatic passenger counters on the fixed route buses. Jamie asked what would happen if someone purchased an august ride pass; Michael stated that RTD is limiting the ability to acquire those passes and will honor that pass through the month of September.

2. Safety Office Update

Karl Ballard, Lieutenant, RTD Transit Police did not have anything specific regarding the safety office. Lt. Ballard stated that he and the safety office are prepared to field safety questions and ensure safety on the service. RTD Transit police will not be changing their methods and will be enforcing the customer code of conduct. Lt. Ballard recommend that anyone who observes any concerning activity to notify RTD Transit Police. Lt. Ballard recommended the RTD Transit Watch App as a way to provide reports to RTD Transit police.

Lt. Ballard provided an update on the value of the IMPACT Teams RTD has implemented. RTD Transit police became more proactive and build partnerships with rail, bus, and local law enforcement to learn more about the operations as to support them better. The mental health and homelessness support provided has been integral – as provided by RTDs’ four mental health clinicians. There has also been more interest in partnering with RTD including the desire of Panasonic to collaborate to ensure and maintain the safety of Pena Station.

Tameka McMillan, ADA Investigator, asked if there are any plans to deal with the transient population that has begun living in the buses. Lt. Ballard stated that the Transit Police are attempting to educate the public on the code of conduct, and he would ask for patience as they attempt to familiarize everyone with the expectations. Earl Lee has stated that he has used the transit app and Transit police were not able to respond in many separate occasions and that operators are expected to handle some situations themselves. Lt. Ballard stated that the end of the line counties and municipalities has been contacted by RTD. RTD has created a contact list



to facilitate easy collaboration between the municipalities and has informed them that they will be needed to support the Zero Fare initiative. Jamie Lewis stated that the transit police need more funding. Jamie also stated that operators are not allowed to call 911 and he finds that concerning and would like additional information at the next meeting.

3. Operator Training

Farrah Champliss, , stated that operators are instructed to place large items in the large item area which is located to the right of the securement area. This extra space is designed for large items and can be anything except for household goods, Lime\Lyft scooters, or hazardous materials, as long as it can be secured to ensure the safety of other passengers.

Earl Lee stated that this information was not sufficient to answer his question and asked if garden carts were allowed or carts piled high with items. Farrah stated that any object brought into the area must have breaks and must fit into the securement area. Jamie Lewis recommended that a reminder be sent out to operators, to remind them of what is and is not allowed in the area. Farrah also stated that alerts are put out every couple of months regarding the extra space provided; she also stated that operator training is being provided on how to handle situations in a non-violent manner.

Other Matters

Streetwise & Public Transportation

Tom Quinlan provided a presentation on streetwise, a program which supports persons with disabilities as they work to get back onto public transit. Mr. Quinlan went over several regularly encountered scenarios. Mr. Quinlan provided his contact information as well as his website for anyone with questions.

Next Meetings:

APAC	ACPD	JOINT	STEERING
May 10	May 19	July 12	June 14
September 13	September 22	November 8	October 12

Closing Comments/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.