

Meeting Notes of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Transit Advisory Committee

May 10, 2018, 1:00pm, JWO Transit Center

TAC members: George Touloumtzis (presided)

RCC members: Rachel Fitchenbaum, Linda Gralenski

Public Guests: Megan Rhodes, Ryan O'Donnell, Elizabeth Quirk

FRTA/First Transit Staff: Molly Morin

1. Introductions

G. Touloumtzis convened the meeting at 1:00pm. A round of introductions followed.

2. Review meeting minutes and notes

Due to lack of quorum, minutes could not be endorsed.

3. Discussion on FY19 Funding Outlook and Support

G. Touloumtzis presented a summary of FRTA's current funding situation. M. Morin explained that the proposed changes to fixed and demand response services are designed to reduce costs while keeping as much service as possible.

R. O'Donnell asked when was the last time the fares were increased and M. Morin explained that several years ago all routes went to a flat \$1.25.

Elizabeth asked about status of funding for the new maintenance garage and M. Morin said that the project is in process but still needs funding as does the weekend service.

4. Updated Transportation Inventory

G. Touloumtzis passed out an updated Transportation Inventory, which included 2 new additions (DAV and MassGeneral).

5. Review of TAC By-Laws

G. Touloumtzis explained that the TAC By-Laws have been revised to include a provision that creates the ability to remove members from the Committee.

6. Regional Coordinating Council Topics

R. Fitchenbaum talked about travel training available for organizations. FRTA staff attended a training session on how to conduct travel training. R. Fitchenbaum also described the MassMobility Conference that was held on April 11, 2018. Finally, R. Fitchenbaum described a volunteer driver program that is in Keene, NH and that the Community Transit Grant program is currently accepting grant applications.

7. Public Comments

M. Rhodes asked about the status of the New Freedom Shuttle. M. Morin explained that May 11, 2018 was going to be the last day of operation. There were insufficient riders to keep operating the van, but the pass program is very popular. Through the New Freedom Program, the FRTA learned that one of the major limiting factors from people using the bus system was cost, not availability.

Elizabeth asked if people on SSI can get reduced fares. M. Morin replied that she's not sure and will investigate.

R. Fitchenbaum mentioned that MassDOT is releasing its CIP for public comment.

G. Touloumtzis said that the next meeting will be July 12, 2018 at 1:00 in the JW Olver Transit Center.

Respectfully submitted by

Megan Rhodes

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