

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

10:15 a.m.

Quincy Street Station

Committee Members present: Deborah Dawkins, Shelby Fry, Maria Ruiz, Libby Adams, Brian Snodderly, Mike Nolting, and Anthony Fadale.

Committee Members absent: Nancy Johnson, Dennis Tenpenny, Mark Webb, Mary Thomas, and Linda Kehres.

TMTA Staff present: Al Bradley, Elizabeth Manson and Mike Spadafore.

The meeting was called to order by Al Bradley at 10:17 a.m. Guest Shyla Mason with Community Resource Council was present. There were no other guests present or public comment offered.

There were no corrections to the prior minutes.

Mr. Bradley discussed the probability of the upcoming winter storm. Mr. Bradley announced agencies may now email Topeka Metro at emergencyclosings@topekametro.org or call 783-7000 option #2 to report facility closures or delays.

Elizabeth Manson asked the committee members for recommendations/suggestions for anyone who does Braille. Currently Topeka Metro uses the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) but would like a few other options in case we ever get in a bind with RCIL. Shelby Fry suggested contacted Envision in Wichita. Anthony Fadale stated that this coming late February/early March the state may have a translation/ interpreting service that may be open to agencies. He will keep Topeka Metro updated. Mike Spadafore suggested contacting Martha Gabehart at the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC).

Mr. Bradley announced Topeka Metro soft launched Double Map software for the fixed route bus routes on December 30th. Double Map allows passengers to see bus stop arrival times and where the bus currently is on a particular route. Passengers can set up alerts and reminders through the app for specific bus stop arrival reminders. Mr. Fadale inquired as to the ADA specifics of the app for visually and/or hearing-impaired individuals. Mr. Spadafore will follow up with Topeka Metro Director of Planning, Edwin Rothrock, to obtain that information.

Mr. Bradley announced passengers can access Wi-Fi while riding the fixed route buses. Up until recently, public access to Wi-Fi has only been offered in the Quincy Street Station lobby.

Ms. Fry asked what feedback Topeka Metro has received as a result of the route eliminations that took place in December. Mr. Bradley answered relatively few; most passengers have just adjusted their schedule.

Mr. Bradley presented the November 2019 ridership report. Fixed route ridership was up .1% compared to last year. Lift ridership increased by 7.0% over last year, with no increase to the total number of revenue hours.

Libby Adams asked for suggestions that could help the Topeka Rescue Mission assist individuals in getting to Topeka Metro to get their Reduced Fare ID at a lower cost than providing the qualified person with a full fare 24-hour pass. The Rescue Mission has the Mobile ID unit coming once a week; however, they continually

qualify individuals daily. Ms. Fry suggested Topeka Metro partnering with the Rescue Mission and have a permanent ID unit placed at the Rescue Mission. Maria Ruiz suggested the Rescue Mission schedule the Mobile ID unit to visit twice a week. Mr. Bradley suggested allowing the passenger to use the reduced fare bus pass along with the completed application in lieu of the reduced fare ID for the purpose of coming to Quincy Street Station to get their actual reduced fare ID. Mr. Bradley will take these suggestions to the general manager.

Mr. Bradley discussed various upcoming events at Topeka Metro:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/20 – Limited Holiday Service
- President’s Day 2/17 – Regular service
- Daylight Savings Time Begins 3/8

Mr. Spadafore announced he has been chosen to be one of two Mobility Champions. He will be working with the mobility manager in Wisconsin and the National Center to connect youths with disabilities via transportation. Mr. Spadafore and Martha Gabehart with KCDC submitted an application to a national competition to be awarded an Access to Healthcare in Transit meeting. The winner of the competition should be announced soon. Mr. Spadafore is currently working on putting together a transit summit to bring together agencies that rely on transit to discuss transit issues as a group.

Upcoming meetings for 2020 are scheduled as follows at **10:15 a.m. at QSS:**

- **Wednesday, March 11th**
- **Wednesday, May 13th**
- **Wednesday, July 8th**
- **Wednesday, September 9th**
- **Wednesday, November 11th**

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Manson
Topeka Metro Operations Assistant