

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

**10:15 a.m.**

**Quincy Street Station via Zoom**

Committee Members present: Nancy Johnson, Anthony Fadale, and Libby Adams.

Committee Members absent: Deborah Dawkins, Mary Thomas, Marty Winans, Brian Snodderly, Mike Nolting, and Mark Webb.

TMTA Staff present: Al Bradley

The meeting was called to order by Al Bradley at 10:15 a.m. There were no other guests present or public comment offered.

There were no corrections to the prior minutes.

Mr. Bradley announced beginning September 7, 2021, Topeka Metro would no longer provide free disposable face masks to passengers. Our operators and staff are currently educating passengers, so they are prepared to have their own mask. If a passenger does not have a mask, they will not be allowed to ride the bus or enter our facilities. Topeka Metro will continue to follow the Transportation Safety Administration Directive of May 12, 2021, that requires masks be worn in all transit vehicles and facilities. We will continue to monitor and implement safety protocols and recommendations as directed by the Governor, public health and transportation authorities, and local leaders to ensure the safety and well-being of our employees, our customers, and our community.

Mr. Bradley announced Topeka Metro has purchased 2 new Lone Star Promaster 1500 paratransit vans. One will be leased to Capitol City Transportation (CCT) as a replacement for the MV-1, which is now out of service. The other one will remain at Topeka Metro but will be used as a back-up for the leased van CCT has when it's down for maintenance. There are two wheelchair securements, but if the wheelchair or passenger is fairly large, only one might fit. There are five ambulatory seats in back and one up beside the driver. These can be used for ambulatory passengers, PCA's, and escorts.

Mr. Bradley asked the agency members to help remind their staff of the importance of advising scheduling when there is a change in mobility status with their clients. Mr. Bradley explained that a passenger's mobility status may affect the route or vehicle they are assigned to. If Topeka Metro has incorrect information, the bus could show up and already have all its wheelchair securement locations filled. In addition, Mr. Bradley asked the agency members to suggest their clients contact our customer service or check our website if they feel their mobility device may be too large for our vehicles. We can make arrangements to come check the passenger's mobility device to ensure transportation. Many 3-wheeled scooters are designed for internal usage although many people use them outdoors. Topeka Metro will do its best to secure these types of mobility aids. Passengers have the option of transferring to a bus seat during transport rather than remaining in their scooter. The scooter must still be secured even if the passenger transfers to a bus seat.

Mr. Bradley stated we have had an increase of passengers requesting a free ride to Quincy Street Station to process their reduced fare application. Mr. Bradley stated the passenger must have appropriate fare to ride the bus, an application is not a pass to ride for free.

Mr. Bradley presented the July 2021 ridership report. Fixed route ridership is down 20.6%. Lift ridership is up by 47.4% compared to last year.

Ms. Bradley discussed various upcoming events at Topeka Metro:

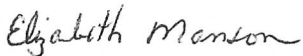
- Book Mobile – Every Thursday 11:30-1:30
- Board of Directors Committee Meeting 9/10
- Board of Directors Meeting 9/20
- Board of Directors Committee Meeting 10/8
- Board of Directors Meeting 10/18
- Board of Directors Committee Meeting 11/5

Upcoming meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows at **10:15 a.m. at QSS or via zoom:**

- **Wednesday, November 10th**  
(Members will need to schedule the 2022 meetings)

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Manson  
Topeka Metro Operations Assistant