

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Attendance

Roger Jones	Carolyn O'Brien	Verna P. Shaw	Rodger Simmons
Mark Edwards	Mike Begler	Ginger Monsted	Sherry Welsh
Cathy Long	Jeff Iseman	Liz Pabon	Janitza Nguyen
Miguel Aciri-Rodriguez			

Meeting held @ 10:30am via ZOOM

June 2021 minutes were approved.

End of Fiscal Year Performance Metrics – Miguel Aciri-Rodriguez:

Fixed route ridership 45% decrease compared to last F Y.

Paratransit ridership 30 to 40% decrease compared to last F Y.

- No shows average 6% per month

Fixed route customer service feedback – 185 year-end total.

- Rudeness, no shows, passing passengers, reckless driving

Paratransit customer service feedback - 63 year-end total.

- Rudeness, reckless driving

Customer service calls fixed route – 29,732 year-end total.

- 3,222 calls dropped, answer rate of 90%.

Customer service calls paratransit – 67,806 year-end total.

- 3229 call stopped, 95% answer rate.

Rabbit Transit – Sherry Welsh – The 3rd round of veteran transportation funds has begun. Veterans can get medical transportation to and from the VA Clinic. Expanding some transportation to Perry County and Northumberland County. Also, the program to get veterans to and from work in areas where there are fixed route services continues.

Anyone that knows of any grant opportunities for food access or re-entry, please contact Sherry. Re-entry means prisoners re-entering society.

swelsh@rabbittransit.org

Rabbit Cares is wrapping up their 3rd year of their three-year plan and beginning their strategic planning efforts to work in tandem with SRTA. Sherry will be reaching out to SRT users in the coming weeks for their input on existing barriers to those who are dependent on public transportation.

PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources – Ginger Monsted – Ginger offered to include in her monthly newsletters any information that anyone may have to share in regards to the 9 counties serviced by CAT and Rabbit. She would need the information by the end of each month; she drafts a newsletter the first week of every month.

Statewide Independent Living Council – Jeff Iseman –

- **State Budget/MATP** – the state budget has added just over 4 million more dollars for MATP; combined additional Federal matching Medicaid and state lottery from PA Dept. of Aging. They also used some American Rescue plan dollars for transit, these dollars are spread over four years.
- **MAWD** - Legislation for The Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities voted to raise the income cap, that was passed and will go into effect the beginning of 2022. <https://www.senatormensch.com/2021/07/01/senator-menschs-medical-assistance-for-workers-with-disabilities-signed-into-law-by-governor/>
- **Broker Report** - The Department of Human Services MATP division is going to put out the broker report in Late July early August.
- **PaTTAN transition conference August 11-12, 2021** - PA Transition Virtual Conference link: [PaTTAN - 2021 PA Community of Practice Conference](#). PA Transportation Alliance asked for the staff to present at the August meeting. If they can't, they will present at the October meeting and the PA Department of Aging will speak on CHC and transportation issues. PennDOT shared a PowerPoint presenting their views regarding the CHC issue at the June meeting. If anyone is interested the PowerPoint can be shared.
- **PA Transportation Alliance call** - Tuesday August 17, 2021 at 1:30PM
- **TROC update** – Transportation Revenue Options Commission has two more meetings; Wednesday July 14th, 2021 at 1 and July 28th 2021 at 1. View the discussion about the fee being proposed to fund transportation on packages: <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/07/12/pennsylvania-leaders-mull-package-fee-for-transportation/>

The public can participate and comment on these proceedings. A report is due August or early September. The Department of Human Services has not submitted their final recommendation. DHS is still putting together the public comments from Disability Integration Task Force, a report is due at the end of the month.

- **Federal Transportation Update** - Congress continues to discuss service Transportation which is roads and bridges and the FAST Act. Everything is due by September 30th.
- **CIL CP Open House** - July 26th -11:30AM-3:00PM at new location -3211 N. Front Street, Suite 100- Harrisburg, PA 17110 www.cilcp.org
- **NCIL Priorities 2021**- see pages 13-15 for transportation issues: <https://advocacymonitor.com/2021-ncil-legislative-advocacy-priorities-guide-now-available/>

New Business:

Meeting time - New meeting date has not yet been decided. Not all committee members have responded to the email requesting days and times that they would have a problem attending. The August meeting will be the first Tuesday at 10:30 as usual. The September meeting has been canceled.

Complaint system - Complaints are verified through video.

New CAT headquarters - CAT has requested a RAISE grant to relocate to new facility. Roger Jones has signed a letter of support on behalf of the PWDAC. Letter is attached at the end of these minutes. The grant was submitted Monday July 12, 2021.

PWDAC and other counties served by Rabbit – SRTA plans to invite other counties served by Rabbit to participate in the PWDAC meetings.

Customer Service - Miguel Aciri-Rodriguez is the Business Development and Customer Service Manager, however, his customer service duties have been designated to Sherry Marks.

York Fair - Rabbit fixed route buses will service the York Fair which begins July 23rd.

Account/Ticketless Fairs - An account is an alternative to tickets and cash. Accounts are through Eco Lane. Rabbit offers this feature and it will be coming to CAT.

- Q #1: If an individual no longer needs transportation services, where does the remaining balance in their account go? The Rabbit website states that the money will not be refunded but instead go to Rabbit CARES. When Mark Edwards called Rabbit, he was told that the money would be refunded. Miguel Rodriguez will find out a definite answer and correct the website.
- Q #2: If an account is unused for a certain amount of time, will that account be flagged? Suggestion to consider doing this.

Action Items:

1. Roger J. will contact committee members via email to decide a new day & time to hold PWDAC meetings.
2. Ginger will add Roger J on her newsletter list.
3. Cathy will share Rodger S phone number with Roger J.

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 3, 2021 @ 10:30 on Zoom.

Upcoming CAT/PWD Advisory Committee meeting dates:

Sept. meeting canceled October 5, 3021

Meeting Adjourn

Letter of support:

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Harrisburg's Capital Area Transit Regional Operations and Maintenance Facility | 2021 RAISE
Capital Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

My name is Roger G. Jones. I am the Chair of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, advising Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg Transit Authority (d.b.a. Capital Area Transit, a.k.a. CAT).

As a Committee we strongly support the Cumberland-Dauphin-Harrisburg Transit Authority's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application of \$25 million for the **CAT Regional Operations and Maintenance Facility**.

CAT has been providing public transportation services for nearly 50 years and at the end of 2020, merged with **Rabbit Transit** to become the **Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority**, serving 11 Pennsylvania counties (Cumberland, Dauphin, York, Adams, Columbia, Franklin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, Union) and the City of Harrisburg.

CAT's present facility, located in a flood plain on Cameron Street in Harrisburg, is profoundly outdated and out moded, originally built in 1904 as a maintenance center for horse-drawn trolleys. Over its 100+

years, the facility has undergone countless updates. But, unfortunately, it suffer from unresolvable safety and efficiency challenges, is remarkably undersized and utterly obsolete for the administrative, operational and maintenance functions needed to properly serve its community.

The RAISE funding will be used to construct a modern, efficient transit facility to facilitate CAT's ability to deliver better transportation options for its diverse, ever growing millions of users today and in the future.

With this expansion, CAT needs a modern facility that will serve as a northern hub for maintenance activities in outlying rural areas. This would ensure the whole fleet is properly maintained to enhance the safety and efficiency of service. Plans for the facility also include a public **CNG station** as part of the State's commitment to pursuing alternative energy sources and the use of green technologies to ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

As users of transit, we need a strong transit system. A strong transit system requires a facility that provides what is needed to run a solid operation.

Thank you for considering this project for RAISE funding.

Sincerely,
Roger Jones
Chair
CAT's P.W.D. Advisory Committee