



**REGIONAL
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Provider's Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2015
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan
1001 Woodward Ave., Suite 1400
Detroit, MI 48226

1. Call to Order / Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of September 2015 Meeting Minutes
4. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Fare Coordination Study / ITS Subcommittee
 - i. Provider and Public Comments
 - ii. MOU status
 - iii. Universal Pass – Magnetic stripe tests
 - b. Performance Metrics
 - c. Folding Map
5. RTA Projects
 - a. Woodward, Gratiot, and Michigan Corridor Studies
 - b. Regional Transit Master Plan
 - c. Community Meetings
 - d. "Yield to Bus" Law
 - e. Bus Collision Avoidance Systems
 - f. Re-mix Software
6. Woodward Esplanade Plan – James Fielder, Downtown Detroit Partnership
7. CMAQ Update – SEMCOG
8. Discussion: FTA Rulemaking
 - a. [Safety Management Systems \(August 14, 2015\)](#)
 - b. [National Transit Asset Management Systems \(September 30, 2015\)](#)
 - c. [Americans with Disabilities Act – Final Circular \(October 5, 2015\)](#)
9. Success Stories
10. Member Comments
11. Public Comments
12. Items for November 2015
13. New Business
14. Adjourn

The Committee may, at its discretion, revise this agenda or take up any other issues as need and time allow.

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Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan
Public Transit Provider's Advisory Council Meeting
September 10, 2015
Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Board Liasons: Alma Wheeler-Smith, Don Morandini, Chuck Moss

Members present:

DDOT: Casey McNeill, Angelica Jones

SMART: Robert Cramer, Andy Thorner

AAATA: Sarah Pressprich-Gryniewicz

DTC: Cornelius Henry

Other provider staff present: Paul Toliver (DDOT), Neil Greenberg (DDOT), Mel Evans (SMART), Beth Gibbons (SMART), Jan Black (AAATA), Chris White (AAATA)

Staff present: Michael Ford, Tiffany Gunter, Benjamin Stupka, Lucas Reigstad, Kim Johnson (MDOT), Deanna Donahoo (SEMCOG)

Public present: Lawrence Krieg, Ruth Johnson, Jeromie Winsor (AECOM), Emma White, Robert Patterson, Jeffrey Nolish

2. Approval of Agenda

Unanimous approval.

3. Approval of July 9, 2015 PAC Meeting Minutes

Unanimous approval.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Updates (Cornelius Henry, DTC)

- a. Performance Measures: Demand-Response data collection will resume beginning in October. Quarters 1 and 2 are complete for fixed-route, with the exception of SMART's Q2 data. SMART will submit by 9/11.
- b. Fare Coordination Study and ITS Sub-Committee: reported that the Fare Coordination MOU has been circulated among the providers with the hope of being finalized near-term. The final report is currently with providers. Once they have an opportunity to submit comments, the report will be posted to the RTA's website for public review and comment. It will most likely be a 2 week comment period for the public. The ITS Subcommittee has tested the new media strip in house and will be tested in Ann Arbor in mid-October.

- c. Fold-up Regional Maps: A vendor has been selected and is under contract. There will be a subcommittee meeting in September. The map will be made available for public comment after RTA and subcommittee meet with vendor/copy-writer.
- d. BEST projects (Michael Ford, RTA)
 - i. Woodward has received a categorical exclusion from FTA. An advisory committee will be assembled soon.
 - ii. Gratiot and Michigan Ave: Statement of Needs report will go to Executive Board for vote/adoption on 9/11 after the PSCC meeting the afternoon of 9/10.
 - iii. State of the System: Report is currently being reviewed by providers. RTA asks for comments by early next week. Public comment will be received after provider comments have been addressed and incorporated.
 - iv. Financial Task Force: A financial task force has been assembled consisting of professionals to provide input and offer expertise on financial model and assumptions. The next meeting will be September 24.
 - v. Regional Master Transit Plan: The planning team is currently evaluating scenarios for future systems by potential millage rate. Public meetings will be held in October.

6. Potential New Initiatives

- a. “Yield to Bus” Law

Examples include Windsor, Ontario, State of Washington including Seattle and King County. The law has been proven to improve on-time performance and safety. Ford noted that law enforcement was instrumental to the law’s effectiveness in Washington. Pressprich-Gryniewicz stated that AAATA is very interested and would like to see RTA lead the discussion. Other providers concurred. RTA is looking at model ordinances and potential legislative sponsors.
- b. Bus Collision Avoidance Systems

Mel Evans, SMART, discussed a 2007 FTA study that included AAATA and addressed front, back, side, and rear object detective systems. Front and back sensors have the ability to control bus (i.e. pump brakes). FTA study concluded that side sensors are most beneficial, but noted that fatalities occur in front and behind buses most often. Evans pointed out that system implementation is expensive, but ultimately less expensive than a fatality lawsuit. AAATA’s new hybrid buses will alert drivers of pedestrians in crosswalks at right-turns. The bus will also beep a warning to pedestrians. SMART’s next bus procurement will likely include a similar notification system. AAATA will share with PAC their efforts to improve safety.
- c. “Get a Job, Get a Ride”

SMART’s innovative program started in 1993 with the goal of getting Detroit residents to/from jobs in the suburbs. If an individual gets a new job, they are provided a 31-day bus pass with the hope that the new employee will continue to commute by transit. Registration has shifted from paper to online in recent years. Partner employers include: Macy’s construction companies, manufacturing companies, etc. Gibbons noted that the program is free to both employers and employees. SMART has not analyzed retention. Morandini stated that Macomb County views the program as a key economic development tool. RTA may consider spearheading a similar, regional program.

d. Re-Mix software licenses for providers (Ben Stupka, RTA)

RTA has a subscription for Re-Mix, a GIS-based tool for testing service scenarios. The software is best suited for planning, not operating, purposes. RTA's license is up in October, at which point they will inquire about expanding licensing opportunities to providers. A RFP will be released this fall as the software does not justify a sole source procurement. RTA has grant money to cover the expense. WATs has also expressed interest in purchasing the software, so AAATA suggests expanding the invitation to MPOs.

7. Survey Process (Ben Stupka, RTA)

Emma White and Dave Metz (by phone) discussed the upcoming survey process. Two focus groups—one with existing transit riders and one with individuals who do not use transit—will convene in September and October. Concurrently, 1,200 riders will be asked to participate in an intercept survey inquiring about regional satisfaction and priorities for improvement. Next, 1,500 voters/general public will be surveyed by phone in October and November. Phone numbers will be randomly generated at the personal (not household) level utilizing numbers listed in voter files. Surveyors will screen numbers in advance to determine if landline or cellphone. A follow-up survey will be conducted for general public in Spring 2016. The survey methodology supports a 3% confidence interval for the region. The goal number of riders by transit agency was derived by percentage of total regional ridership (Ex: DDOT highest, DTC lowest). White (AAATA) notes that SEMCOG has conducted surveys with similar methodologies, and AAATA has found those surveys to engage too few riders to be beneficial for agency. AAATA is conducting their bi-annual survey in October 2015. White and RTA ask providers to consider the following questions:

- a. Logistics for transit rider intercept survey (i.e. who should be contacted at each agency to obtain permission?)
- b. Thoughts on research objectives
- c. Message/themes providers want to test

8. Member Comments

DDOT: 10 articulated buses will be in service by the end of September on Woodward, Gratiot, and Grand River. Administration is testing methods to reduce farebox failures, such as new paper for farecards and adjusting fare card thickness.

AAATA: Service changes have been well-received, particularly in Ypsilanti. AAATA recently completed a new Sustainability Plan and Policy, which they would be happy to share with PAC. Current procurements include CAD/AVL and new buses; new buses will support service expansion. AAATA is entering the last phase of public input for the expansion, which is planned for May 2016.

SMART: Board approved the purchase of 80 new buses at last meeting. This brings the total to 139 buses on order with an estimated delivery in two years.

DTC: Recently completed rail grinding process, greatly reducing noise level.

RTA: Asks that providers submit any 2016 budget changes.

9. Public Comment

Ruth Johnson: Applauds RTA and providers for good work and noticeable fixes and improvements. Suggests posts about good news to encourage riders. Asks that RTA more clearly define public comment periods. Johnson has a new transit-oriented public affairs radio show—WNUC 96.7 FM – on air and online.

Jeffrey Nolish, a Detroit Revitalization Fellow, introduced himself and will be attending future meetings. Interested in transit's integration with Bike Share and ZipCar.

Robert Patterson: Echoes Ruth's message. Suggests the survey include components on ADA and bikes.

10. Items for October

Will be discussed at PAC officers' bi-weekly phone call.

11. New Business

N/A

12. Adjourn