

**METRO RTA
PLANNING / MARKETING / RAIL
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022
9:30 AM**

Committee

Members Present: Vincent Rubino, Donald Christian

Trustees Present: Robert DeJournett, John Valle, Dana LaGarde, Gary Spring, Renee Greene, David Prentice, Robert Konstand

METRO Team

Members Present: Dawn Distler, Valerie Shea, Molly Becker, Jay Hunter, Angela Neeley, Bambi Miller, Jarrod Hampshire, Shawn Metcalf, Eric Scott, Emily Baarson, Jamie Saylor

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Donald Christian called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH MEETING

Mr. Vincent Rubino made a motion to approve minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Report | Valerie Shea

Reviewed KPIs and Performance Report.

Mr. Chris Herman from MKSK and Ms. Kate Collignon from HR&A gave a presentation about the ongoing Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Feasibility Study, an FTA HOPE Grant-funded project examining the possibility and market-readiness for vertical development along high frequency transit corridors. Three sites were identified in the study – Main and High, around the RKP Transit Center and the Middlebury neighborhood. Market analysis, preliminary concepts, potential funding sources and strategies for implementation were also presented.

There was a discussion about occupancy levels at existing university residential properties near the Main and High site and the potential impact to market demand for more residential units downtown. It was reported that the City of Akron has been partnering with METRO in the whole process. It was noted that METRO is not looking to take on the role of a developer for these sites; rather METRO is partnering to help make it easy to get there and bring a new type of development to our community that reinforces live, work and play opportunity within

easy access to transit. METRO is working with the Planning Department and Office of Integrated Development at the City and has had conversations with developers and other community stakeholders throughout the study.

Marketing Report | Molly Becker

Reviewed KPIs. The electric bus launch saw a lot of speakers, as well as local radio, the press, Passenger Transport, and Mass Transit. There is a Minority Health Fair scheduled on April 27, with 28 vendors. Vaccinations, HIV screenings and health screening will be given from 10:00 – 3:00. It was reported that weekly employee e-blasts seem to be popular, with the goal of going paper free and getting announcements out quicker. Upcoming community events were discussed, as well as mask mandates, and METRO’s APTA award. A discussion ensued on events, how they are funded and how METRO decides which events to sponsor.

Rail Report | Valerie Shea

No report.

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Resolution 2022-07: A resolution authorizing the award of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study services contract.

It was explained that this resolution will look at the corridors in the Reimagine METRO network where higher frequency bus routes are planned, and assess the feasibility of a stronger infrastructure investment in these corridors including robust bus stations, fare payments stations, bus only lanes and other Bus Rapid Transit elements. There was a recommendation of award for the BRT Feasibility Study to Kimley Horn for an amount not to exceed \$537,025. There was a discussion about the bidding process, whether Kimley Horn was the lowest bidder and what differentiated them from the lowest bidder.

Mr. DeJournett recommended the resolution go before the full Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 10:12: am

**DAWN S. DISTLER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
SECRETARY-TREASURER**