METRO RTA
PLANNING / MARKETING / RAIL
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
416 KENMORE BOULEVARD BOARD ROOM
VIRTUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021
10:30 A.M.

ITEM 1:   **CALL TO ORDER**

Attendees: Donald Christian, Renee Greene, Gary Spring, Vincent Rubino, Robert DeJournett, David Prentice, Dawn Distler, Valerie Shea, Claire Merrick, Jay Hunter, Shawn Metcalf, DeHavilland McCall, Angela Neeley, Jarrod Hampshire

Guests Present: Dr. Daniel Van Epps, Ron Brubaker, Bill Sepe

Mr. Donald Christian called the meeting to order at 10:30 am

ITEM 2:   **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY MEETING**

Motion to approve minutes by Ms. Renee Greene. Second by Mr. Vincent Rubino.

ITEM 3:   **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning Report | Valerie Shea
- Reviewed KPIs and Performance Report
- Jarrett Walker + Associates is finishing a draft COA-TDP report on METRO's existing operating conditions that analyzes fixed-route and demand response services. This document will set the baseline for choices made moving forward in designing a new network. The first round of network planning begins July 12 with an internal workshop; stakeholder and public outreach will follow in September and October.
- Submitted a grant application for ODOT's Ohio Transit Partnership program to receive local funds for large and small bus replacements, a CNG compressor replacement, local funds for the design of the maintenance and operations facility, a BRT feasibility study, and IT equipment; winners will be notified in July/August. Other outstanding grants include the ODOT Urban Transit Program funding for preventative maintenance, and a federal grant program administered by ODOT for small bus replacement. As explained at last month's Committee meeting, METRO submitted the design of the maintenance and operations facility project to Congressman [Tim] Ryan's project list for consideration in the transportation re-authorization bill.

Although the project was short-listed by Congressman Ryan, it did not make the draft bill; however, METRO is pursuing a similar opportunity with Senator Sherrod Brown's office.

Marketing Report | Claire Merrick

- Reviewed KPIs
- 84 persons received COVID-19 vaccinations at the May 21 pop-up clinic at the RKP Transit Center; the next pop-up clinic is scheduled for Friday, June 18 from 8:30 am-3:30 pm at the Transit Center. Those who get vaccinated will receive a 7-Day bus pass. On May 12, METRO sponsored and participated in a caravan around Summit Lake. COVID-19 vaccinations were available, along with food, music, and giveaways. More than 30 people were vaccinated at the event.
- An Officially Onboard is scheduled for June 24 with the Akron Urban League.
- Akron Pride Festival is August 28 in downtown Akron. METRO is sponsoring the event by offering free fares and team members will participate in the march down Main Street.

Rail Report | Valerie Shea

Ms. Valerie Shea said conversations remain ongoing with Summit County regarding next steps for the Akron Secondary Line. Ms. Dawn Distler said METRO is in the process of submitting a letter to the FTA for a concurrence letter depending on what decision is made, and continues to work with Summit County to determine the best use of the rail property and that area.

Mr. Brubaker asked for a clarification on the concurrence letter. Ms. Distler said the letter addresses alternative use of the property.

ITEM 4: RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ITEM 5: OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Dawn Distler stated beginning all business-related meetings must be held in-person, according to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) per the Ohio Attorney General. The virtual option will continue to be offered; however, Board Members who are not in-person are not permitted to comment, vote, or take any official action. Ms. Distler said details on where meetings will take place is still being determined. METRO is still operating under TSA's ruling that states masks must be worn in transit facilities, such as buses and buildings.

ITEM 6: CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 10:49 am