



TPB REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Summary: November 24, 2020

ATTENDEES

Charley Dingboom, WMATA (Chair)	Kacy Kostiuk, Takoma Park	Andrew Meese, TPB
Deanna Archey, MCDOT	Michael Vaccarino, Via	Lyn Erickson, TPB
Darcy Buckley, MCDOT	Eric Gardiner, Via	Lynn Winchell-Mendy, TPB
Corey Pitts, MCDOT	Tamara Mista	Eric Randall, TPB
Jim Maslanka, Alexandria	Lora Byala, FITP	Stacy Cook, TPB
Martin Barna, Alexandria	Kari Snyder, MDOT	James Li, TPB
Betsy Massie, PRTC	Kyle Nembhard, MTA	Arianna Koudanas, TPB
Wendy Klancher, DFHV		Joe Davis, TPB
Lara Hegler, STV		Antonio Castañeda, TPB

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, Charley Dingboom, Chair**
 - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM and a roll of online attendees was called.
- 2. UPDATE ON REGIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING REGARDING TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND COVID-19, Andrew Meese, TPB Systems Performance Planning Director**
 - Andrew reported that a new round of data collection on regional transit information for the pandemic is being collected via MATOC Transit Task Force. The data will be shared with the Greater Washington Partnership who will integrate it with their regional employer results, expected in January.
 - Andrew reported that COG is conducting a multi-sectoral review of the impacts of the pandemic, including economic, environmental and transportation factors. The focus will be on lessons that may apply in the long run rather than what happened last week. The TPB will be briefed on the results in December.
- 3. PRESENTATION BY VIA ON SERVICES, Michael Vaccarino and Eric Gardiner, Via**
 - Mike and Eric briefed the subcommittee on the services they offer in the region, using a presentation. Current clients in the region include Montgomery County Flex and DC Department of For Hire Vehicles. They then covered for innovative customer examples from across the world, including Sevenoaks, UK; Sault Ste Marie; DelDOT, and Arlington, TX. In Sevenoaks, seven fixed route buses were replaced with four dynamic ride vehicles, with reduced wait time and costs.

Discussion:

- Are riders comfortable using the service? What if they don't have smartphones?
- What is the customer perception?
- How does Via help jurisdictions meet ADA requirements?

- 4. UPDATE ON FLASH BRT, Corey Pitts and Darcy Buckley, Montgomery County DOT**
- Corey gave an overview of the recently launched Flash BRT service. Flash uses 60-foot articulated Novabus vehicles. One innovation is that wheelchair users can now secure themselves, with bridge plates also being provided. The bus stations also have free WiFi.
 - Darcy then provided an overview of the marketing conducted for the October 16 start of service (times to precede the election as well as any second wave of the pandemic). Flash ambassadors were appointed to spread the word to the public.
 - There will be a second phase of the US-29 route with a managed lane concept that will be going to the County transportation committee in January.

Discussion:

- How is Flash integrated into the regular bus schedule? Were there route mods?
- Any consideration of ZEV or AV buses?
- What fare? Same as regular bus.
- How does the offboard fare collection work? Machines accept cash and credit cards. The SmarTrip mobile app can also be used to pay.
- There is a shortage of articulated bus storage and maintenance facilities. This is being looked into by the MTA and could be part of CCT or TRP project plans.

5. 2021 CHAIR/OTHER ITEMS/ADJOURN

- Charley Dingboom announced that the 2021 chair of the RPTS will be Deanna Archey, MCDOT.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2021

All meeting materials are available for download from the subcommittee's website:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2020/11/24/tpb-regional-public-transportation-subcommittee/>

