



COUNTY OF HUNTERDON NEW JERSEY

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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REFERENCE:

- ☐ Council
- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Disabled
- ☐ Substance
- ☐ Use Disorder
- ☒ Transportation

Approved September 14, 2022

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 1:30 p.m.
Via Conference Call

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

J. Hager
T. Shepherd
S. Lax

EX-OFFICIO

L. Tulley
B. Miguel

STAFF

E. Neukum
B. Myhre
M. O'Reilly
J. Kuhl
K. Tustison
K. McGann

GUESTS

L. End
K. Melchers

I. CONVENE: OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. Notice of this meeting has been provided in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News. A public notice announcing this meeting has also been placed in the lobbies of the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, the first floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street Building #1, Flemington, NJ; the first floor of the Route 12 County Complex, building #3, 314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ and County Clerk's Office."

E. Neukum read the Open Public Meeting Statement and Opened the Transportation Advisory Committee at 1:35 p.m. with a quorum present.

II. MINUTES: J. Hager made a motion and T. Shepherd seconded to approve the minutes of May 11, 2022. All were in favor. The minutes for the July 13, 2022, meeting passed.

III. CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence at this time.

IV. PRESENTATION: SCDRTAP Public Hearing.

V. Reports:

A. Transportation – Erin Neukum: E. Neukum stated the county is in the process of putting in a bid for vehicles to increase our vehicle pool. We currently have 23 vehicles, our contract with Easton Coach states we will have 23-30 vehicles. This fluctuates depending on how many we can keep in circulation every year. We are at the bottom right now so we would like to increase that. Getting vehicles right now is still very difficult side but we are working behind the scenes to try to see if there are vehicles that are going to be produced by the end of the year that will benefit our transportation system. We had a review from CH planning yesterday and NJ Transit to make sure we are in compliance with all the requirements from FTA. We received great feedback and would like to unofficially report there are no deficiencies at this time. We have not received the official letter yet.

B. Systems Operations – Easton Coach: L. End reported the driver situation is still a problem. Still in the process of hiring. They had two applicants walk through the door, they are trying to work something out with them. Both drivers are certified with the CDL and passenger endorsement it is just the question of the salary range they are looking at paying. He is hopeful they get one. They also had one of the part time drivers take a leave for the month of July and at the end of June one of the Drivers transfer over from Easton and it offsets what they had so they are not hurting too bad right now. In Easton they had a contract that expired but they in the process of trying to maintain some of the drivers there and they are going to retrain and obtain a CDL for what is required in NJ because in PA the licensing is a little different they don't have the over 8 passenger or 8,000 pound so they are going to the training which is harder because they have to do bookwork and on the road training before they can actually make their appointments. This is in the process now, so hopefully out of the group they are training we have 1 that is interested in coming to Hunterdon to work with us here and that will be an additional driver for us as far as what we are looking at. During the last month or so we rolled out the Ecolane mobility app and have gotten a good response. Show 43 people who have signed up for it already probably really 37 that are using it right now. Starting to see that it is working out better for some of our rides, they can see when the bus is showing up and eliminating some of the calls coming into Easton coach. This also helps with making last minute cancellations also.

Ontime performance seems to be running on a 96-98% on time. 413 complete trips yesterday. The first quarter they did a little over 18,000 trips. The second quarter 22,000 trips, so they are seeing an increase since COVID. They are in pretty good shape. Just need to find one or two more drivers.

S. Lax asked What are the demographic of the 37 folks using the Ecolane?

L. End responded he didn't have off hand, but they are working with anyone capable of working with an iPhone and folks and people going to work. Someone going to a day camp both mother is tracking, and the daughter is using. Mostly though someone who has a smart phone not a flip phone.

T. Shepherd stated there is a one-page instruction sheet that can be provided for anyone who wants to use the app and goHunterdon is available to assist setup with anyone with a smart phone.

E. Neukum stated we do have a one-page instruction sheet that has been posted on the vehicles and she will send it over to her. She also said she looked at the information for the Ecolane app and there is a variety of demographics some people going to work, some senior

citizens some people with disabilities who are not senior citizens.

S. Lax asked is the increase in ridership due to the gas prices and are we advertising the link as an alternative?

L. End said they have not really seen and difference most of the riders are the same and no one has said it is because they do not have access to a car.

E. Neukum stated it is something they can look into “save on gas take the link” and it is still free.

- C. **Fiscal – Keith Tustison:** K. Tustison updated that he went over the second quarter information. We are not collecting fares. Trips are increasing from first quarter which happens any way but from last quarter, demand response is up 11%, so it is up over 1,000 trips and we had about 3,000 more trips on the shuffle routes which is about a 29% increase. The gas prices went up and we spent double for the month of June from last year.
- D. **NJT Report** – Brian Miguel/Lisa Tulley: L. Tulley just wanted to say thank you for yesterday, you did a wonderful job yesterday of showcasing Hunterdon County Link and everything they do. CH planning are consultants to NJ Transit who help them fulfill oversight and compliance for FTA grants and subconsciousness and Erin had to gather documents and fill out workbooks and upload into our system online. Yesterday we had and in person meeting and she was able to discuss everything the Link does and provides for the residents of Hunterdon County and how they do that through finance with Jakay and Keith. They went over to Easton Coach and Lou was a wealth of knowledge as well by easily rattling off what they do and how they do it. During the exit meeting Valerie Piper and Mercy Lyere said at this time there are no findings, and they did a great job and that they will be able to represent NJ Transit and the county well when the FTA comes for the real deal.

Brian also said we did a great job yesterday and it was nice to see everyone in person it has been a long time. He wanted to bring up NJ JARC thank you for sending in all your reimbursement before the deadline the June deadline is a difficult ask, they are trying to make it better, so we are not rushed. There was a delay with the round 9 award letters going out and that was due to upper management wanting to review everything. Hopefully they will go out within the next week or so he will keep everyone posted. The agreement NJ JARC board item in august so hopefully those agreements out shortly after.

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. **CH Planning Oversight:** Spoke about earlier.
- B. **Transportation Study:** There was a stakeholder meeting with meals on wheels and it seems that we need to be working on education. Educating the seniors and not just with papers that they can read but speaking with them and explaining things to them. There is a question as to whether they can read and comprehend how the system works so in person may be better and offering one on one transportation education with them. We will be doing a pop- up event on July 27th. I will have the details by tomorrow to go on the vehicles, the event will be at the jury lot/ transfer lot. It is open to anyone who wants to come and meet with the transportation study team and have conversations with them, ask questions, give feedback and suggestions. They will have people there to gather all the information they can about the system we have and offer and what the needs are.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. SCDRTAP Application (SFY 23):** Public hearing is complete, but we do not have the application in hand at this time, we are waiting for it to be received from NJ Transit. As soon as it is received, Erin will work on it and give an update at the next meeting.
- B. Capital Approval/Bid for Buses:** We were approved for capital to purchase vehicles so now we are working on putting together a bid to put out for companies to give us their best vehicles and best delivery date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at ____pm. A motion was made by T. Shepherd and second by J. Hager. All were in favor. The next regular meeting will be held on November 9, 2022, at 1:30 pm via Webex. Members are requested to call the Department of Human Services if they are unable to attend/be a part of the call.