

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**Thursday, July 19, 2018**

**10:15 a.m.**

**Quincy Street Station**

Committee Members present: Nancy Johnson, Libby Adams, Mary Thomas, Dennis Tenpenny, Deborah Dawkins, Mike Nolting, Brian Snodderly, Anthony Fadale and Mark Webb.

Committee Members absent: Shelby Fry and Linda Kehres.

TMTA Staff present: Denise Ensley, Al Bradley, Kris Luber and Elizabeth Manson.

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Johnson at 10:25 a.m. Guest present was Anthony Fadale, State ADA coordinator and Topeka Metro customer. Denise Ensley asked Mr. Webb if he would like to become a consumer member. Mark Webb replied yes. Ms. Ensley asked Mr. Fadale if he would like to become a consumer member. Mr. Fadale replied yes. Ms. Ensley announced with the additions of Mr. Webb and Mr. Fadale that would leave only one consumer member vacancy.

There were no objections or corrections to the prior minutes.

Ms. Ensley announced the annual Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC) ADA anniversary event will be held at Garfield Park on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Topeka Metro attends this event every year to show our support because they are an important advocate for public transportation. One of their long term employees, a life time disability advocate, Kevin Siek will be retiring in July. Ms. Ensley stated, in honor of his retirement, Topeka Metro created the Kevin Siek freedom ride day for all our Lift passengers. Each passenger will get one free round trip ride, or two free one-way trips on that day. Committee members received a copy of the flyer, which was created by TILRC.

Ms. Ensley announced that Topeka Metro will soon be reviewing its website and either adding or updating sections to improve awareness and answer common questions in regards to our service accessibility. Ms. Ensley asked the members to send her any ideas or information they think passengers would benefit from. Mr. Fadale commented to mention the wheelchairs configuration. Like a third or fourth wheel, leg extenders, etc.

Mary Thomas asked if there was any protocol in place to handle the issue of the aisle in the bus being blocked by oversized wheelchairs and passengers using large grocery carts on the bus. Ms. Ensley stated that this is a delicate issue. Many of the passengers with carts are visiting food banks and rely on Metro to transport them. Also, Metro cannot deny service to someone with an oversized mobility aid if it fits the dimensions of the ramp and can be secured. Ms. Ensley stated that Topeka Metro does not deny trips based on specific trip purpose, but grocery cart size is limited to 3'x3'. Committee members received a copy of the approved grocery cart flyer. Ms. Ensley stated the grocery stores that are offering free home delivery have helped relieve some of this issue. Mr. Webb suggested we place links to the stores that deliver on our website. Ms. Ensley said she would mention this to the General Manager.

Ms. Ensley announced that Topeka Metro has reached approximately 40% of its goal to have a 100% total accessible bus stop system by the year 2020. Each bus stop will have either a pad with a shelter, a pad with a bench, a standing pad, or a combination. Planning and engineering personnel look at boardings per hour to determine what would benefit each bus stop. Dennis Tenpenny stated the new benches and shelters look very impressive and make the city look good.

Ms. Ensley announced Topeka Metro will have a new Fall/Winter ride guide effective August 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Ensley stated the #5 Indiana would extend west along 37<sup>th</sup> Street out to 33<sup>rd</sup> and Arrowhead. She advised the agencies to hold off requesting additional ride guides until the new ones have been printed. Topeka Metro will be delivering the new ride guides shortly after receiving them. Ms. Ensley stated Topeka Metro creates route specific brochures for each of the 501 high schools and middle schools to be handed out during school enrollment. Ms. Thomas requested copies of the Highland Park High School and Topeka High School brochures for CRC.

Ms. Ensley announced the resignation of Planner Adam Weigel. His assistant, Edwin Rothrock, has accepted the position of Director of Service Planning. Ms. Ensley presented the June 2018 ridership report. Fixed route ridership was down slightly compared to last year. Lift ridership is up over last year. Topeka Metro has been increasing the number of Lift trips assigned to its paratransit contractor, Capital City Taxi (CCT). Topeka Metro continues to perform oversight over CCT. CCT Manager Kevin Moten continues to work with JEDO on the successful SOTO program, has been transporting non-ambulatory passengers on one of his Lift routes since June 1<sup>st</sup>, and will soon introduce one accessible taxi to provide non-ambulatory trips in the evenings when Metro services are closed.

Ms. Ensley discussed various upcoming events at Topeka Metro:

- Kids Ride Free (5/15 thru 8/15) – fixed route only
- Deer Creek Reading Route – Every Tuesday (6/5 thru 8/7)
- Midwest Health Aquatic Shuttle – Every Tuesday and Thursday (6/7 thru 8/9)
- Table at East Topeka Farmer’s Market (7/24)
- Kevin Siek Freedom Ride Day (7/26) – 2 free one way lift rides
- TILRC annual ADA Anniversary event (7/27)
- NOTO Express Shuttle (1<sup>st</sup> Friday Art Walk August & September)
- Kansas State Bus Roadeo (8/12)
- Labor Day (9/3) – All Topeka Metro facilities closed

Mr. Fadale reminded the committee that August 7<sup>th</sup> is primary election day.

Mr. Fadale announced when he attended the national ADA symposium in June, the class presented by the ADA coordinator of the city of Denver dealt with transportation. Mr. Fadale offered to share this information with the committee. Ms. Ensley accepted and asked that he forwarded the information to Elizabeth Manson.

Mr. Fadale commented that people relying on public transportation are not able to attend council meetings due to the limitation of the nightly bus routes. Ms. Ensley acknowledged his comment and explained the General Manager Susan Duffy is aware of this issue and is exploring ideas to provide a solution.

Upcoming meetings were scheduled as follows at **10:15 a.m. at QSS**

- **Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**
- **Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Manson  
Topeka Metro Operations Assistant