

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

10:15 a.m.

Quincy Street Station via Zoom

Committee Members present: Deborah Dawkins, Kristen Stock, Marty Winans, and Anthony Fadale.

Committee Members absent: Nancy Johnson, Libby Adams, Mike Nolting, Brian Snodderly, Mark Webb, Mary Thomas, and Taylor Moore.

TMTA Staff present: Al Bradley

The meeting was called to order by Al Bradley at 10:15 a.m. There were no guests present or public comment offered.

There were no corrections to the prior minutes.

Mr. Bradley started meeting off with Safety, reminding members of impending weather that's predicted in the next 24 hours, also reiterating that we have the emergency email (emergencyclosings@topekametro.org) or direct calling (785-783-7000) available to the agencies. This information is located on our website as well.

Mr. Bradley stated that Topeka Metro will continue to follow the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) directive of May 12, 2021. This directive has been extended to March 18, 2022, that requires face masks be worn in all transit vehicles and facilities. Mr. Bradley commented that, this deadline is a little over a week away but could be extended even further. However, face masks are not required in "fresh air" areas like our parking areas or outside the Quincy Street Station. We will continue to monitor and implement safety protocols and recommendations as directed by the TSA, Governor, public health and transportation authorities, and local leaders to ensure the safety and well-being of our employees, our customers, and our community.

Mr. Bradley reminded the agency members to contact our office by using the emergency e-mail (emergencyclosings@topekametro.org) or call directly 785-783-7000 option #2, as soon as possible if their agency is going to be closed or delayed due to inclement weather. Mr. Bradley asked the agency members to remind their clients to have sidewalks and ramps clear of snow and ice prior to the bus arriving to help keep everyone safe.

Mr. Bradley revisited our "Transporting Service Animal Policy" with members. Mr. Bradley explained that we've had a couple of incidents lately pertaining to the policy and wanted to remind agencies of the guidelines stated in the policy. Mr. Bradley stated that, the passenger must maintain total control of the animal, but the animal doesn't have to have a leash. He reiterated that therapy animals are not considered a service animal and must be contained in a pet carrier. Mr. Bradley told them that Topeka Metro Drivers can't require documents but can ask "what task the animal trained to perform for the passenger, and if the animal is up to date with its vaccinations."

Mr. Bradley announced that Topeka Metro would soon release five new paratransit buses into the fleet. Ms. Dawkins asked what company made the buses and was told by Mr. Bradley that they are made by "ARBOC." Mr. Bradley talked about the design and parameters of the buses and that it would not have a lift but will be equipped with a ramp instead.

Mr. Bradley presented the February 2022 ridership report. Mr. Bradley Quoted the summary from the board report that Fixed full Fare is 80% of what it was in 2019 while reduced fare is about 1/3 of riders in January, also paratransit may have been down because of inclement weather and agency closings.

Ms. Bradley discussed various upcoming events at Topeka Metro:

- Daylight Savings Time begins 3/13/22
- TSA Mask Mandate Expires 3/18???
- National Bus Driver Appreciation Day 3/18

Upcoming meetings for 2022 are scheduled as follows at **10:15 a.m. at QSS or via zoom:**

- **Wednesday, May 11th**
- **Wednesday, July 13th**
- **Wednesday, September 14th**
- **Wednesday, November 9th**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Al Bradley

Topeka Metro Operations Supervisor