

# St. Lawrence County Public Transit Task Force

Minutes for Thursday May 16, 2019

## Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:06 PM by Frank Doldo with 14 attendees present. All were welcomed and introductions were made by all.

## Members Present

Michele Catlin, Christine Richardson, Raymond Babowicz, Patty Seelig, Leigh Charette, Rick Pirie, Mary Jo Terrance, Matilda Larson, Pat Hand, Becky Allen, Bill Sheridan, Priscilla Legette, Rena Ryan, Sue Rose and Frank Doldo.

## Previous Month Minutes

April's minutes were handed out for review. Motion made by Patty Seelig and seconded by Ray Babowicz. All in favor, motion carried.

## Old Business

- The Coordinated Transportation Plan was adopted by the St. Lawrence County Legislature in May. A link was recently sent out for all to review the final copy. It will be sent out to New York DOT for review and approval. Frank wants to thank everyone for their input.
- Update on the college connector- Frank is waiting to get the signed contracts back. The goal is by the end of August that Clarkson and SUNY Canton will be on board for public routes like SUNY Potsdam. SUNY Potsdam is considering going 10 months verses 12 months because of budget issues.
- Frank is hoping to meet with the three colleges this summer to have them sign a memorandum of understanding. The Potsdam Walmart will be a transfer site for the three colleges to connect. Students can board the other buses to transfer to the other college campuses by showing their ID card at no additional charge to

them. The public will be able to ride any of those buses for the two dollar fare. This will open up opportunities to offer First Mile Last Mile on the weekends because they could connect with a bus between Canton and Potsdam locations.

- St. Lawrence University is on the docket for a meeting with Frank, Matilda and Keith to talk about doing a bus service for their campus.
- Frank and Matilda are planning to go Akwesasne to meet with Mohawk Council to get a letter of support for the Massena Intra-City Shuttle. This is the last piece needed to submit to NYS DOT Administrative Judge to rule on this proposal for approval. Frank will then hold Town Hall Meetings for the public input on the proposed bus schedule. Also to include the proposed bus stops on Akwesasne: Mohawk Vision, Twin Leafs and the casino. The bus schedule will be fine-tuned and a “dry run” will be done. The Massena sub-committee will meet once more this summer to discuss other possible bus stops.
- Frank is hopeful that Franklin County will get more buses and possibly start doing some bus routes into Akwesasne for people to be able to transfer buses.

### New Business

- Nate Lashomb from Forevermore Studios, Massena showed some raw film footage of bus passengers speaking of why they ride the bus and use the First Mile Last Mile.
- The over-all concept is first: diversity, second: live, learn and grow in St. Lawrence County, and third: how it’s going to create a better quality of life for our residents. The thought process behind the filming is doing a document-series. It will be about 2 months to fine tune this footage.
- This is being paid for by the mobility management budget by through the NYS 5311 grant.

- Frank and Nate received a lot of feedback for them to think about. Frank encouraged anyone to send him an email if they have any other thoughts or ideas.
- Matilda spoke about an update that St. Lawrence County drafted and released an RFP to at least 3 vendors soliciting quotes for equipment and time to install Wi-Fi on the county owned buses. The deadline will be June 5<sup>th</sup> but that may be extended another week due to some addendums that need to be added. Then a selection will be made and hopefully be done by the end of this summer.

Complaints/Concerns:     None reported

Floor opened for comments and announcements.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn by Ray Babowicz and seconded by Leigh Charette at 2:14 PM.