

St. Lawrence County Public Transit Task Force

Minutes for Thursday February 21, 2019

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:08 PM by Frank Doldo with 15 attendees present. All were welcomed and introductions were made by all.

Members Present

Keith Zimmerman, Kerry Tallon, Michele Catlin, Priscilla Legette, Judy Aldrich, Ron McDougal, Pat Hand, Rachel LaPoint, Hailey Arquiatt, Felicia Dumas, Leigh Ward , Christine Richardson, Raymond Babowicz, Carlene Doane, Rena Ryan and Frank Doldo.

Previous Month Minutes

January's minutes were handed out for review. Motion made by Pat Hand and seconded by Judy Aldrich. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

- Frank had emailed everyone the Goals, Strategies and Gaps for the updated Coordinated Transportation Plan for review. He will send out an email of the completed Plan when it is completed. After review it will be voted on before it gets submitted to St. Lawrence County before it forwarded to NYS DOT.

New Business

- Clarkson University Student Government is interested in expanding their buses into letting the public ride with the students. Frank is hoping to start more talks with them soon to get this started.

- In March, Frank is hoping to meet with SUNY Canton to start talks to take over their shuttle service to start in September 2019.
- College connector service is still in the works for all four colleges to have Walmart in Potsdam to be a hub for these students to make the connecting buses to get from one college to another. They just need to show their college ID card so they won't be charged for the ride.
- NYSARC has changed their name to The ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence and will be getting the name change done on the buses.
- Frank met with Nate LaShomb who is the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce in Massena and has a videography business. Frank wants to start filming commercials for First Mile Last Mile, public transit and the local colleges. He hopes to have some draft commercials done by the April or May meeting so that comments can be made on them.
- MAS Protocol for IMA/IME trips: Department of Health has overturned their decision and now those trips are funded. The only trip they will not pay for is for when the person has a hearing for getting disability benefits. A couple of issues have been solved at this point. When calling to make appointment and they say that you need a 2020 form ask to speak with the supervisor. The closest provider is in Plattsburgh or in Jefferson County. If the supervisor is unable to help then call Frank and he will call his contacts to help get it resolved.
- Proposed Route for Massena Intra-City Shuttle Form needs to be filled out and faxed or sent to Matilda Larson. An updated draft of the Massena Shuttle is attached to the form.
- Matilda and Frank met with Economic Developer Director James Lazore and Business Associate Edward Smoke from Akwesasne. They were hoping that we could look at Twin Leaf Plaza and a couple

of other places. Frank was pleased that they had residents interested in going to Massena for business or shopping adventures. At this time the bus ride is about 2.75 hours long but he is hoping to cut it down to 2 hours.

- Franklin County Public transit is not ready with buses or funding to make connections at the Mohawk Casino at this time.
- A MEP Supplemental Grant was done for 10 buses and a construction project to extend the bus garage to provide the longer buses to be serviced on site verses sending them out for servicing. This grant will be fully covered by New York State, so no money would be coming out of pocket by St. Lawrence County or The ARC.

Complaints/Concerns: None reported

Floor opened for comments and announcements.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn by Ray Babowicz and seconded by Priscilla Legette at 2:18 PM.