

TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES

Date and Time: The Transit Commission met on Thursday September 21st, 2023 at 4:45 P.M. at Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant St., Wausau, WI.

Members Present: Becky McElhaney, Gary Gisselman, Kathi Zoern, Carol Lukens, Kyle Turner

Members Excused: N/A

Also Present: Matthew Rosenbloom-Jones (Metro Ride), Megan Newman (Metro Ride)
Yvonne Scheffler (Metro Ride)

In accordance with Chapter 19 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by Becky McElhaney after noting a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Turner moved to approve the minutes of the July 12th, 2023 meeting. Lukens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Possible Action on CAD AVL Consultant Services Contract

Rosenbloom-Jones states that four proposals came in. Three companies were brought in for interviews. Metro Staff, staff from CCIT and the city community development department were present for the interviews. SRF out of Minneapolis, Minnesota was selected as the candidate of choice. Bids typically range from \$54,000 to \$150,000. The accepted bid is not to exceed \$106,279. This is above the initial planned amount of \$75,000 but when it came to experience and good track record this particular consultant stood out. They have done a lot of work with the DOT, worked with MetroRide in the past and references from the City of Eau Claire and Muskegon, MI indicated they were very reasonable to work with. Rosenbloom-Jones also indicated that working with a more local company will be beneficial. Furthermore, it was stated that this consultant will serve as both project management and support. They will help Metro write an RFP and help implement the new vendor (they will also secure that the vendor stick to the terms of any agreement made) Any implementation and support will continue as needed. Rosenbloom-Jones asked that transit committee move forward on the project/contract. Turner questioned the \$106,279 cost and where that money would come from. Rosenbloom-Jones indicates the monies will be covered completely by the CARES funding and will come off the total amount allotted which is at a million dollars.

Turner approved the motion. Zoern seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on Updated Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

Newman spoke on the triennial review and the need to cover infectious disease as a result of that review. Under the contents of the MetroRide safety plan, Article 7 has been added, page 18 in regard to Exposure to Infectious Diseases Plan. This new plan states the staff will perform routine cleaning, provide hand sanitizer, masks and other PPE onboard vehicles when requested by passengers. Metro will work in conjunction with Marathon County Health Dept. and Marathon County Emergency Services to stay up to date with CDC guidelines to mitigate the spread of infectious disease. Zoern questioned if a high rate of COVID is reached, will plexi glass be deployed? – Newman confirmed the plexi glass is always readily available. Rosenbloom-Jones concurred things like gloves and masks will also be on hand as needed.

Lukens approved the motion. Zoern seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Transit Directors Report

Staffing: An offer as been extended to a mechanic. Metro is currently awaiting acceptance of the offer. Full-time positions are in good standing. There are a few open spots yet to be filled for Part-time drivers.

Fleet: We are making headway. Rosenbloom-Jones still looking for funding for new vehicles to replace the 2009 family of Gillig's. He continues to address transition to electric fleet. As to the used buses purchased and in service – one Duluth is in service, one Duluth is still being prepared for the street. It was indicated that school ridership is up and the 40 foot buses have made themselves useful.

WIPTA D.C Trip: Rosenbloom-Jones represented our state along with other director's from Racine, Madison, Milwaukee, etc. Rosenbloom-Jones continues to advocate to increase funding with the goal to get out of fleet deficit so when monies are spent the can go to services instead.

Triennial Review: 21 areas are looked at over the course of the review. Wausau MetroRide was deficient in three areas. Procurement (Federal Clauses), Safety Plan (Missing Infectious Disease clause) and one other that has since been corrected as well.

Lukens ended the meeting by stating the she is thankful for the staff at Metro, both drivers and in the offices, for everything they do on a daily basis.

At 4:58 p.m. Turner moved to adjourn the meeting. Zoern seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky McElhaney, Chairperson



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day is a national day of action to commemorate the February 4 birthday of Rosa Parks, an iconic figure in the movements for social justice and racial equality, who played a major role in the inception of the Civil Rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day highlights Rosa Parks' 1955 pivotal work and her brave and determined advocacy for safe and reliable public transportation for all people and communities both then and today; and

WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day of action is recognized to elevate the message that public transit is a strategy to combat climate change, and that public transit promotes affordable, accessible, clean and safe transportation alternatives for all community members; and

WHEREAS, The City of Wausau values equity and sustainability, and desires to provide equal access to safe, efficient, and accessible public transit, that is sustainable and environmentally friendly; now

THEREFORE, be it resolved that by the City of Wausau Transit Committee, we do hereby proclaim February 5, 2024 will be observed as

Transit Equity Day

in the City of Wausau, State of Wisconsin, and it shall be recognized by reserving a seat on every Metro Ride bus to honor and celebrate the invaluable work of Rosa Parks.

Becky McElhaney
Transit Commission Chair
City of Wausau
January 17, 2024