



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR TRANSIT MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2021

3:00 p.m.

This meeting took place via electronic means.

ATTENDEES

Bill Achor Leslie McCafferty
Jeff Robinson Brandie Fisher
Eva Steinman

STAFF PRESENT

Andy Thomason Sara Fields

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Thomason brought the meeting to order at 3:03pm. Introductions were made.

II. APPROVAL OF 11-12-2020 MINUTES

Ms. Fisher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Achor, to approve the minutes from 11-12-2020. The motion passed.

III. VEHICLE STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Thomason reported on staffing changes at the MoDOT transit office that may impact the process of distributing awarded vehicles.

IV. CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021

Mr. Thomason briefly summarized the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Of 2021* (CRRSAA) and explained it contained an allocation of Section 5310 funds for the OTO area. For those new members of the LCBT, Mr. Thomason summarized the Section 5310 program and described the activities typically funded by the OTO's allocation. He said the program designed to improve the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. The OTO typically funds vehicle purchases for human service agencies and local nonprofit transportation providers, and funds projects sponsored by CU Transit to build sidewalks and other projects that go above and beyond the requirements of the ADA law.

Mr. Thomason explained that Congress had some specific expectations for the Section 5310 funds included in the CRRSAA. These funds were intended to fund transit operations, and Congress wanted these funds spend in a timely manner. Mr. Thomason also explained the OTO's allocation was small, at just over \$50,000. Mr. Thomason explained that staff considered these expectations, the limited allocation, and the complexities of initiating FTA operational funding when forming a recommendation for these funds.

Staff decided it would be best to focus on funding a project for OATS or CU, the region's two primary recipients of FTA operational funds. OATS is working to coordinate transportation for seniors to mass COVID-19 vaccination events. CU didn't have any eligible projects in the pipeline and fully supported awarding the funds to OATS.

Mr. Robinson explained OATS was coordinating with the Springfield/Greene County Health Department and Office of Emergency Management to provide vaccine trips. The was very dynamic, with some transportation plans being changed at the last minute. Mr. Robinson was confident OATS could use the funding to support these services, and he said the funding would help reduce the burden on Greene County Senior Tax Board. If the transportation program did not require the full allocation, OATS would use the funds to support general transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

V. CRRSAA AWARD

Mr. Thomason opened the floor to any questions from members of the LCBT. No questions were posed. Mr. Anchor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fischer, to award the OTO's full allocation of Section 5310 CRRSAA funds to OATS Transit. The motion passed.

VI. TRANSIT COORDINATION PLAN UPDATE KICKOFF

Mr. Thomason said the LCBT would be working on updating the Transit Coordination Plan (TCP) over the next 18 months. He said he wanted to spend this first session going over the purpose of the TCP and reviewing the 2017 TCP. He described the coordinated planning requirement included in the Section 5310 grant program and outlined the key components of the required plan. The plan should include a description of region's population of seniors and individuals with disabilities. It also needed to include an evaluation of service gaps and a summary of community outreach. This initial analysis should culminate in the identification of a needs list and goals/actions to address those needs.

The 2017 TCP include a detailed demographic profile and the results of three surveys. These surveys included outreach to transportation providers and human service agencies. There was also a user survey completed by 100 individuals. The outreach found users wanted to travel spontaneously and with flexibility. These trips included veterinarian, recreational, and after-hours trips. The goals of the plan were narrowed from the 2012 plan and focused on education, service improvement, service expansion, and service regionalization. There were a range of actions included in the plan, including a number focused on changes to the OTO's Section 5310 scoring criteria.

Mr. Thomason said the next meeting focus on reviewing an updated demographic profile and creating a public outreach plan.

Mr. Thomason finished by asking for updates from members. Mr. Achor said he was trying to reach out to other senior centers to better understand how the centers might function after COVID-19. Mr. Robinson said services were going strong.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Approved on 8/10/2023

Attested By: _____

Jeff Robinson, LCBT Chair