



Meeting Minutes

DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 – NOON
DART Central Station, Multimodal Room
620 Cherry Street, Des Moines, Iowa

TRAC Members Present:

Teresa Volcheck (Chair), Mark Hutchens (Vice Chair, via phone), Randy Henriksen, Hayley Anderson, Michele Meadors, Emmanuel Smith

TRAC Members Absent:

Brenda Gill, Richard Sadler, Pilar Tromacek, Mary Walter, Pam Goehring, Allen Root, Denise Jones

TRAC Staff Present:

Mia Brunelli, Melissa Fuller, Matt Johnson, Luke Lester, Madison Linkenmeyer, Tim Sanderson, Carl Saxon, Alison Walding, Jamie Schug, Amanda Wanke

A. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Teresa Volcheck at 12:00 PM.
Roll call was taken and a quorum was not met.

B. APPROVAL OF MAY 10, 2017 AND JULY 12, 2017 MINUTES

Could not approve minutes due to no quorum.

C. ACTION ITEMS

None.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. MyDART Pilot and Promotion – Madison Linkenmeyer

Madison Linkenmeyer reviewed the MyDART Pilot and Promotion which will be implemented this fall. About 50 participants are currently testing the app through the pilot project. To promote the MyDART app, we're giving away t-shirts to riders who download the MyDART at the launch event along with other fun activities at DART Central station on Monday, October 16.

2. Trip Planner Demo – Luke Lester

Luke Lester provided a demo of the Trip Planner. Although still in the beginning phases, key areas will include trip planning, viewing bus stops and times with the future end goal of having it built in to the MyDART app so everything is one place.

3. October Service Change – Carl Saxon

Carl Saxon provided an update on the October Service Change that will be effective October 1. The Commission approved two major route changes. Changes include extending Local Route 5 north on Merle Hay Road to the Johnston Public Library in order to provide all-day service along the corridor. This new service will replace Express Route 91, which will be discontinued. In addition, the Commission also approved extending Local Route 17 to the Outlets of Des Moines in Altoona. Both changes are cost-neutral.

4. LONO Grant Application – Tim Sanderson

Tim Sanderson provided an update on the LONO Grant Application. He was happy to share with the committee that DART will be receiving a \$1.45 million FTA Low or No Emission Grant to add electric buses to our fleet. The funds will be used to create the infrastructure needed to support electric buses as well as to upgrade several future buses to electric models. Mid-American Energy has committed to provide the local match for the grant. The electric bus project will take approximately 18 months to complete, and we hope to see the new buses on the road in spring 2019. We are still working on the exact number of buses we'll be able to purchase as we're hopeful we'll be able to leverage these funds to further grow the project.

5. State Fair Update – Tim Sanderson

Tim Sanderson provided an update on the State Fair. DART's 2017 Iowa State Fair was once again a success this year with 228,744 rides provided by DART. Although this represents a decrease of 1% from the 2016 service, the service ran in an extremely safe, efficient and effective manner. Market Share on this service decreased by 2.1% over last year. Two minor incidents were reported this year, one incident of a mirror being knocked off by a telephone pole and another of a passenger falling when the bus applied its brakes to avoid a collision. A minimal number of complaints were received, primarily on the walking distance required from parking to the bus at SE Polk and the loading of passengers at Gate 10. The success of the State Fair service is due to the commitment of the entire DART team. We have already begun the planning process for the 2018 State Fair in order for us to build on successes and address identified challenges.

6. Operator Training Program Discussion – Mia Brunelli

Mia Brunelli discussed the Operator Training Program with the committee. As a current TRAC goal she has been brainstorming ideas on how best to include the committee with new hire training. She proposed the idea of making a video that includes each committee member providing an introduction, a few facts about themselves and what route(s) they ride. Mia will send out an email to see who all interested. Goal is start this project late October, early November.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. TRAC Goals Review

Chair, Teresa Volcheck reviewed the TRAC Goals with the committee.

F. TRAC MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

None mentioned

G. STAFF UPDATES

Amanda Wanke provided an update on the DART Commission. All of DART's member communities have approved the restated 28E agreement reflecting the governance changes for DART. The first meeting of the reconstituted DART Commission will be October 3, 2017 where 16 Commissioners will be seated at the table.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items mentioned:

- PASS Update
- Bus Shelters/Mobility Hub Update

J. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. DART Commission – Noon Tuesday, October 3, 2017, DART Central Station
2. TRAC – Noon Wednesday, November 8, 2017, DART Central Station

K. ADJOURN