



Meeting Minutes

DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 14, 2018 – NOON

DART Central Station, Multimodal Room
620 Cherry Street, Des Moines, Iowa

TRAC Members Present:

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

TRAC Members Absent:

None

TRAC Staff Present:

Catlin Curry, Melissa Fuller, Luis Montoya, Rachel Simon, 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 met.

B. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Chair, Teresa Volcheck called for any corrections to the September 12, 2018 meeting minutes. It was moved by Michele Meadors and seconded by Randy Henrickson to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2019 Meeting Dates

Chair, Teresa Volcheck reviewed the 2019 Meeting Dates that were sent out prior to the committee by Catlin Curry.

It was moved by Randy Henrickson and seconded by Michele Meadors to approve the 2019 Meeting Dates. The motion carried unanimously.

2. TRAC Goals

Chair, Teresa Volcheck reviewed the TRAC Goals that were sent out prior to the committee by Catlin Curry.

It was moved by Michele Meadors and seconded by Hayley Anderson to approve the TRAC Goals. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Voting for TRAC Leadership Positions

Chair, Teresa Volcheck reviewed the TRAC Leadership Positions open. TRAC members running for Chair President are Hayley Anderson and Emmanuel Smith. TRAC members running for Vice Chair are Emmanuel Smith and Allen Root. A vote was taken and majority voted for Hayley Anderson as Chair President and Allen Root as Vice Chair. It was moved by Michele Meadors and seconded by Randy Henrickson. The motion carried unanimously.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Service Planning Update – Luis Montoya

Luis Montoya, Planning Manager, presented plans for a service update in January 2019. This service change will include the following:

- Extension of Local Route 4 to serve a new Hy-Vee Commissary along SE Delaware Road in Ankeny,
- Schedule changes for Local Routes 5 and 6, including a change in frequency on the Route 5 from 20-minute frequency to 30-minute frequency to improve on-time performance,
- Eliminating the loop behind Park Fair Mall on Local Route 15, and
- Consolidating trips with low ridership on Express Route 92 – Hickman.

DART will also work the City of Des Moines and Polk County to propose route and/or schedule changes for the Link Shuttle as part of the January Service Change. DART staff will begin to collect public feedback on these changes in November and December 2018.

2. Legislative Priorities – Amanda Wanke

Amanda Wanke, Chief External Affairs Officer, provided an update on the 2019 Legislative Priorities. The DART Commission approved priorities for the 2019 Legislative session, including funding options for DART's lobbyists to discuss with legislators. These options will allow DART to maintain current service while staff work with a consultant to develop a long-range service plan and develop options for the Commission to consider for the future funding formula.

- The funding options include:
 - An increase in the property tax cap from \$0.95 to \$1.45 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. If this is the only additional funding source secured, it would allow DART to maintain its current service through approximately 2040.
 - Access to state levies that municipal transit agencies have access to. These levies offset the costs of certain budget items, including employee benefits, debt service levy, FICA and IPERS, and liability, property and self-insurance costs. Accessing these levies would allow DART to shift approximately \$6 million of its current operating budget to other levies, reducing the burden on the \$0.95 transit levy. If this is the only additional funding secured, it would allow DART to maintain its current service through 2029.
- Other legislative priorities:
 - Other Funding Diversification: Authorize staff and lobbyists to discuss any other potential revenue diversification options that may arise during the legislative session. Staff and lobbyists would bring these options to the Executive Committee for approval before moving forward.
 - Medicaid: Any legislative fix to current Medicaid challenges should ensure that the cost of transportation for trips previously funded by Medicaid should not be transferred to local transit authorities, and thereby, local property taxpayers.
 - Property Tax Backfill: The elimination of the property tax backfill would mean a loss in revenue of more than \$600,000 annually for DART. Staff and

lobbyists should encourage legislators to recognize DART's unique status and maintain the backfill.

The Commission also approved the development of a policy that will establish a limit for how much DART property tax levies can increase each year.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

None mentioned.

F. TRAC MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

None mentioned.

G. STAFF UPDATES

None.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

J. UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. DART Commission – Noon Tuesday, December 4, 2018, DART Central Station
2. TRAC – Noon Wednesday, January 9, 2019, DART Central Station

K. ADJOURN

Teresa Volcheck, Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM. It moved by Randy Henrickson and seconded by Michele Meadors. The motion was carried unanimously.