

SMAC February 2021 Minutes

Zoom Meeting was called to order by Mary at 10:02.

Present: Jim Donnelly; Lisa Hammon; Mary Bruns; Lorna Van Ackeren; Ken Grey; Ralph Dennis; Greg Wanket; Jessica Dominguez; Chalo Buckman, Mobility Matters; David Pitman; Anthony Macias

Motion by Greg & 2nd by Lorna to move meeting back to 9:30 AM. Approved by all present

Motion by Greg & 2nd by Lisa to approve the February Agenda with inclusion. Approved by all present

John Cunningham talked about the ATS plan giving background information indicating that over the past 30 years the need for coordinated transportation has been studied. A major problem is to get the different agencies to coordinate since no one has direct authority over implementation of a plan. The current study included 2 public meetings pre COVID, outreach effort of 1,000 surveys, 5 focus groups, a telephone townhall and 11 stakeholder conversations. Needs and service gaps were identified to be same day trip to medical appointment, wheelchair accessibility and expanded weekend service. There was also an in-depth study done on the needs of the Veteran. A new task force was formed to identify revenue streams and to also ensure that the current study doesn't just get put on a shelf. Phase 2 includes two public meetings scheduled for 3/9 Board of Supervisors meeting and March 17 CTA meeting. This draft plan describes where we are right now listing existing conditions of today. This plan is the most aggressive plan in 20 years and is complex, expensive and is viewed as equitable. The point was made that this is not only a Contra Costa County problem but also a statewide problem. The example was given that there are 26 different transportation operators in the Bay Area!

There was a conversation regarding the need for consistent fares by all 4 transportation operators. A possibility could be a set \$5.00 standard one-way fee for one way or consider needs based fare.

Same day rides continue to be a huge demand and may only be possible by setting up a Taxi type program. Resources need to be used more efficiently. Scheduling software needs to be offered to the smaller transportation servers.

“Try My Ride” is a grant program in Pittsburg & Antioch that have neighborhood buses pick up at specific locations to BART and back.

Program Updates:

Ralph reported that the Rossmoor Bus is no longer on a fixed route, goes to downtown Walnut Creek, rider calls 1 hour before ride pick up, only 4 people per bus, 5 buses per day Monday-Friday. Considering the possibility in a few months to also provide service to: Veranda Shopping Center, Sun Valley Mall and Downtown Pleasant Hill. Rossmoor Pre-Covid ridership was 7,000 and in January ridership was 2500.

David reported on Vision Zero saying that a letter of support has gone to the ACOA Executive Committee.

Chalo reported that Mobility Matters is helping clients who are not computer literate to register for vaccine.

The Transportation infographic was discussed with the intent to send it over to the ACOA for final approval.

Reconfirmed ongoing SMAC 2021 goal: to highlight COVID, vaccines and transportation issues.

Future speakers to consider were identified as Public Works and Mobility Matters.

New information not shared at February meeting: website for Healthy Transit Plan (<http://www.healthytransitplan.com/vaccination-sites/>), this site helps identify transit-friendly vaccination sites.

No public comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55.