The January meeting of the Mountain Line Transit Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the offices of the Transit Authority in Westover.

The following members were in attendance: Carol Edwards, Kelli LaNeve (Mountain Line), Margaret Carrico (orange line), Deb Layman (Scott’s Run Settlement House), Raymond Keller (ITAC), Annetta Johnson (NWVCIL).

Not present with notice: Melanie Braun, Pam Everly (DHHR), Andrew Socolow and Regina Mayolo (CLIC)

Not present without notice: Bobby King (Morgantown Cab Company), Chris Duvall (CLIC), Marrisa Travinski (BoParc), Rich Buterbaugh (Green),

Others in attendance: Matthew Baumgarden with WDTV.

**General Business**

- Minutes from November were approved with no request for revisions. Margaret motioned to approve and Carol seconded motion. Minutes passed unanimously.
- Meeting dates for 2016: March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21, November 16.
- Driver of the month for November was John Blosser; December was also John Blosser. Please note: there are 14 performance criteria upon which drivers are evaluated in order to receive this award.
- November personnel changes include: Amber Sakacsi – full time Grounds and Maintenance and James Paugh Jr and Patrick Donham has full time drivers. No new personnel changes for the month of December 2015.
- Total ridership for the November and December was down compared to last year at this time. Senior Mons ridership was also down compared to this time last year. WVU ridership in November 2015 was up from November 2014; however it was decreased in December 2015 from December 2014. For the 2015 year, WVU ridership was down by approximately 60,000 rides.
- MLTA’s High School Ride Free program saw an increase in ridership in November and December 2015. Overall the High School Ride Free program showed an increase in ridership from 2014 to 2015 by approximately 1000 rides.
- Grey Line saw a decrease in ridership which could be attributed to Greyhound now picking up passengers in Morgantown. Greyhound leaves Mountaineer Station at 4:40 pm, approximately 45 minutes prior to Grey Line leaving Mountaineer Station. In 2015, Grey Line ridership decreased by almost 2000 rides.
- Passenger of the month for January 2016 is Trey Brown. Raymond nominated him and Carol seconded the motioned. He was approved unanimously. Deb nominated David Stewart for February’s Rider of the Month. Carol seconded motion. It passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

- Travel Training – Kelli informed the group that she will be teaching a three day course on travel training. The course will take place at the Osher Life-Long Institute at WVU. The course will begin in February.
- Volunteer Driver update- still looking for drivers. Have received completed applications for riders.
- Vanpool update – one vanpool still receiving subsidy.

**New Business**

- Kelli discussed route cuts and consolidations due to diminished county funds. It was noted that the county did not receive the anticipated revenue from the Coal Severance tax and therefore, the county was eliminating its fourth quarter funding. Mountain Line Transit had to reduce and eliminate routes due to this unpredicted occurrence. Mountain Line Transit tried to mitigate impact as much as possible, but increasing services on certain routes while decreasing service in other areas.

**Public Comment**
During the public comment period, discussion took place on the costs of new buses. It was noted that the cost of buses can range from $150,000 to $350,000 or more. Kelli mentioned the importance of the transit levy initiative that will hopefully be put on the May ballot. In order for Mountain Line Transit to maintain its current level of service, we need support for the levy.