The NOVEMBER meeting of the Mountain Line Transit Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on November 14, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the offices of the Transit Authority in Westover.

The following members were in attendance: Edith Zelmore – Eastern Circulator, Margaret Carrico – Purple Line, Andrew Socolow – Gold line, Katie Mehle – the Adult Learning Center, Deb Layman – Scotts Run Settlement House, Eric Jones – Northern Circulator-R, Annetta Johnson – NWVCIL Scotts Burnworth – Boparc Senior Center.

Members not present with notice: Pam Everly – DHHR, Melanie Braun – Orange Line
Members not present without notice: Megan Grimm – Cassville, Lenny Wolfe - Green

General Business

- Kelli called the meeting to order at 1:30pm
- Members reviewed the minutes and Edie made a motion to approve and Katie seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- Meeting dates for 2019: January 16, March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18, November 20
- September Driver of the Month was Tom Jones. October Driver of the Month was Anne Cramer. Please note: there are 14 performance criteria upon which drivers are evaluated in order to receive this award.
- Personnel changes for the month of September include the hiring of twofull time bus drivers: Darian Permelia and Scott Simmons. Also hired was a part-time van driver, Rick Heller. Personnel changes for the month of October include hiring four full time bus drivers: Denise Strouble, Frank Schwartz, Johnathan Lint and Shawn Devall. We also hired a full time Mechanic- Jake White. Additionally, we hired a full time receptionist – Victor Bonfili and a part-time receptionist, Celeste Smyth.
- Total ridership for the month of September increased by 4% as compared to September 2017. Senior ridership decreased by 26% as compared to last year as did disabled ridership. WVU ridership in September was unchanged from September 2017. For October 2018, calendar year ridership increased by 2%. Disabled Ridership decreased by 27% as compared to October 2017 and Senior ridership decreased by 16% as compared to 2017. WVU Ridership decreased by 11% as compared to October 2017.
- Kelli presented the list of Rider of the Month nominations. Deb nominated Charles and Annetta seconded the motion. The members voted to approve Charles Adams for December 2018. Deb nominated Sierra Metts for January 2019 and Margaret seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- High School Ridership was been down since the new routes took effect. SMI ridership increased from last year. WVU Ridership decreased in September and October. Grey Line ridership has been down as well.

Unfinished Business

- Kelli provided another update on the depot move. One of the things mentioned was that Mountain Line was working on ways to keep the Northern Circulator. Those updates will be more behind the scenes and nothing will change from the rider perspective.

New Business

- Kelli shared with the CAC members that Mountain Line Transit will be starting a demand response medical transportation service for private pay individuals. This service is not intended for individuals with Medicaid. The State of West Virginia has entered into a contract with a Medicaid broker to provide transportation for those clients. However, no transportation service for private pay individuals has been established yet. Right now the service will run four hours a day, but we are looking at other funding sources to hopefully increase the service hours. Kelli asked the members to forward her contact information to individuals seeking transportation to medical appointments.
- Kelli also updated the members on the bus shelter delivery. The shelter delivery is behind schedule unfortunately and should be here within the next couple weeks. Mountain Line Transit was expecting them to be delivered in mid to late October but that date was pushed back to November or early December. Those shelters are for spots at the terminal. We are also looking at installing shelters at Fort Pierpont and Sabraton Goodwill. As of now, Sabraton Goodwill has not been responding to our requests.

Public Comment

- Edith states that not having a shelter at the Goodwill location is problematic especially for her mom. She states that her mom already has a weakened immune system and being out in the cold isn’t good for her.
They ride Eastern Circulator and have to wait to catch Brookhaven or Mountain Heights to get to her appointments. There are times when they wait 45 minutes or better.

- Andrew stated that there is no good place to pick the bus up or to drop off downtown. He would like to see Orange Line travel down High Street so there would be places the Orange Line riders could safely board and exit the bus.
- The topic of the lack of shelters continued and the CAC members would like to be able to write letters to the City Council about install shelters in the downtown locations. Kelli will talk with David about this idea and follow up with the CAC members.