Approved Draft Minutes from September 19, 2012 CAC Meeting

Mountain Line Transit Authority Citizen Advisory Committee
Minutes – September 19, 2012

The September meeting of the Mountain Line Transit Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the offices of the Transit Authority in Westover.

The following members were in attendance: Walter Hardy (WVU), Valerie Romec (ITAC), Deborah Layman (SMI), Andrew Socolow (Red Line), Regina Mayolo (CLIC), Jan Derry (NWVCIL)

Not present with notice: 
Not present without notice: Margaret Carrico (Orange Line), Marissa Travinski (BOPARC), Daniel O. Carroll (Green Line)
Others in attendance: Maria Smith (Mountain Line)

General Business

• A motion to approve July Minutes was tabled for next meeting since we had no quorum.
• Committee members were given a list of dates for 2012 meetings: Nov 21 (normal time @ 1:00 PM).
• Tom Jones was driver of the month for July and Jim Huffman was Driver of the Month for August
• Ridership for the months of July and August were up from annual figures for last year for overall, and for the same months last year. Disabled Ridership is up and Senior Ridership was down in July; however this was contributed to driver error, August Senior Ridership was up 46% and Disabled Ridership was up 26%. WVU Ridership is up for both months. Highest ridership in August was Orange Line and in July was on Blue & Gold
• Senior Mon’s ridership was at 3,292 in August and a total of 656 passes have been distributed.
• High School ridership was at 597 in July and 735 in August, this was the highest ridership for August recorded.
• WVU Ridership was 17,125 in July and 77,779 in August.

Old Business

• Solar Panel Project has been completed and the Authority is now producing electricity. The bill was at $2,300 last month and the bill this month is going to be $416. The software has been installed and the public now has access to data produced by it. On the ML website there is a gadget where you can view the current position of the sun in the sky over the Power Plant, the current system performance including how much power is being generated and it’s equivalent to common household items such as hair dryers, ipods etc. There are also charts to show the production over time from month to month and day to day during a month. The current weather and some solar power related facts and a slide show of pictures showing the solar power plant.

New Business

• Gold Line – Since the Gold Line change that occurred in July the bus has been consistently running behind, so the authority is making an adjustment to the way the route is run without excluding any service. The Gold Line odd hour trips to Independence Hill MHP will now travel VanVoorhis Road from Mountaineer Station turning for the return trip at Independence Hill MHP. Service to The Villages at West Run will now occur on the return trip rather than on the outgoing trip. After departing Independence MHP, the Gold Line will turn on West Run Road, Pick up at The Villages and continue until turning onto Riddle Avenue. From Riddle, the Gold Line will proceed to Pineview Drive, turn onto Chestnut Ridge Road then proceed back to Mountaineer Station. The route direction change is being made in order to improve on-time service for the Gold Line route.
• Bus Purchases – The Authority will be receiving 2 new 35’ Gilligs and 1 new 29’ Gillig in 2014 due to a JARC Grant. In 2015 the Authority will be receiving 2 new 35’ Gillig buses due to a TIGGER Grant.
• The TIP Submission was re-presented to the group due to the addition of the new buses for public comment, there were no questions or comments. The suggested TIP amounts are now with the MPO for public comment.
• West Run Contract – The West Run Complex has now paid up and they expect no problems with the contract, going forward. The issue boiled down to technical billing issues and has now been cleared up.

Public Comment
• Andrew Socolow stated that the Orange Line Time Table and Map are confusing, difficult to read and the text is too small. He suggested the use of arrows on the map to help determine the direction of the route.
  o Jan Derry asked if it could be possible to make a statement on the printed schedules stating “If you require large print or alternate formats contact us at …”
  o Regina Mayolo stated that it is possible through WVATS to have things printed in large format.
  o Maria Smith stated that the Library has access to our website and pdf’s of each schedule are available and can be enlarged on screen.
• Andrew Socolow stated that he would like to see Aldi’s receive better service on it’s return trip. He stated it is not possible to catch the Green Line on the other side of University Ave/Don Knotts Blvd. He suggested perhaps a pull off or a curb cut or for the bus to turn into the Aldi’s parking lot on it’s way back into town.
• Deb Layman stated that the place where the Orange Line stops at SMI is difficult for the seniors to board the bus and she has had instances of Seniors tripping or falling trying to board. She said the bus stops a few feet back from the curb cut, leading the seniors to walk down the curb cut to the left a few feet then up the ramp into the bus. She asked if there was a way the driver could pull up to better suit the Seniors to board the bus.
  o Maria Smith stated that the driver is avoiding the crosswalk that is at the curb cut and that the Authority would look into the matter to see if there is a better way for the bus to pull up to help the seniors board.
• Valerie Romec mentioned a Travel Training Program through Project Action Easter Seals. This training is held in different cities and the trainers train people on how to use and access the different types of transportation available to the residents of that city. A motion was made by Regina Mayolo to adapt this program as a CAC project and to develop a training program and target audiences in and around Morgantown. Walter mentioned a possible target audience through the university that may benefit from this training. With no further discussion and no one opposed this motion was passed with a first from Valerie Romec, and a second from Andrew Socolow.

The next meeting of the CAC will be on November 21 at 1:00 PM at the Mountain Line office in Westover. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.