

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

10:15 a.m.

Quincy Street Station via Zoom

Committee Members present: Anthony Fadale, Maria Ruiz, and Shelby Fry.

Committee Members absent: Nancy Johnson, Dennis Tenpenny, Deborah Dawkins, Libby Adams, Mark Webb, Brian Snodderly, Mary Thomas, Mike Nolting, and Linda Kehres.

TMTA Staff present: Al Bradley and Elizabeth Manson.

The meeting was called to order by Al Bradley at 10:15 a.m. Guest Shyla Mason with Community Resource Council was present. There were no other guests present or public comment offered.

There were no corrections to the prior minutes.

Mr. Bradley stated Topeka Metro is continuously updating safety practices as necessary for our passengers and employees as situations change. Everyone's safety is our number one goal throughout this pandemic situation. As of July 9, 2020, passengers and employees are now required to wear a face covering when riding in any Metro vehicle or while on Topeka Metro property. Our scheduling department has reached out to all the facilities we currently transport passengers to and asked that their clients have face coverings on prior to our arrival. We are expecting passengers to have their own face covering, however, we are currently providing them one free of charge if they do not have one. If a passenger refuses to wear a face covering, they will not be allowed to ride and asked to leave the property. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, a disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering, persons who are incapacitated or are unable to remove the face covering without assistance, and children under the age of 10 years old are exempt from the face covering requirement.

Mr. Bradley advised the committee we will no longer be asking COVID screening questions to our lift passengers. In a recent FTA update, it stated a transit agency cannot ask COVID screening questions of Lift passengers with the intent to deny service if we are not going to do it for all passengers, including those without disabilities. It would be time consuming to ask all passengers boarding the fixed route buses each boarding period. Therefore, Topeka Metro has chosen not to continue with the screening questions, instead, we are informing and educating our lift passengers on the potential risk factors associated with COVID-19 that might encourage them to postpone their trip if necessary.

Elizabeth Manson presented the May 2020 ridership report. Fixed route ridership was down 42.9% compared to last year. Lift ridership was down by 72.3% over last year. The Board voted to extend the Mission Shuttle, rear boarding, and free fares (except for the premium lift fare) through the end of July. They will re-evaluate at their next monthly Board meeting.

Mr. Bradley discussed various upcoming events at Topeka Metro:

- Kids Ride Free – 5/15 thru 8/15 – **Cancelled for July due to free fares**
- Labor Day – 9/7 – All Topeka Metro facilities closed

Upcoming meetings for 2020 are scheduled as follows at **10:15 a.m. at QSS or via zoom:**

- **Wednesday, September 9th**
- **Wednesday, November 11th**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Manson
Topeka Metro Operations Assistant