Mountain Line Transit Authority Citizen Advisory Committee
Minutes – March 15, 2023

The **MARCH 15, 2023** meeting of the Mountain Line Transit Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on November 16, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. via zoom and in person.

The following members were in attendance: Melanie Braun, David Huffman, Edith Zelmore, Margaret Carrico
The following members were in attendance via zoom:
Public:
Members not present with notice:

General Business

- Kelli called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- Minutes from January were reviewed. David motioned to approve. Melanie seconded. Motion passed
- 2023 Meeting dates:
  - March 15th, 2023
  - May 17th, 2023
  - July 19th, 2023
  - September 20th, 2023
  - November 15th, 2023

- PUBLIC HEARING/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- No public comments
- Driver of the Month awards for the previous months were awarded to the following:
  - January 2023 – Andy Feezle
  - February 2023 – John Blosser
- Personnel changes for the January 2023 :
  - Hired – two drivers: Bill Titus and Amanda Ashton. Hired Bus Cleaner- Erik Hamm
  - Personnel changes for February 2023- None
- Ridership details for the previous months are as follows:
  - January 2023–Calendar ridership increased by 34%. There was a 34% increase in the monthly comparison of all riders. Disabled ridership decreased by 35% compared to January 2022. Senior ridership increased 14% from January 2022. WVU ridership increased 28% compared to January 2022.
  - February 2023- Calendar ridership increased 33%. Monthly comparison of all riders increased 32%. Disabled ridership decreased 22%. Senior ridership decreased 26% since February 2022. WVU ridership increased 25% since February 2022.
- High School Free Ridership WVU Ridership,– all showed increases in ridership compared to January and February 2022. Grey Line trips decreased in February 2022 as compared to February 2021
- Property Tax Pass Ridership was reviewed. 605 passes distributed to date; 5296 rides using the passes in January 2023 and 5527 rides in February 2023
- NewFIT : NewFIT ridership fluctuates. There were 103 trips in January and 80 trips in February.
- Statewide Opioid Response: Using 2 drivers at least 2 days per week; 329 trips in January and 437 in February
- RideMon trips: 329 trips January; 257 trips in February
- Nominations for ROM were: No nominations were provided. Kelli will send out an email requesting riders at a later date.
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **CAC Membership and Roles** Kelli stated that we will be holding elections in July of 2023. We will need a Chairperson, Vice Chair and Secretary.

- **Fiorini Shelter**: We are gathering information on the Fiorini family and will be installing a memorial plaque near the intersection of 8th St and Beechurst Ave. The Fiorini family was instrumental in public transit in Monongalia County. In 1921, Fred Fiorini Sr (Albert's dad) was a driver of the first Monongalia County bus line, called Star Bus Company. From 1921 to 1947 there were several different bus lines that operated going to various locations including locally and to different cities such as Uniontown, PA and Washington, PA. From 1947-1972, the Mountaineer Transportation Company ran a bus line to New Martinsville. IN 1972, Mountaineer Bus Lines was operated by Albert Fiorini, son of Fred Fiorini who had helped start the first transit service. Al Fiorini was also employed by Mountain Line for a period of time.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Construction Update** – Mountain Line is awaiting some fence parts to finish off the parking lot project.
- **Hazel's House of Hope Shelter**- It was brought up that there was a need for a large temperature controlled bus shelter out at Hazel's House of Hope. While Mountain Line does have multiple shelters around the area, none of which are temperature controlled. Mountain Line's CEO David said more discussion is needed.
- **CAC Meeting Time Change** – Kelli stated that the Mountain Line Transit Board of Directors were changing their meeting days to the same as the CAC. Their meetings will run from 12-1or 1:30pm. It was suggested that we move the time of our meeting to 1:30pm so that the BOD can have adequate time to finish their business and that there will be potential opportunities for the BOD and the CAC members to talk about issues. Mel motioned to change the time to 1:30pm and Dave seconded. Motion Passed.
- **New Bus Arrivals** Five new 30' Gilligs arrived; one is branded Grey Line. Two Trolleys are being wrapped and branded and will be delivered within the next couple months.
- **Mountain Heights and Grafton Rd Service Elimination Postponed:** The elimination of these routes has been postponed due to Uber no longer supporting the public transportation sector. RideMon is currently operated through the Uber App. Mountain Line will need to find a new platform so the service can continue.
- **Propane Vehicles** – Propane is an affordable, clean, American made fuel. It comes from organic as well as renewable sources. It is non toxic, meaning it does not contaminate air, soil or water resources. It is included in the annual tax credit in the federal budget to promote alternative fuel adoption. It is approved through 2024 and is currently funded at .37 cents per gallon. Mountain Line is looking into propane fueled vehicles as an alternative option as it burns cleaner.