



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

Minutes of Meeting December 1, 2016

Attendees: Karen Kostelac – Chair
Tricia Kovacs – Vice Chair
Paul Walker – member
Geri Cooper – guest
David Cameron – guest
Jay Favuzzi – Columbus State Community College
Tiffany McClain – Columbus State Community College
Doug Arseneault – COTA

Call to Order: Karen Kostelac, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

Guest Speaker:
Doug Arseneault – COTA

Mr. Arseneault talked about the COTA Transit System Redesign.
<http://www.cota.com/tsr>

The transit system redesign project started in 2014, to look at the COTA routes which haven't changed much since 1974. The existing network is mainly on roadways, but also has many detours into apartment complexes and other facilities. Examples of detours are Thurber Village off Neil Ave, and Whitehall neighborhoods south of Main St between Yearling and Hamilton Rd. Some of these detours will be eliminated to streamline the routes.

The new network will be simplified, getting rid of overlapping routes. The new routes will provide more options for east/west connectivity without downtown transfers. This will also allow for more frequent buses, and more consistency in bus frequency on weekends and more hours of the day.

Some specific changes are doubling the routes to Easton, expanded routes on Brice and Hilliard Rome Roads, improving the routes on High St, Cleveland Ave, Front and Marconi. Front St. will not be completely converted to 2-way for 2 more years.

There will be three transfer zones in the downtown area, Spring St, Broad & High and Rich St near Columbus Commons.

The Cleveland CMAX will be serving line #1. The service will be extended up to Polaris, with bus priority on the Ave. The buses will have wi-fi, will accommodate bicycles, stops will be every ½ mile, and travel time will be decreased by 20%.

Committee members asked questions about the TSR. We expressed concerns about route changes which may impact elderly people or people with disabilities to reach their bus stops. We asked about criteria for bus shelters. The stop must have 35 boardings/day. There will be 100 new shelters added. There are also criteria for where benches and trash cans should be placed. We asked about the problems with lack of sidewalks; Federal Transit Authority investment will add sidewalks. We asked about impacts to Mainstream. The increase in service times will also allow expanded Mainstream service. We asked about service to the VA medical center on James. The VA construction has required the line #6 bus to stop on James, rather than entering the facility.

In order to educate the public on the TSR, information sharing will be started in March for the May 1 launch. There will be 12 teams of 2 people who will help clients with trip planning.

Approval of October minutes: We did not have a quorum to approve the October meeting minutes

New Business:

We will look into meeting at the State Library of Ohio for our 2017 meetings. We will draft a letter to request a Department of Public Service representative to our committee. We will also ask if the job position has been posted for Columbus ADA coordinator.

Next Meeting:

January 26 location State Library of Ohio, 274 E 1st St.
Speakers: TBD

The meeting adjourned at 2:07pm.