

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

LAC CHAIR COMMENTS – Deb Wiese

Chair Wiese reported that she was pleased to hear a message from Spec-Tran on CATA's phone service while being on hold. The message included both the "See Something, Say Something" notice and also where the public can provide feedback on CATA's Listening Bus service.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT – Doug Lecato

See attached report.

Chair Wiese inquired about the location of CATA's Board meeting in October and whether they will still be held at the Lansing Center moving forward.

Doug Lecato responded that CATA's Board meeting in October will be held at the Lansing Center as well as the rest of the CATA Board meetings for fiscal year 2024 unless it is not available.

CATA CEO REPORT

Microtransit

Bradley Funkhouser reported that CATA has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for microtransit and anticipates that the process will be completed by early 2024. Mr. Funkhouser stated that microtransit will allow CATA to expand their service and become more efficient. More details to come.

Cameras on Buses

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA is continuing to update technology and will soon have cameras on buses. He explained that having cameras on buses will provide more safety for CATA's operators and riders.

Cross-Boundary Agreement

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA has renewed its cross-boundary agreement with Clinton Transit. The agreement will continue for as long as both parties are in agreement. Mr. Funkhouser noted that CATA's Planning and Development Department tracks rides to and from Clinton County which have been mostly for work and medical appointments.

Geneva Smith inquired about whether CATA had cameras on the vehicles.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that currently, CATA does not have cameras on the buses; however, CATA intends to initiate a pilot program with a limited number of buses equipped with cameras. He also noted that Transdev does have cameras on their fleet.

George Hanley inquired whether riders would be aware that they were on camera.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that having cameras in public areas is very common nowadays.

George Hanley inquired about CATA receiving any feedback from the Route 3 extension, primarily from local businesses and/or politicians.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that CATA received feedback on the Route 3 extension through EATRAN's survey which included responses from consumers and business owners alike.

Diana Paiz inquired about CATA installing cameras on only a limited number of buses instead of the entire fleet all at once.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that all of CATA's IT upgrades are piloted to allow CATA's ATU to share their input and to work out any issues before including the whole fleet.

Chair Wiese inquired about CATA's holiday service and whether it will be offered for this coming Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day.

Bradley Funkhouser responded that CATA is looking at providing service on these holidays and there will be a schedule posted soon. He also noted that CATA will follow the same protocols as before.

Chair Wiese inquired about the vehicles CATA will be using for microtransit and how they will be utilized in addition to the other forms of transportation that CATA offers.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that microtransit will run similar to CATA's Redi-Ride service. He explained that trips can be scheduled for the same day according to origin and destination. Mr. Funkhouser also stated that the idea is to fill in the gaps that are in small areas that are underserved, and to provide direct service to Michigan State University (MSU) and to the Capital Region International Airport.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Todd Brooks stated that he will update the LAC at their next meeting on operator training and the new class of operators.

Chair Wiese inquired about the number of students in the new class and the number of operators that CATA would like to have overall.

Todd Brooks stated that there are 19 students in the new class of which nine (9) hold CDL's. Mr. Brooks also stated that CATA currently has 247 operators, yet the goal is to have 289.

Doug Lecato inquired about whether CATA has enough resources to meet ridership demand.

Todd Brooks stated that the Maintenance Department has been short-staffed, which affects CATA's resource availability. He noted that Marshea Brown, Director of Human Resources, has been instrumental in recruiting more employees.

George Hanley inquired whether CATA has reached out to Lansing Community College (LCC) for mechanics.

Todd Brooks stated that CATA has reached out to LCC, as well as other avenues.

PARATRANSIT

Trips

Darren Horn, Paratransit Supervisor, reported on behalf of Craig Frazier. Mr. Horn stated that Spec-Tran is averaging approximately 1,300 rides per day and 1,600 per day for all paratransit services, which equates to pre-pandemic levels.

New Vehicles

Darren Horn stated that CATA has received eight (8) new buses, and Transdev has received four (4) new buses and six (6) new minivans. All vehicles are ADA compliant and will soon be in service. Mr. Horn also noted that CATA's wait-stop option continues to increase in popularity and is doing well.

Paratransit Staff

Darren Horn stated that paratransit staff participated in the Lansing Board of Water and Light 5K and in the MSU Homecoming Parade. He also noted that two (2) new paratransit representatives will begin training on Wednesday, October 11. Mr. Horn explained that all paratransit employees are being trained on CATA's new radio system which is linked to the State of Michigan.

Optimization Program

Darren Horn stated that he has been working with Transdev and Trapeze on implementing an Optimization Program. He explained that the program will flag scheduled rides in advance that are considered "bad" rides. This notification will enable staff to group rides together for maximum efficiency. Mr. Horn stated that the program will be tested before being activated live.

Discussion ensued.

SERVICE QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE (SQS) – Kellie Blackwell

See attached Sept notes.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers

Chair Wiese stated that Nominating Chair Erin Shannon conducted the election of the LAC officers.

Nominating Chair Shannon stated that she received nominations from Deb Wiese as Chair and Erin Shannon as Vice Chair. She then asked for any additional nominations from the floor.

No more nominations were heard from the floor; therefore, members proceeded to vote.

Nominating Chair Shannon called for a vote for Deb Wiese as the LAC Chair.

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Chair Shannon called for a vote for Erin Shannon as the LAC Vice Chair.

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kellie Blackwell announced that there is an AT3 Center Webinar on Assistive Technology & Accessible Transportation event scheduled on October 5, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ms. Blackwell stated that she will be presenting on how assistive technology is critical to allowing individuals with disabilities and seniors to maintain their independence especially through transportation. She also noted that she will email LAC members and CATA representatives with further details.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MOTION:

A motion to adjourn was moved by Geneva Smith and supported by George Hanley.

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wiese adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Sumerix
Operations Administrative Coordinator