

MINUTES

Concord Kannapolis Area Transit Commission

November 30th, 2022, 8:30 am

Rider Transit Center

MEMBERS:

Mayor Darrell Hinnant-City of Kannapolis
Dianne Berry- City of Kannapolis
John Sweat-City of Concord

OTHERS:

Andy Christy- Rider Transit
Eva Hill-City of Concord
Jaime Tippet Poe- Rider Transit
L.J. Weslowski- Rider Transit
Phil Conrad- CRMPO
Bob Bushey-Cabarrus County
Patrice Gilliam-Miller-Transdev
Dennis Brown-RCCC
Craig Meeks-Rider Transit
Brian Corcoran-RideCo
Sam Haas-RideCo

Call to Order, Quorum, and Approval of Minutes

Mayor Hinnant called the meeting to order at 8:32 am, declared a quorum.

No individuals present for public comment.

Mr. Christy introduced Craig Meeks as the new Technology Coordinator with Concord Kannapolis Area Transit

Mr. Weslowski introduced Dennis Brown with RCCC, Brian Corcoran and Sam Haas with RideCo, and Bob Bushey with Cabarrus County Transportation Services.

Mayor Hinnant requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12th, 2022 Concord Kannapolis Area Transit Commission meeting.

Mr. Sweat made a motion to approve; Ms. Berry second. Minutes approved unanimously as presented.

Cabarrus Reentry Program and Transportation

Mr. Brown gave a summary of the Cabarrus County Reentry Program and the relationship with Rowan Cabarrus Community College.

Mr. Brown requested assistance in transportation for individuals in the Reentry Program to get to work and to their mandatory appointments.

There are six individuals who will graduate from the logistics course in January, 2023 and be released from prison in February. The hope is to have a job for them upon release.

Mr. Weslowski stated that employers find the challenge that employees do not return to work at some point due to inability to get transportation to/from work. Often individuals are back into prison because they are unable to get to their mandatory appointments.

Discussion regarding trip cost and increased number of individuals on a vehicle will decrease the cost per trip per person.

Mr. Brown stated that they plan to ask employers to contribute to the transportation cost also.

Mayor Hinnant asked how many may be transported by the end of 2023.

Mr. Brown stated that approximately 35 individuals will be included in the logistics course in 2023 and this would be for the first 90 days of their release.

Mayor Hinnant asked about where these individuals would be living.

Mr. Brown stated housing services will be provided for the first year and the first home will be in Kannapolis. Currently looking for housing in the city areas due to access to transportation. If there is rural access to transportation, then housing access would expand.

Mayor Hinnant discussed the increased cost of housing and the need for affordable housing for six individuals.

Mr. Brown stated that they are only looking at the city strictly due to need for transportation and that the housing will be ready at the end of December.

Mayor Hinnant asked about housing and if it on a bus route.

Mr. Brown stated that it is, but there are not jobs on the bus routes at this time.

Mayor Hinnant asked about exit 63 may be getting a manufacturing facility with jobs and that could be an option for employment.

Mr. Weslowski stated that our formula funding increased \$420,000 increase. A portion of this was budgeted for fuel, but there is about \$211,000 remaining in the budget for new service.

Mr. Bushey stated that they have ROAP funding for Rural General Public transportation also.

Mayor Hinnant asked if there is a vision that this is just the introductory class and if other classes could be offered and if there could be a transportation need to attend classes also.

Mr. Brown stated that once they are released, they can take additional courses at RCCC and they will likely need transportation to and from those courses. It is also better to keep the individuals in the program away from people that they know and keep them isolated in the program.

Mayor Hinnant asked about the next steps.

Mr. Weslowski stated that he would like to work further to assist the six individuals in the current course that are to be released in February.

Mayor Hinnant discussed with Mr. Sweat and Ms. Berry to progress with working through the details and progress with providing transportation for the six individuals in the current course.

Ms. Berry asked for Mr. Brown to share some success stories in the future.

Mr. Weslowski stated they will keep the Transit Commission updated.

SUN Project and Transportation

Mayor Hinnant discussed ways to take on the challenge of solving mental health concerns and there was an advocate from the SUN Project was at the meeting. If we want to invest in the future of children, this is an excellent place to start.

Ms. Tippet Poe gave an overview of the SUN Project including data and a formal request from representatives of the SUN Project. 40 trips per week between CCTS and Rider Transit. Rider Transit would be the backup. Cost for Rider Transit is currently \$49.91/trip on average cost.

Mr. Weslowski reiterated that Rider Transit is planning to be the backup to CCTS and so we would not have 40 trips per week. We are unsure what the cost to us will truly be at this time until we participate in the pilot for a few months.

Mr. Bushey stated that it is working very well. They have a grant that is paying for trips and they will likely only need assistance for weekend or after-hours trips.

Mr. Weslowski stated that Rider Transit can also look for grant funding, but those would take time. We would like to get the program going and look for grant funding that will apply.

Mayor Hinnant discussed that there may be additional funding for this project also that is not necessarily typical.

Ms. Tippet Poe stated the SUN project would especially fit into that funding category because of real data that will come out of serving women in this program.

Mr. Weslowski gave an example of the expense of private sector transportation for the health care industry that could be redirected to Rider Transit.

Mayor Hinnant stated that Steve Morris stated that we need to figure out how to service the individuals coming out of the Mental Health facility in Kannapolis to important medical appointments. The new location currently has no bus service and we need to figure out how to do that.

Mr. Weslowski discussed the limited access/transportation to that location including Cabarrus Family Medicine which is located near the new Mental Health Facility.

Ms. Berry asked about what happens when there are even more requests.

Mr. Weslowski stated that that is a decision for the Transit Commission, and we would like to help as much as possible. The limit is financial, but if there is more need than we can provide, we will have to decide whether we find more funding or we limit ourselves to the programs that we can manage.

Ms. Tippet Poe stated that data would be beneficial to see if there is overall savings for the county and that part of the long-range plan is county wide demand response which would provide access to get into the service area at bus stops.

Mayor Hinnant stated that everyone is asking for a better use of funding, not necessarily more funding, so hopefully we can afford to do it because of other savings or reallocations.

Recommendation/Action: Receive information, discuss SUN Project request for transportation assistance.

Ms. Berry made a motion to move forward with partnering with CCTS to provide transportation to individuals in the SUN Project; Mr. Sweat second. Unanimous.

Demand Response Software RFP

Ms. Tippet Poe gave a brief update on the Demand Response Software process and introduced Brian Corcoran and Sam Hass with RideCo for an overview of the product.

Mr. Corcoran gave an overview of the RideCo demand response software.

- Focus on demand/demand response transit.
- First app-based demand response deployment in North America and Asia
- 60+ Services Globally-industry leading productivity and Rider Satisfaction
- Investment and Commitment in North Carolina
- November 2021 series A Raise of \$20 Million

Mayor Hinnant asked if RideCo was super successful, how to interface with the fixed route system.

Mr. Corcoran stated that they do not necessarily recommend replacing fixed route with a demand response and that demand response or microtransit should be used as a compliment to fixed route. RideCo sees themselves as complementary to fixed routes or possibly replacing very low ridership routes/higher cost.

Mr. Haas stated that the software can be utilized by multiple trip purposes. Fixed resources are used to deliver services and microtransit services would usually start in a zone and beyond an area would be a connection to fixed route.

Mr. Weslowski stated that there is an example of limited services north of Lane Street in Kannapolis. Microtransit would allow them to be picked up there and connected to a bus route to then ride to their destination. If the origin and destination is not on the bus route, this product may be able to grown in combination with Paratransit.

Mayor Hinnant asked about the service and how the vehicles, funding, and operators come from.

Mr. Weslowski stated that there are two parts to RideCo. The first is for Paratransit and we already have vehicles, staff, and funding for a demand response software that we are replacing. The second option is additional microtransit modules, that we can utilize if we choose to down the road.

Ms. Tippet Poe presents request for contract term and contract costs.
3-year contract with one 2-year option.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
\$44,200.00	\$26,460.00	\$27,783.00	\$29,172.15	\$30,630.76

5-year total=\$158,245.91

80% federal funding and 10% to Kannapolis, and 10% to Concord for cost.

Current software is no longer functional and we have to move to a new software from \$18,878.60 to \$25,200 with a cost of \$19,200 in training fees the first year.

Mr. Bushey stated that having the option of microtransit and demand response software update will be a game changer when we consolidate.

Recommendation/Action: Consider approving staff recommendations for award.

Mr. Sweat made a motion to approve award to RideCo with a 3-year contract with one 2-year option with Rider Transit to utilize RideCo for their demand response software not to.; Ms. Berry second. Unanimous.

Mr. Weslowski stated that we are also requesting that we multi-award the contract to allow other transit systems to purchase demand response software to TripMaster-CTS.

Mayor Hinnant clarified that there would be a possibility for other transit agencies to purchase off of the contract.

Mr. Weslowski states that is correct.

Mr. Sweat made a motion to amend previous motion approve to dual award to RideCo and CTS with a 3-year contract with one 2-year option with Rider Transit to utilize RideCo for their demand response software not to.; Ms. Berry second. Unanimous.

CCTS/Rider Transit Consolidation Implementation Study update

Mr. Weslowski stated that he there was a meeting on November 3rd ,2022 at the Laureate Center with City of Concord, City of Kannapolis, and Cabarrus County, and there is no update as of yet from the elected officials.

Mayor Hinnant stated that Kannapolis City Council has not met to discuss the governmental structure yet, but plan to do so at the next council meeting.

Mr. Sweat agreed that Concord City Council has not done so yet, either.

Mr. Weslowski asked of Mr. Bushey if there is an update.

Mr. Bushey stated he does not have an update at this time.

Mr. Weslowski stated that we are on pause with the Consolidation study until there is a decision or we will terminate the study if there is no decision.

Mayor Hinnant stated he hopes to have an answer by end of December.

Next CKTC Meeting – Date and Time TBD

Mr. Weslowski asked for any input on date/time of Concord Kannapolis Area Transit meetings for 2023. He made the recommendation that he propose a time in the 3rd or 4th week of the month to Mayor Dusch and Kannapolis and Concord City Council members.

Mayor Hinnant asked that it not be done on Monday of the 4th week.

Mr. Weslowski stated that it would likely be Wednesday or Thursday and the 3rd week would be perfect.

Mayor Hinnant stated that would be good for Kannapolis because they meet on the 4th week.

Reports/Other Business

- Bus Stop Amenities Project update-Mr. Christy provided an update. There is steady progress on the site design portion. MOUs have been finalized and forwarded to the engineering companies. Working on encroachment agreements and final site plan review clearance with Concord planning. Anticipate being completed in the next few months. First 22-23 sites RFQ will be issued in the first quarter of 2023.
- Mayor Hinnant stated he continues to get complaints about the bus stop at 22nd street. Mr. Christy stated that he has not been able to get in touch with the housing authority as this bus shelter does not belong to us. Will attempt to contact Mr. Melton and Mr. Smith to work with the housing authority.
Mayor Hinnant asked if the shelter would be moved off of the site to a new location. Mr. Christy stated that they are not able to put up a new shelter, but will install semi-seats due to NC DOT regulations.
Mr. Weslowski stated that we have not been able to discuss with anyone at the housing authority and we are unable to remove it because it does belong to them.
Mayor Hinnant stated that if nothing is working, he will contact Rowan County to see if a commissioner will assist.
- Mr. Weslowski stated he would like permission to once or twice between meeting, to send Transit related articles for updates on the Transit industry.
Transit Commission Members all agree.

Mayor Hinnant requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sweat made a motion; Ms. Berry second. Unanimous. With no additional discussion or items on agenda, meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.