



## Local Advisory Council (LAC)

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

#### LAC Member Attendance

<b>District Once</b>	Andre Bryant	Present
<b>District Two</b>	Tamara Perrin	Excused
<b>District Three</b>	James Jones	Present
<b>District Four</b>	Tammy Black	Present
<b>District Five</b>	Sabrina Simmons	Present
<b>District Six</b>	Yvonne Roundtree	Present
<b>District Seven</b>	Fayne Chennault	Present
<b>DAAA</b>	Rick Spivey	Present
<b>DAAA</b>	Anita Owen	Excused

#### Notes

This was a virtual meeting. Seven of Nine LAC members were in attendance. Sixteen administrative staff members attended. Thirteen community members were present.

#### Announcements

The interpreter was unable to attend the meeting. If a transcript of the meeting is needed, please let Don Lozen know so he can make sure you get it.

#### Call to Order

Andre Bryant, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

#### Opening Remarks/Chairperson

Mr. Bryant welcomed Michael Staley to DDOT and thanked him for attending the meeting. Approval of the May 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes. A motion to approve was initiated by James Jones. Seconded by Faye Chennault. Motion carried with no objections from committee members.

## **Chairperson's Report**

Nothing to report.

## **DDOT Administrative Reports**

### **A. Executive Director – Mikel Oglesby**

Mr. Oglesby cited many changes made over the past three months.

- Launched 4 new electric buses into the fleet. Received a grant to purchase 2 more electric buses.
- Replacing 28 buses. Ten by December and to phase the others into the fleet during the first quarter of 2023.
- Bus shelters are being strategically placed.
- Rosa Parks doorways now have all the ADA features working properly.
- Hiring drivers-113 so far this year but have only retained 36.
- The “Reimagined” program is progressing to eventually develop the transit system that meets the needs of the citizens.

### **B. Assistant Deputy Director of Administration – Maryann Walsh**

Actively hiring drivers and managers for the paratransit system.

### **C. Assistant Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance - Melvin Barkley**

Thirty-two operations personnel have taken the De-escalation training to help reduce conflict on the buses. Six new Road Supervisor were hired. This should reduce incidents and complaints.

### **D. Manager of Paratransit – G. Michael Staley**

Mr. Staley thanked everyone for the warm welcome to DDOT. He gave a brief summary of his experience which includes: Thirty-six years working in paratransit, primarily working for private companies and eighteen years of experience consulting. He hopes to hire managers to assist with the oversight of MetroLift by October 1<sup>st</sup>. DDOT will take full administrative oversight by January 1, 2023.

### **E. Transit Police – Ricky Brown**

Hired one new officer but has need for several more. Managing safety concerns at Rosa Parks.

#### **F. Manager of Planning and Scheduling – Steve Patrinick**

Discussed the “Reimagined” program.

#### **G. Safety Director – Richard Czeck**

Stated that all ADA features on the entry doors to the Rosa Parks Transit Center have been updated and are working properly.

#### **H. Maintenance Superintendent – Robert Granger**

Two maintenance training instructors have been hired. Emphasis is on teaching mechanics the new technology found on the buses.

#### **I. Maintenance Manager – Geo Joy**

Working to make sure the electric buses are functioning properly and that the 28 diesel buses are appropriately brought into use.

#### **J. Grants – Eunice Lovi**

Submitted the MDOT application for Fiscal Year 24.

#### **K. MetroLift Manager – Simone Moore**

Taking applications for New Freedom in spite of the program to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Big Star Transit Company has started providing services for MetroLift. Reservations should be made as early as possible, usually seven days in advance is the best, however, same day service is available.

#### **L. ADA Coordinator – Don Lozen**

Mr. Lozen read the report submitted to him by Riki Yamakura, Project Manager. DDOT was awarded \$7 million to obtain Hydrogen electric buses and infrastructure. The State Fair Terminal Project -construction to begin soon accessibility being considered during each phase. The Coolidge Terminal project- the architectural and environment assessment continues.

Mr. Lozen stated that the city continues to work on ensuring the website is WCAG 2.0 compliant. Masks need to be worn on all transportation in spite of it being optional. The MetroLift app continues to be problematic, Sabrina Simmons is working with MetroLift to iron out issues. A mailing was sent to people who attended the LAC meeting prior to 2020 to inform them of this meeting.

## Old Business

No old business

## New Business – LAC Member Questions

### James Jones – District 3

**Question:** Last year he asked the bus stop at 7 Mile and Ryan. It is a very dangerous stop. Traffic does not stop and passes which makes for an unsafe situation. **Response:** Mr. Oglesby did go to the intersection to review. The plan is to evaluate all city bus stops with similar situations to determine a solution for all.

### Yvonne Roundtree – District 6

**Question:** Concerned that more people to get outside the city for doctor appointments. If New Freedom is phased out, what provisions are being made to help people get to their appointments. **Responses:** New Freedom may be extended to ensure funds are spent and to develop an alternative to New Freedom. It is actively being discussed.

### Rick Spivey – DAAA

**Questions:** Requested information of how New Freedom is to work until the funds run out. **Response:** Mr. Oglesby explained the New Freedom program and it is current operation. He again discussed a need for a long-term solution.

### Sabrina Simmons – District 5

**Question:** Ms. Simmons asked that DDOT investigate other forms of Paratransit that could address county wide concerns for travel. She thought a combination of taxi, Uber, and Lyft could be used to travel outside the City of Detroit. She also mentioned that she has been working with Simone Moore and the app vendor to fix several issues. **Response:** Mr. Oglesby will have Mr. Staley and the Paratransit Administrative Staff to evaluate and figure out a solution.

### Andre Bryant – District One

**Question:** Are drivers receiving sensitivity training? **Response:** Don Lozen stated all new drivers receive training. A refresher course was offered December 2020 and January 2021. **Question:** Are Transit Police able to monitor buses for safety. **Response:** Chief Brown stated that the program continues and will be expanded

with more officers. **Questions:** Are ADA concerns addressed at the RPTC.  
**Response:** Rich Czech stated the center is assessed daily for all maintenance concerns. Presently, the ADA push buttons on the entry doors have been updated and are working properly.

## Public Comments

### Steve Handschu

Mr. Handschu had several comments related to concerns with the operations of MetroLift, from making a reservation and the problems associated with it, to operation concerns with drivers. He also had issues with the Southfield fixed route being inconsistent in operation and with several fixed routes drivers not doing their job. Mr. Oglesby will meet him and other representatives of the Federation of the Blind to discuss issues and concerns.

### Jamie Junior

She asked why she needed a medical verification form for New Freedom if she is a MetroLift rider. She was told she did not need another verification form. She also suggested that DDOT work on an electronic payment system for MetroLift.

## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by James Jones with support by Faye Chennault. The motion passed unanimously at 11:28 am.

The next meeting will be November 15, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

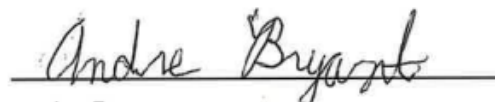
Donald C. Lozen – Regulatory Compliance Officer – ADA

Andre Bryant – Chairperson – Local Advisory Council

Respectfully submitted,



Donald C. Lozen  
Regulatory Compliance Officer-ADA



Andre Bryant  
Chairperson, Local Advisory Council

