



**Special Local Advisory Council (LAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024  
10:00 am**

**LAC Member Attendance**

|                       |                        |         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------|
| <b>District One</b>   | Andre Bryant           | Present |
| <b>District Two</b>   | Tamara Perrin          | Present |
| <b>District Three</b> | James Jones            | Present |
| <b>District Four</b>  | Tammy Black            | Absent  |
| <b>District Five</b>  | Sabrina Simmons-Rice   | Present |
| <b>District Six</b>   | Yvonne Roundtree       | Present |
| <b>District Seven</b> | Faye Chennault-Johnson | Present |
| <b>DAAA</b>           | Rick Spivey            | Present |
| <b>DAAA</b>           | Anita Owen             | Present |

This was a virtual meeting. Eight LAC members were in attendance and twelve DDOT staff members attended.

This meeting was called to at 10:07 am by Scharron Rambus, ADA Coordinator

Mr. Rambus started the meeting because Mr. Andre Bryant had computer technical issues.

Scarron Rambus, Rick Spivey, Alicia Miller, and Sabrina Simmons-Rice expressed their gratitude to the LAC members for their service.

Ms. Tamara Perrin -I'd like to say it's been an honor to have served on the LAC and thanked DDOT for the certificate of acknowledgement.

Mr. Rambus thanked Mr. Andre Bryant for his tenure as the chairperson.

Ms. Roundtree- stated she was going to miss not being on board but would still be around and praying for the new members and that everything would go well in the future.

**DDOT Administration Divisions Updates**

Interim Executive Director, Michael Staley,



Mr. Staley extended his heartfelt thanks to the LAC members whose terms are ending.

#### ADA Coordinator – Scharron Rambus

The Office of Compliance monitored 16 ADA Fixed Route trips across seven regulated areas. The observations included:

- Two (2) buses with non-working announcers
- One (1) bus missing a priority seating sign
- One (1) bus with a non-working stop control in the wheelchair securement area

These issues were reported to the Vehicle Maintenance Division, and all repairs and signage installations were completed in a timely manner.

Twenty-two (22) ADA Fixed Route complaints were investigated for the third quarter:

- Three (3) complaints were invalid.
- Nine (9) were undetermined due to missing, incorrect, or inadequate information.
- Ten (10) complaints were deemed valid, with five (5) or 50% involving mobility device pass-ups.

Additional signage and adjustment to the entrance doors was made to enhance accessibility.

- Paratransit approved 307 applicants
- Members are encouraged to suggest additional locations for posting meeting notices. Contact the Office of Compliance to add recommendations to the list.
- ADA Operators Training: LAC members are invited to attend DDOT's ADA Operators training sessions. Classes are held monthly. Interested members can contact the Office of Compliance via chat or by calling 313.316.2793.

#### Assistant Director of Operations – Andre Mallett

DOT's is hiring new TEOs, preparing for the January Service pick (where operators choose new assignments), developing a mentoring program to support and retain our operators as part of our efforts to move Detroit forward.



### Vehicle Maintenance Division – Geo Joy

Geo Joy stated they are working diligently to get more buses in service. We currently have 186 buses currently available in service.

### **LAC Chairmen Report**

Mr. Bryant stated his paratransit trips have been going smoothly, thanked the LAC who tenure expired and welcomed the LAC members.

### **Old Business - None**

### **New Business**

Mr. Rambus welcomed the LAC members that will join us in January 2025. Representing District # 2, Mr. Bob Mc person. Representing District # 4, Mr. Dwayne Rudd. Representing District # 6, Ms. Jacqueline Cuevas. Our member at large is Ms. Jerina Cleveland. She's affiliated with Phoenix. Mobility Rising. Their terms begin effective January 2025.

Tanisha Roby presented Mobility by Eco Lane Mobile app. To sign up for the mobile app, contact paratransit phone number 313-77-4555. Press option, number 4 or download the app in a smartphone app store.

Ms. Cuevas suggested making the app available in other languages such as Spanish and Ms. Perrin suggested Chinese.

### **Public Comments**

Renard Monczunski (represents District 6) stated the City Council has passed a resolution for low emissions for paratransit vehicles and supporting the conversion of the fleet. He thanked the Administration and city council member Gabriela Santiago Romero and Council President Mary Sheffield who championed the resolution.

Mr. Stephen Handschu- Paratransit has certainly improved since Transdev. It would be wrong to say that everything is Peachy, because it isn't. I've had two (2) instances of excessive long travel times (longer than an hour) due to dispatch computer errors. Waiting times on phone calls are getting longer and longer. If the mobile app visuals are not accessible to a blind person, then DDOT should take



them out. Uber and Lyft work very well in other cities, and DDOT needs to get there.

Chat Question: Are there any efforts to improve the cleanliness of the bus? Mr. Joy stated deep cleanings are carried out on the buses every 30 days, along with daily cleaning. If everyone experiences a dirty bus, please call customer services with the bus number and we will ensure the bus is serviced.

Ms. Rochella Stewart stated Ordinance to amend Chapter 47 of the 2019 Detroit City code Section 47, 2, 15 line 14 and 17 in section one and line 28 (a) and (b) is about picketing, distributing leaflets, displaying signs, demonstrating, engaging in oral protests. She asked why is DDOT trying to stop people from rallying at the transit center?

Mr. Staley stated he was unaware of the ordinance but will look into it and provide feedback.

Mr. Robert Pawlowski thanked outgoing LAC members for all their tremendous work, their transparency, and feedback that helped improve service. He stated service is getting more reliable. Thanks to Mr. Staley for getting things done.

Mr. Gregory Glenn stated DDOT's paratransit is noncompliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act Wage and Hour Division by classifying the contractors as employees. This also violates DDOT's certifications and insurances with the FTA and federal funding could be at stake.

Gregory Glenn's stated Mr. Staley was the vice president for Viola. Viola sued the City of Detroit for \$10 million dollars. Mr. Staley gave deposition testimony against the City of Detroit and the city ended up settling that case for \$5.5 million dollars. Mr. Glenn asked how Mr. Staley ended up with the position Director of Transportation for the City of Detroit.

Mr. Staley responded to the last part of the question. I held down the position of area Vice President for Veolia, which was the predecessor company of Transdev. I was here in 2009 when the contract between Veolia and the city was terminated without cause. Yes, I did. I did provide information in a deposition. I'm not sure what the dollar amount was on the final settlement. In June of 2022, Mikel Oglesby asked me to come to Detroit to help transition the Paratransit service from Transdev to a hybrid model, where the City of Detroit would provide the



critical operational functions of reservation, scheduling, dispatching customer service and eligibility certifications, and then, 14 months later I was appointed to the position of the interim executive director of DDOT by Mayor Mike Duggan.

Mr. Cunningham stated he felt like the ordinance that Renard was speaking of is offensive. I've been doing this for free for over a decade. Being an activist giving out hand warmers, gloves at the bus, stops showing love to people and giving out flyers and information that will no longer be permitted. I find it offensive that it just comes to our attention. It's taking away our 1st amendment rights.

Mr. Byant asked for a motion to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Tamara Perrin to accept the minutes and seconded by Yvonne Roundtree. No opposition. Motion was approved.

Ms. Chennault and Mr. Rudd wanted the record to reflect her presence at the meeting.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Andre Bryant asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tamara Perrin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Mr. James Jones. No opposition. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned 11:17 am

**Next meeting will be held on February 19, 2025 @ 10:00 am.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

*Scharron Rambus*

Scharron Rambus  
Regulatory Compliance Officer – ADA

*Andre Bryant*

Andre Bryant  
Chairperson, Local Advisory Council