



**Local Advisory Council (LAC) Quarterly
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
10:00 am**

LAC Member Attendance

District One	Andre Bryant	Present
District Two	Bob McPherson	Present
District Three	James Jones	Present
District Four	Dwayne Rudd	Present
District Five	Sabrina Simmons-Rice	Present
District Six	Jacqueline Cuevas	Present
District Seven	Faye Chennault-Johnson	Present
DAAA	Rick Spivey	Present
Feonix Mobility Rising	Jerina Cleveland	Present

This was a virtual meeting. All Nine LAC members were in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Opening Remarks

LAC Chairman: Mr. Dwyane Rudd greeted everyone.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of January 7, 2025, Executive Session Meeting Minutes:

- A motion was made by Sabrina Simmons-Rice to accept the minutes.
- The motion was seconded by James Jones.
- No opposition. Motion approved.

DDOT Administration Reports

Executive Director of Transit: Robert Cramer introduced himself and shared his past transit experience.



Assistant Director of Operations: Andre Mallett reported that DDOT is still hiring operators. Currently, 39 candidates are in the training class that began this month.

Paratransit Interim Director: DeMarkus Garrett reported that Paratransit's on-time performance is at 98%. DDOT is finalizing the process to launch same-day service and selecting a vendor for supplemental training for Paratransit drivers.

Scheduling and Planning: Steve Patrnick announced that a public hearing for the upcoming June Service changes will take place on the third Thursday of March.

Vehicle Maintenance Interim Assistant Director: Geo Joy reported that DDOT is procuring 45 hybrid diesel buses, expected for delivery in 2025. Additionally, DDOT is actively recruiting general mechanics; the position is posted on the City of Detroit website.

Chief Safety Officer: Cory Holmes stated that the Detroit Police Department (DPD) will increase bus boardings and partner with DDOT to enhance safety at both transit centers.

ADA Coordinator: Scharron Rambus provided an update on ADA compliance:

- Since the last LAC meeting, the Office of Compliance monitored 12 ADA Fixed Route trips across seven regulated areas, including Route Identification, Boarding Location, Lift/Ramp, Bus Accessibility, Wheelchair Securement, Bus Announcements, and Service Animals.
- Investigated 17 ADA Fixed-Route complaints in the last quarter of 2024, down from 22 complaints in the previous quarter.
- 180 new applicants were determined eligible for DDOT's ADA Complimentary Paratransit Service, and 133 applications were recertified.
- Requests were made for suggested locations to post LAC meeting notices. Contact Scharron Rambus for additions.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.



Local Advisory Council Concerns

- Faye Chennault-Johnson inquired about improving Paratransit trips requiring transfers between SMART and DDOT.
- Sabrina Rice suggested DDOT consider a voucher program for services like Lyft or Uber.
- DeMarkus Garrett stated there is currently no structure for a voucher program but assured that DDOT would explore all options to enhance mobility in Detroit.
- Rick Spivey asked about the possibility of DDOT securing New Freedom funding again.
- Robert Cramer explained that the New Freedom Program expired in 2013, but DDOT is actively discussing potential improvements to Paratransit transfers with SMART.

Public Comments

- Ms. Rochella Stewart and Cunningham asked about securing a sponsor to subsidize Paratransit. A resolution was sent to the City Council, Mayor, and Mr. Cramer requesting a doubling of DDOT funding.
- Renard Monczunski asked if the Reduced Fare ID renewal process could be eliminated for elderly and permanently disabled individuals and whether the city could enforce ADA seating at the front of fixed-route buses.
 - Scharron Rambus clarified that elderly passengers can exchange their passes at the transit center without filling out a new application. The process keeps the database updated and prevents misuse. The enforcement of ADA seating is limited to drivers requesting, but they cannot force passengers to move.
- Rebecca Fritz emphasized that the Rosa Parks Transit Center should never close, particularly in extreme weather. She also urged improvements in bus timeliness and consistency.
- Lisa Franklin reported that individuals using walkers and wheelchairs have been left at 7-Mile bus stops. She inquired about policies for ADA passengers who cannot be accommodated.
 - Andre Mallett stated that operators are required to inform ADA passengers when they cannot be accommodated due to capacity. They must stop, communicate with the passenger, notify the control center, and provide information on the next scheduled bus. DDOT will monitor the 7-Mile route for pass-ups.



Meeting Adjournment

- Dwyane Rudd requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Sabrina Simmons-Rice motioned to adjourn, seconded by Rick Spivey.
- No opposition. Motion approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Respectfully submitted by:

Scharron Rambus

Scharron Rambus
Regulatory Compliance Officer – ADA

Dwyane Rudd

Dwyane Rudd
Chairperson, LAC