



**Local Advisory Council (LAC) Quarterly
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 20, 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 10:03 AM.

Opening Remarks

LAC Chairman: Mr. Dwyane Rudd greeted everyone.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of February 18, 2025, Local Advisory Council Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Sabrina Jacqueline Cuevas to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Faye Chennault-Johnson. No opposition. Motion approved.

DDOT Administration Reports

Executive Director of Transit: Robert Cramer stated that the LAC is a very important group. We are seeing growth in our Paratransit services, which is reflected by the improved quality of service. We are working on our initiatives, like having more amenities at our bus stops. We are continuing to focus on safety and training our drivers so that we will provide



good customer experience. Mr. Cramer introduced the new Deputy Director of Transit, Mr. Darren Beach.

Deputy Director of Transportation: Darren Beach stated that DDOT is down 3 general auto mechanics. DDOT is waiting for the arrival of its new buses.

Paratransit Interim Director: DeMarkus Garrett reported that DDOT is finalizing the process to launch same-day service as soon as the equipment arrives. Jennifer Kaczmarek is the new Eligibility Manager and works closely with our customer care team.

Assistant Director of Operations: Andre Mallett reported that DDOT is hiring operators. Currently, we have 500 operators.

Scheduling and Planning: Steve Patrnick announced that April service changes started and there is another set to take place in June. The public hearings for the September service changes are listed on the website.

Vehicle Maintenance Interim Assistant Director: Geo Joy reported that DDOT is actively recruiting general mechanics along with other positions, these positions are posted on the City of Detroit website.

ADA Coordinator: Scharron Rambus stated the Office of Compliance monitored 18 ADA fixed route trips across seven regulated areas, including route identification, boarding location, lift/ramp, bus accessibility, wheelchair securement, bus announcements, and service animals. Sixteen (16) ADA fixed-route complaints were investigated during the first quarter of 2025. There were two (2) yellow mitts issued to riders. DDOT received and approved 311 paratransit applications and 147 recertifications.

Old Business

- Collaboration with SMART on streamlining Paratransit passenger transfers between the two systems. (Paratransit & Compliance) still outstanding.
- Consideration of extending the ID renewal period for individuals with permanent disabilities. Still consulting.

New Business

RTA – Mobility 4All (M4A) Plan

- A locally developed coordinated human services transportation plan.



- The plan identifies transit solutions for people with disabilities, older adults and individuals with limited incomes.
- The plan uses a regional approach encompassing the 4-county region of Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties, including the city of Detroit.
- Contacts - RTA (313) 402-1020, Elnora Austell 248) 302-8017

Local Advisory Council Concerns

- Sabrina-Rice inquired about better coordinating trips; she had 10 people at her school to be picked up and there were 10 different vehicles sent. Also, there were passengers that had two vehicles sent.
- Sabrina Rice wants DDOT to investigate a voucher program for services like Lyft or Uber and give a report at the next meeting. 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.
- Faye Chennault expressed concern about the increase in the number of people being dropped off at the wrong address and the text messaging system. DeMarkus Garrett will investigate the text messaging service.
- Scharron Rambus stated that a response to these concerns will be given before the next meeting.

Public Comments

- Margurite Maddox states that the drivers are picking her up in the second lane and not the curb lane and when is the next RTA board meeting?
 - Andre Mallett stated that he will address the complaint of operators picking up passengers from the second lane.
 - Ellie McCarthy stated that the next RTA board meeting is June 12th
- Stephen Handschu stated that DDOT has made itself a far better transit agency and wants to set up a meeting with Mr. Cramer concerning a voucher program.
- Yovonne Roundtree would like an update on the status of the text service.
- Robert Pawlowski extends his gratitude to all the LAC members for the amazing work that has been done over the years.

Meeting Adjournment

Dwyane Rudd requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacqueline Cuevas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Andre Bryant, no opposition and the motion was approved.



Meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Respectfully submitted by:

Scharron Rambus - ADA Coordinator

Dwyane Rudd - Chairperson, LAC