

Minutes

RTA Organizational, Services and Performance Monitoring Committee Meeting

9:10 a.m., August 25, 2020

Committee Members: Lucas (Chair), Bibb, Byrne, Serrano, Weiss

Other members: Clough, Joyce, McCall, Moss, Pellot

Not present: None

Also Present: Anderson, Benford, Birdsong, Bober, Burney, Caver, Cottrell, Cox, Dangelo, Davidson, Davis, Dietrich, Fields, Garofoli, Gautam, Kirkland, Manning, Montgomery, Moore, Pickett, Schipper, Sutula, Woodford

Rev. Lucas called the meeting to order 9:10 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that four (4) committee members were present. Mr. Serrano had technical problems. He joined after the roll call.

Quarterly Management Report – 2nd Quarter 2020

Rev. Lucas welcomed Ms. Birdsong back. Dr. Caver gave the presentation. The 2nd quarter continued to be dominated by COVID-19 challenges, which affected the customers and employees. Ohio Governor DeWine's mandatory Stay At Home orders began in mid-March and continued into May. As an essential service, RTA continued to provide essential workers with a way to get to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies and other destinations. Sanitation and disinfecting efforts were expanded on board the vehicles and stations. Also clear vinyl shields were installed to protect operators from the spread of COVID-19. The barriers are made of Marine grade vinyl and were custom fit for the coaches. Transit Police was called on to assist the homeless community. They proactively engaged in collaborative efforts with social service agencies to assist those in need. The goal was to connect the homeless and those with mental health concerns to critical service and to assist them rather than moving them off the service. This helped to reduce the spread of COVID and the most vulnerable community receive the care that they needed. In May, mask were giving away to customers. In June, there was a Need A Mask, Take A Mask program that is still active today.

As businesses began reopening and staff returned, RTA increased frequency on four routes in the second quarter. Bus service hours was increased to 93% of its pre-COVID levels this past August. RTA is still committed to replacing the rail fleet, and recapitalizing the rail infrastructure. In April, construction began on the E. 79th Street Red Line Station and an investment in the track structure below the Opportunity Corridor (OC). The station will feature a series of ramps and stair structures similar to Buckeye-Woodhill and the Tri-C District Station. This work is in the OC that has been defined critical by the U.S government, State of Ohio and City of Cleveland. In light of the challenges during the 2nd quarter, RTA has shown itself as more than a public transit provider, but a community leader, economic partner, employer and a public servant. RTA also stands ready to aide in any of the fights that are important to the community.

Ms. Birdsong thanked the team for their work over the last few months. RTA is one of the pillars for moving Cleveland forward. RTA banded together to work through a Pandemic and community unrest. She said the banning together was unusual and rare for an urbanized area. Every staff person is essential.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.



Floun'say R. Caver, Ph.D.
Interim Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Secretary