



## MINUTES

### Greater Waterbury Transit District (GWTD)

10:30am, Wednesday, December 9, 2020

**Directors in Attendance:** Aleta Looker, JoAnn Cappelletti, Betty Bajek, Bob DeVito, Stefanie Theroux, Jack DeOliveira, Jan Mizeski, Lisa Carew, Mary Morrone

**Others Attending:** Patricia Bauer, Gabriel Filer, Christian Meyer, April Chaplin

#### 1. Commencement of Meeting

- The meeting was called at 10:31 by NVCOG Transportation Planner, Gabriel Filer.
- Gabriel Filer put forth a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 16.

*Motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting.*

**Motion** made by Lisa Carew; Seconded by JoAnn Cappelletti

**VOTE:** unanimous in favor; the motion passes

- Public Comment
  - Christian Meyer introduced himself acknowledging any new faces to the Board. He said anyone with questions could reach out to him or Gabriel. April mentioned about the taxi voucher program. The Kennedy Center will be applying to expand services through the Section 5310 program. April expressed confidence that she would be able to secure this grant. She is also reaching out to the COG's to collect Census data in order to help her organization apply for the grant. Trish Bauer encouraged April to reach out to Rich Crowther. Christian concurred with Trish.

#### 2. GWTD Administrative Items

- Gabriel Filer discussed the Financial Update outlining expenditures for Greater Waterbury Transit District (GWTD). He noted that GWTD hasn't received any funding from the CT DOT for the Municipal Grant Program because it takes them a while to distribute payments.
- He mentioned that GWTD has received all their Non-ADA Match and Municipal Dues from each community.
- Gabriel noted that recent expenses include the CACT membership which covers the cost of joining a group of transit districts in the state. GWTD has been a member of this organization for several years. In addition, he also mentioned that the annual audit is another upcoming expense.
- Gabriel brought up the Ridership Update memo that was sent on November 30. He explained there was a significant decline in ridership for both Non-ADA and Dial-A-Ride due to the coronavirus. Gabriel explained that although services are still being provided, fewer people are using them compared to this time last year.
- Jan Mizeski asked if the decline in ridership would impact the cost of Non-ADA match funds. Gabriel mentioned that the costs would most likely be different this year but couldn't give an exact amount because the budgets don't get drafted until March. He anticipated that Non-ADA match funds would go down based on six-month ridership figures.
- Christian concurred what Gabriel said and doesn't expect a huge turnaround in ridership.
- Christian asked the group what they are experiencing in their communities and how they have been impacted by COVID-19.

- April shared that she has spoken to a number of riders who have traveled cross district and have experienced difficulty getting to appointments in New Haven. She said most of her riders aren't having issues getting rides locally as long as they give enough notice.
  - April said many residents in Naugatuck are having difficulty utilizing ADA paratransit services to New Haven. Christian said that traditional ADA and complementary Non-ADA should be available. Jan said that getting from Naugatuck to New Haven is horrible. April said that there is only one bus that makes limited stops. Christian encouraged Gabe to follow-up with April on this issue. He suggested contacting Greater New Haven Transit District. Jan asked how many complaints she has received from Naugatuck – she explained that she is struggling with one client on Grant Street. April is hoping for a solution and was hoping to work with HRD on special trips.
  - Gabriel brought up the audit with Levinsky & Berney, which is expected to be completed before the end of month. Once the audit is finished, copies will be sent to each of the Board members.
3. Northeast Transportation Update
- Maria wasn't available to attend our meeting but said that North East Transportation (NET) is disinfecting their buses and working to provide the best ridership experience during this time.
4. Open Discussion
- April expressed a concern with North East Transportation about offering extended transportation services. Jan said medical transportation is extremely important given that many cancer survivors live in the region. Christian asked Gabriel to lead April's follow-up with NET.
  - Jan said that getting from Naugatuck to Waterbury is difficult. Train service is inconsistent and bus service doesn't run frequently enough to make public transit feasible.
  - Christian shared a 2017 transit study with the group via the chat box. Ridership trends haven't changed that much. Christian said more political push is needed to expand transportation services.
  - April also wanted to share that it's difficult to reach seniors during the pandemic. The Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging has created goodie bags to help them. These bags are being delivered through the Meals on Wheels Program.
5. Next Meeting Date: March 10, 2021 10:00am
6. Adjournment
- Called by Gabriel Filer, Transportation Planner at 10:53