



## *Meeting Minutes*

### **DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MAY 13, 2015 – NOON**

DART Central Station, Multimodal Room  
620 Cherry Street, Des Moines, Iowa

#### **TRAC Members Present:**

Randy Anderson, Jay Peterson, Dina Ricketts, Richard Sadler, Mark Hutchens, Randy Henriksen, Michele Meadors, Brenda Gill, Denise Jones

#### **TRAC Members Absent:**

Mary Walter, Michael Barber, Tonia Crawford, Pam Goehring

#### **TRAC Staff Present:**

Barbara Finch, Jim Tishim, Jennifer Long, Ellye Kovner, Tony Lafata, Juanita Mendenhall, Ethan Standard, Kirstin Baer-Harding

#### **Others Present:**

None

#### **A. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jay Peterson at 12:04.

Roll call was taken and quorum was met.

Notice of the meeting was duly posted.

#### **B. APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2015 MINUTES**

The Chair called for corrections to the March 11, 2015 meeting minutes and there were none.

Dina Ricketts motioned and Michelle Meadors seconded. Voted and hearing none, the minutes from the meeting were approved.

#### **C. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **1. Mobility Management Update – Ellye Kovner, Mobility Coordinator**

Ethan Standard announced a correction to the Agenda that Ellye Kovner was the Mobility Coordinator, not the Mobility Manager. Ellye talked about her roll and let it be known that she is offering her assistance to anyone needing assistance learning how to ride the bus. Her position is funded through DART and Polk County. She works a lot with groups who face barriers in transportation. She works with the disabled, elderly, refugees, does a lot of community outreach, is involved in different committees and is a co-chair of TAG (Transit Advisory Group), which is a group that meets every other month bringing together human services agencies along with transportation providers to try to come up with transportation solutions. One of the things she works hard on is Travel Training, which is teaching individuals how to ride DART. She puts on a How to Ride training session once a month and

goes out to the community wherever there is a need, doing small or large group training. She also teaches classes called Train the Trainer, which is teaching agency staff, like case managers and social workers how to ride DART, who in turn teach their clients. She asked if anyone knew of people needing these services or new projects to work on, please let her know and she will reach out to them. Questions? Michele Meaders commented that the YMCA could use more training and community outreach for the members and youth. Ellye said she would contact them.

## **2. Route 5 & 51 Realignment – Jim Tishim, Planning Director**

Jim Tishim presented a power point presentation of a proposal to realign local routes 5 & 51 into one single route. Ridership is low and DART would like to connect more people with a route that is more frequent and serves more people. Ridership is as low as five passengers per trip, which is very poor. In the future, we may have additional trips during peaks and extended hours and weekends. Route 91 is still in place. Still waiting for information from Des Moines Public schools that could potentially add even more frequency in trips. Now looking at 60-minute service. Survey was taken and the top suggestions were additional trips during peak and extended hours and weekends. Steps taken were April 7; the new route was presented to the commission. We made some personal contacts to neighborhood associations prior to public meetings. Des Moines public schools are still working to see if the services could benefit them. Contacted Scottish Rite Park and Child Serve. Had all public meetings April 22 through April 24 with 21 in attendance. The commission approved the Title VI analysis and the service recommendation at the May 5 commission meeting.

Questions? Michele asked what the standard number used for need of a route is? Jim answered across town is 15 passengers per revenue hour and local is 20 passengers per revenue hour. Now it is approximately 5 to 8. Changing the routes would provide an option of new potential. Denise asked about the connection of route 14 during the mid-day or if it is needed. Jim answered that this should create more frequency. Higher frequency will improve connections also. Randy Anderson stated that he takes the route 51 at 10:15am and there were only two or three people, so he believes there is a need for increased times and thinks it is a good call. Mark Hutchens asked why going down Clark instead of University. Jim answered that currently there is ridership at Clark and Drake University area. There are already two routes on University, avoiding duplicating routes. Mark asked about going down Woodland and Ingersoll. Jim said that buses could not turn on those streets due to sharper corners.

## **D. ACTION ITEMS**

Ethan said we got a last minute notice that we need to add an action item to today's agenda. DART is requesting a letter of support from the TRAC committee for DART's application of a TIGER Grant (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) to convert route 60 to a BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) line. DART has identified this as a federal funding source that we need to get the project done. 80% would come from federal funding, which is approximately \$20 million, so we are looking to submit at the beginning of next month, a TIGER Grant application. Jim said they found out the city was not going to pursue the grant, so we are going to apply. Grant is due June 5, Elizabeth is gathering letters of support, and we need to vote for Elizabeth to submit a letter on the TRAC's behalf. Michele Meaders motioned to approve. Brenda Gill Seconded. Voted and hearing none, the approval to submit the letter and application for the TIGER Grant was approved.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. DART Roadeo – Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30 AM @ Southridge Mall – Tony Lafata, Chief Operating Officer**

Tony Lafata reminded everyone that the DART Roadeo was Saturday, May 30. Operators can showcase their talents and skills for bragging rights and winning operators will represent DART at the State Roadeo. Breakfast is at 6:30 am. It will be a good time to support our operators. Michele Meadors asked if the events would be going on after 11:00 am.

**F. TRAC MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**G. STAFF UPDATES**

None

**H. PUBLIC ITEMS**

None

**I. FUTURE AGENDA**

None

**J. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

1. DART Commission – Noon Tuesday, June 2, 2015. DART Central Station
2. TRAC – Noon Wednesday, July 8, 2015, DART Central Station

**K. ADJOURN**

Michelle Meadors motioned, Dina Ricketts seconded. Voted and hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

1. TRAC Member Tour of 1100 Dart Way Facilities.  
Following the adjournment of the meeting, five TRAC members joined DART staff for an optional and informal tour of the Operations & Maintenance Facilities at 1100 DART Way.