Caswell County Area Transportation System

Transportation Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2021

**Present** were Cindy Troxler, Michelle Waddell, Steve Oestreicher, Tonya Moye, Brenda Day, Sandra Hudspeth, Edna Brown, Melissa Williamson.

The July 23, 2021 minutes were read and approved by Steve Oestreicher and seconded by Brenda Day.

**Expenditure/Revenue Report:** We have definitely started this fiscal year out better than last fiscal year. Report is self-explanatory. We have already submitted claims for July-September administrative expenses.

**Update on CATS – COVID-19-** We are still seeing an increase in ridership since our last meeting. We are staying fairly busy. We are still bringing in several of the seniors now and we are doing it just about every day. We just took a group of seniors to the State Fair this week. We are running the OE route to Burlington five days a week. We still have all of our protective measures in place for COVID. The managed care brokers for Medicaid trips are coming in steady now.

**ROAP FY 21-22 Update-** I know at our last meeting I said that we did anticipate getting ROAP funds this year. I am glad to say that the ROAP application came out in September and we have submitted our application and we have been awarded $64,612.00 in E&D funds, $8,374.00 in Employment funds, and $67,117.00 in RGP funds. All together we will receive $140,103.00 in ROAP funds this year.

**5310 E&D FY 21-22-** At the last meeting I discussed that I was not sure if we would receive this funding this year but I am glad to say that we were awarded this grant. We actually received the most we ever have in this grant. We were awarded $20,000.00. This grant provides transportation services for elderly and disabled citizens that have requests that are out of the county.

**CTP Grant Application FY 23-** We held a public hearing at the Board of Commissioners meeting on October 4th. This is the 5311 Admin., Capital and 5310 E&D Funds. We are requesting $125,959.00 in 5311 Admin., Capital $39,379.00, and 5310 E&D Capital $20,000.00. Total project requested is $185,338.00. We will not be requesting any vehicles in this grant application because we do not have any vehicles that meet the mileage threshold. We have replaced several over the past few years. The capital items we are requesting is to replace the camera equipment in our current fleet and to update/install radio equipment on the tower for our two-way radios. We will be receiving two new buses in this fiscal year. The grant applications were due to NCDOT/PTD on October 8, 2021.

**Training-** we provided PPE, Title VI and Fire Prevention training this quarter.

**COVID/Booster Shots-** Our routes for COVID-19 vaccines has almost stopped at this point. If anyone asks we are still providing transportation services for free to get the vaccine. We will be providing transportation to get booster COVID shots. At this time we don’t have a designated grant to apply this to but we will use RGP funds if we need to so we can provide this service.

**TAB Schedule 2022 –** A copy of the 2022 schedule for TAB meetings was sent out to each member.

**New Part-Time Driver** – We are excited to have Melissa Weatherford on board with us part-time. She started in October and is doing a great job.

**Medicaid Transformation-** did go into effect on July 1st. As I stated at our last meeting this has not been a smooth transition but things are getting better. One of brokers is better to work with right now than the other one. Fortunately the majority of the trips we are receiving are from the broker that we work better with providing the Medicaid trips. The way Medicaid trips are setup now we may send two to three buses to same area out of town since appointments can be made any day of the week and time. I know many of us in the transit community all say that it really defeats the setup NC did about 20 years ago to consolidate transportation and to have coordinated services. We are out of the county more often and many times with less riders on board due to this new transition. There really are very few consequences to passengers that are a no show. The transit system doesn’t get paid anything for the trip made to the home to pick up the client. I know some transit systems are having issues with getting paid for all of their trips or reductions are made but so far we have been getting paid for all of our trips. We submit our trips weekly to the brokers and typically get paid within two weeks. It has gotten some better but it is still a lot to keep up with only having two people in the office. I know in July the majority of all Medicaid will transition over to the brokers. Hopefully we will get the rest of the kinks worked out before this happens.

**Other Business-**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Williamson**