

City of Newburgh / Transportation Advisory Committee
123 Grand Street

MINUTES OF MEETING: April 10, 2019

1. Roll Call: Members Present: Gabe, Naomi (via phone), Kippy
Members Absent: AJ
Non-Voting Members & Guests: Joe Donat, Chad Wade, Anthony Grice, Jessica Ridgeway, Bob Sklarz, Mark Miller (Leprauchan Bus Company), Caitlin O'Brien, Jinzhou Lu (511Rideshare)
2. Public Comment
 - Councilman Grice introduced the subject of Bike Rentals, including electric bikes, in Newburgh. In advance of a possible Request For Proposals, he requested that the Committee prepare a community survey similar to bus survey. The group discussed appropriate sample questions to identify community needs/interests: "how much would someone be willing to pay", "hourly, daily fees", "docking stations" locations. Gabe will set up a page where everyone can submit additional possible survey questions.
 - May is Bike Month. Friday, May 17th is Bike-To-Work-Day. Naomi noted that reflectors are needed. Jessica will request 50 reflectors,
 - Request from Councilman Grice for a 4-way stop sign at Fullerton & First St.
 - Discussion about accident risks from speeding at Poplar and Fowler, West & Gidney. The DPW is using a portable speed timer. Jessica said the County also has speed bumps that can be installed (problematic for DPW in winter)
 - Councilman Sklarz expressed concern about the Lake Street route, where riders have been adversely affected by bridge closure to heavy traffic. Discussion of how and where riders could be picked up. Mark Miller (see below) will investigate will investigate the turnaround possibility. Chad will send the map to Mark.
 - There was a general discussion of where bus shelters will be placed, and whether they can be used for advertising to generate income. Councilman Grice will discuss with the County rep, Rob.
3. Presentation by Mark Miller of Leprauchan Buses, which run both the City buses and the Newburgh-Beacon bus.
 - A. Mark addressed the issue of Notifications to the Public, which was a top priority in the bus survey. They are rolling out a new website, but real-time notifications will still be unavailable, so there is no timely way to notify riders that of a delay due to a mechanical or drive situation. By the time the public is notified, the situation has usually been resolved. Planned Street Closure notifications are okay, but the unplanned ones cause a communication problem. Chad suggested that the company could notify City of Newburgh executive office, so that anyone on the 'alerts' list would be notified. City could encourage riders to sign up for Alerts.
 - B. Regarding irregular stops, Mr. Miller explained that the County safety rules apply to where drivers are allowed to stop. The County has Defined Stops, not "on Demand". Drivers are not allowed to make extra stops, however well-intended. He will reiterate that to his drivers. Rt 300 and 17k was an example of where buses can't safely stop, even though it would allow riders to reach their destinations faster.

- C. Expanded Hours and weekend service. This was one of the top requests in our bus survey. Mr. Miller said he will refer this issue to the County.
 - D. Uniform Branding of the Buses (Naomi). Buses are owned by the County, but maintained by the individual bus companies. Mr. Miller said the Green & White buses are at the end of their lives.
 - E. Finally, Mr. Miller offered to come to future meetings and he can bring data on ridership. He also suggested that a representative of our Committee would be welcome to join his routine discussions with Rob at the County.
4. Presentation by Jinzhou Lu of 511NYRideshare.org. This is a NYS sponsored program under the DOT. For commuter services, to match riders and drivers. Enterprise is a partner. He handed out a brochure explaining the various programs and benefits offered. He said they can also facilitate bike-sharing. The program currently is working with SUNY & Orange Regional, AMSCAN and HR departments of other large employers. There are subsidies available, and up to \$365 toll free. 511NYRideshare could put fliers out at a City Council meeting, or post in the lobby of City Hall. There was discussion of adding a ride-sharing widget to the City's webpages.
5. Pedestrian/Walkability/Bicycles:
- a. Chad is meeting with Naomi and Jessica to go over data set analysis. To determine where the first crosswalk markings should go.
 - b. Naomi reported on Walking Groups that are forming. Perhaps Fitbits would be an incentive to keep commitments to walk.
 - c. Critical Mass Bike Rides are set to begin this spring on Fridays, starting at the Shelterhouse Café,
6. Cars and Parking
- a. The Committee should plan on attending the May Liberty Street business owners meeting to explain the committee and perhaps fill a vacancy.
 - b. The City passed the resolution to become a Climate Energy Committee. Naomi discussed LED lights and EV charging stations as the next steps to for clean energy.
 - c. Kippy brought up congestion situation at Washington Terrace-Little Britain Road-West Street-Broadway, where Bank of America is developing a Drive-Thru. Chad suggested that timing of lights could be a problem and should be checked. Naomi reminded everyone that we should take photos for files.

Meeting adjourned.