



**Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT)
Executive Committee Planning Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

WebEx/Virtual Meeting

CAT Members Present:

Jan Campbell
Leon Chavarria
Annadiana Johnson
Claudia Robertson

TriMet Staff:

Charlie Clark
Eileen Collins
Lexi Field

CAT Chair Jan Campbell Called the business meeting to order at 9:34 am.

CAT Nominations Report

The nominating committee report will be on the agenda for March Executive Meeting – March 7th 2023, 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM.

Unanimous agreement on recommendations with the following order:

- I. Jan Campbell
- II. Dave Daley
- III. Patricia Kepler
- IV. Kristin Meagher
- V. Tre – New Applicant
- VI. Alex-Jon Earl

Committee asked to discuss the recommendation process and shared concerns of previous progression of recommendations. Eileen Collins will follow-up with the GM Assistant regarding any differences on the process and will relay information to CAT. They also want like to look into the bylaws and inserting more control over this process for the future.

A suggested was made that applications are open in July so that they can trickle in until decisions are made in the late winter/spring to allow ample time for applicants to submit.

Elevator Access Pilot Project

The IT team is working on a pilot project regarding elevator access at the Hollywood Transit Center to eliminate derelict behavior and illicit activities that have been occurring in the area. They're looking to install a HOP reader that will grant access to the elevator. Security will be present 24/7 for the duration of the pilot program. April 26th is the tentative launch of the pilot. Eileen Collins would like to set up an ad hoc dedicated toward this to have CAT input and concerns. Committee agreed with an ad hoc and Jan Campbell expressed concerns about potential dexterity issues in utilizing the elevator via HOP card.

Active Transportation Conference

Discussion was moved on to the upcoming Active Transportation Conference. It will be held April 23-26, 2023 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. Access will be both virtual and in-person. They will have content pertaining to Accessible and Inclusive Systems, and the experience of transportation system users who experience disability. The fee for registration is \$300/person, but Eileen Collins said we're partnering with the IDEA team to pay for interested CAT members. CAT members can let her know if they're interested and she will coordinate with John Gardner for registration.

LIFT Sub-Committee Agenda

The topic for the March LIFT Sub Committee Meeting will include overview of the new Eligibility program with LIFT Eligibility Contractor presenting. They will speak on their background, and we'll talk about the new focus of eligibility and growing the program to include education such as Travel Training to build confidence. There will be a half hour for Eligibility in the meeting and then another thirty minutes for future topics regarding it.

Nominations for leadership and co-chairs (if there's enough people) will be held. Jan Campbell volunteered to be backup for anybody if there's not enough because she says we need to have co-chairs – only if no one else volunteers for it.

CAT Letter to the Board Regarding Fare Increase Proposal

There are two more meetings regarding the fare increase proposal by the Board. The first one is March 22nd for the meeting, and the second is April 26th for the reading. Final vote will be held in May.

A revised letter to the board was brought up for discussion. The committee agreed to incorporate some conversation points from previous testimony at the board meetings. It was suggested that an executive committee member read the letter to the board in the upcoming meeting.

Annadiana Johnson - suggested that the letter keep an active voice and avoid a passive voice, and said words make a difference.

Claudia Robertson - notes she had an email conversation with Elaine Friesen Strand—who used to be the president of AARP—who reached out and asked if CAT had any position on fare increases. Claudia responded to her yes. Elaine mentioned in the email that four years ago she had transportation forums with one over at ride connection and the outcome of those issue forums were that transportation was the #2 interest/concern across the whole state. Claudia encouraged that they reach out to the Board with their concerns.

CAT Business Meeting Minutes Format

Discussion moved to the minutes format for meetings. Eileen Collins suggested using the same format that the Board of Directors uses. Eileen noted that previous minutes caused a lot of contention at the last CAT business meeting. Bylaws were referenced for minutes format. The committee agreed on keeping minutes to key conversations, they won't rephrase presentations, they'll use specific statements, and clearly communicate concepts/action items.

In-person meetings will soon be recorded and accessed via YouTube livestream for its accessibility. A court reporter will be doing transcription for these meetings. Eileen Collins noted that the previous building for in-person meetings wasn't available for May and is looking for a new location.

March Business Meeting Agenda Final Review

Discussion was moved on to the March meeting agenda. Sub-Committee Report was decided it wasn't needed on the agenda so long as it was in the packet. Agenda was agreed upon.

Claudia Robertson – mentioned that ODOT is planning to close some designated crosswalks and it needs to be brought into the conversation as it

may hinder access to stops. Eileen Collins will see if the ODOT coordinator Carol will speak to the issue and placed on next month's agenda.

Jan Campbell – wanted to bring up that the committee would like to see presenters trained on accessible presentations. Eileen Collins responded that she's working with internal partners to create a "Presenting Well" course that would provide best practices in presenting to ensure that participants of all abilities are provided with equitable opportunities to engage with the subject matter of the presentation.

The committee brought up public comment periods and where they should fall in the agenda. It was agreed to be left as-is for the March meeting and then try a different approach on the next one. Suggestions made for change were having it at the beginning and then once again before the action items, or having one at the end before votes are taken.

General CAT Executive Committee Discussion

Eileen Collins asked what topics CAT wants in front of the committee, and the committee replied that they've been shared already.

Claudia Robertson – made note that in a wayfinding about FX busses, the ASA announcement board was not visible from the priority seating area and doesn't believe it has been fixed as of date. Also noted a concern about securement on that bus with large wheelchairs, how they don't fit and there's no securement for them. Eileen Collins will follow up on these issues.

Annadiana Johnson – wanted to set up a fieldtrip for the interior design on the Type 6 light rail trains. Eileen Collins responded that it will be planned once alignment happens. For the LIFT pilot bus, it's not currently at a location with easy access so once it's moved there can be a CAT review and members can provide input. They're moving the heater that was brought up as a concern as being under the seats can be a hindrance to service animals.

Claudia Robertson - addressed concern regarding the Gideon Overcrossing and a large homeless camp being sighted near it. Suggested that CAT might need to create a response to the City of Portland.

Annadiana Johnson - was looking over the upcoming projects listed on the agenda she didn't see the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project which will impact and disrupt transit through the area, nor did she see the Washington County Transportation Planning who is looking for input from people with disabilities regarding how and what to improve for transportation in the area. She would like the committee to keep these on their radar. Anna thinks that TriMet should be a part of these conversations with the county, Eileen Collins agreed to check in on it.

Claudia Robertson - came across a letter of a relative of someone with developmental disabilities. The letter states that this person had been riding all the time with paper tickets and is now scared they'll lose their HOP card with all the money on it. Claudia doesn't remember having a discussion on this issue and mentions it's perhaps a wider problem.

Annadiana Johnson - mentioned the postponed Honored Citizen Fare discussion meeting and doesn't want to lose sight of it/have it fall off the radar. Eileen Collins responded that we will get it back on the calendar in the next couple of weeks.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM.
