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MetroPlan & Mountain Line

Coordinated Mobility Council

Friday, February 23, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting – 3773 N. Kaspar Drive, VERA Room. Flagstaff, AZ 86001

[Zoom Link](#), passcode 123456. Please email Estella Hollander ehollander@mountainline.az.gov, if you need Zoom log-in information.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting 928-679-8900 (TTY Service 800.367.8939). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

- 1. Call to order**
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Jamie Martinez.
- 2. Welcome by Jamie Martinez, Chair**
Welcoming remarks by Jamie Martinez. Jamie shared that he is a training officer with the Division of Development Disabilities (DDD).
- 3. Safety Moment**
Estella Hollander provided a safety moment about February American Heart Month. The Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention is asking everyone to listen to their heart and speak up for their health. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women. There is a good chance that each person will witness someone suffering from a heart attack during their lifetime. There are many ways to take heart health seriously including reduction of cholesterol and stopping of smoking
- 4. Roll call and introductions**
Jamie Martinez, Estella Hollander, Mandia Gonzales, Russel Randall, Tod Morris, Anne Huffman, Lorrain Crim, Carol Mandino, John Current, Michele Eisenberg,

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Jen Hayes, Steven Thompson, Alida Preil, LaReina Reyes, Amy Bacon, Jessica Watson, Meriam Marguliz

5. **Call to the public**

No public comments were provided.

6. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Motion: Tod Morris motioned to approve the November 17, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Carole Mandino. Unanimously approved.

7. **Inclusion and Adaptive Living Commission Update**

Update by Inclusion and Adaptive Living Commission Chair Russell Randel. Sidewalk encroachment and sidewalk compliance has been the focus of the past quarter. This includes encroachment of trash, bushes and snow which impedes people with disabilities access to the sidewalks. The commission has been reviewing the updated and improved standards. In addition, the commission has been working with Flagstaff Police Department about parking, especially on sidewalks. Jamie Martinez stated he is now in a new role of Code Compliance for the Commission.

8. **MetroPlan Planning Update**

Presentation by Mandia Gonzales, MetroPlan's Transportation Planner. Mandia shared the MetroPlan Project Updates. These updates included West Route 66 Operational Assessment, Cheshire Slow Street and Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) Safety Action Plan.

W. Route 66 Operational Assessment is being conducted by MetroPlan on behalf of the City of Flagstaff. The City of Flagstaff is updating their Regional Plan, and this update will be used to help make decisions for W. Route 66 transportation and safety needs. Secondly, any projects in existing plans that may be eligible for future federal funding may be identified. Anticipated adopted by MetroPlan Executive Board will be June 2025.

MetroPlan received a grant for a demonstration project which would support Safe Streets for All in the Cheshire Area. Demonstration projects are intended to be temporary, allowing data collection to aid future decision-making on roads.

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Russell Randal asked how Cheshire was chosen as the neighborhood for this demonstration project? The neighborhood has been reaching out to different entities for the past 5 years regarding the current design of Fremont Blvd. Originally this road was intended for a throughway and was built wider than is now necessary. This is a pilot project as no MPO's have ever applied for and received such a grant. Tod Morris asked if the bus stops could be integrated in this project. Mandia Gonzales stated the stop near Cheshire Park will be an integral part of this project.

The VRU Safety Plan is anticipated to kick off soon. The emphasis will be on transportation on non-motorized modes. Crash data and community input will be utilized to identify hotspots and troubled areas. The goal is to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries in the future.

Finally, Mandia Gonzales shared the upcoming opportunities for involvement in the projects.

Jennifer Hayes asked, "are you going to include the Food Bank Patrons and Shelter Services users in soliciting feedback on the plans?" Mandia Gonzales stated there would be some targeted outreach to these populations.

Russell Randel stated the Inclusion and Adaptive Living Commission would be happy to collaborate on these projects.

Jamie Martinez stated that the area around the DES building is very crowded and dangerous for access.

9. Snow Heroes Presentation

Presentation by Steven Thompson, City of Flagstaff, regarding the Snow Heroes Pilot Program.

Steven Thompson shared the purpose, background research, our approach, Phase 1-Pilot Year and other opportunities in accessing basic services for assistance to make sidewalks accessible to all.

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Successful programs in Cedar Rapids, IA; Denver, CO; Lincoln, NE; and Toledo, OH. The Cedar Rapids program was closest to the model that Flagstaff wishes to adopt.

Numerous groups were involved in the collaborative efforts of this research including Code Compliance, Commission on Inclusion and Adaptive Living, City Attorney's Office, PROSE, Public Affairs, and Public Works.

A phased approach to the program was decided upon- 1. Pilot Year, 2. Increase Capacity, and 3. Expansion. The functioning of the Pilot Year was shared.

Carole Mandino asked the "Meets Requirements" requirement – No other means to remove snow/ice meant" and how it was determined that no other means were available. Steven shared this is an honor system stating that no one else was available to assist. There is no verification system set up now. Further, Carole said part of the reason to remove snow is to help people get out in an emergency and wondered what is in place for emergency service and wondered how the 48-hour limit could be improved.

Steven Thompson stated that emergency services will make getting to the person possible because that is what the EMS do well.

Carole asked if insurance is carried for Snow Heroes who assist with removing snow. Steven Thompson said people are doing this voluntarily and are not recognized as City Volunteers and the liability is currently on the person going out to volunteer. Since the people are volunteering there is also no background check and there are no supplies or guarantees conveyed. The City Attorney's office has been consulting on these needs.

Carole said there is more cost-effective insurance that can be bought than using the City of Flagstaff liability, and she can provide information if requested.

Russell Randal confirmed about the plan for next year is to have the volunteers be insured by the City of Flagstaff. Steven Thompson

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confirmed this is the goal. Russell Randal confirmed the Inclusion and Adaptive Living Commission's support for this program and the desire to see the program continue.

Steven Thompson shared the comparison between the Courtesy Berm Relocation and Snow Hero program. Further he stated the Snow Hero Program is based upon availability of Heroes and those requesting services to create matches.

Mariam asked if there was outreach to AmeriCorp at NAU and Steven confirmed this had been accomplished.

Alida Preil stated the high school students might use volunteer hours. She asked if there are plans to help snow heroes get to the sites and how much property the snow hero is willing to clear.

Steven Thompson said the application asks specific questions regarding the scope and ability of the volunteer.

10. **Section 5310 Update**

Update on Section 5310 subrecipients by Estella Hollander. 5130 grant funds are for older adults supporting transportation programs. This year the funding for 5310 is Mobility Management covering the MetroPlan Greater Flagstaff area. Mountain Line applies for funds to support staffing and travel training. Hozhoni, Hope Lives and NAU received funds in FY23.

Estella Hollander asked the representative from Hozhoni if updates from ADOT have been received. Michelle Eisenberg said she is not aware of updates.

The next application is FY25.

11. **Mountain Line & MetroPlan Coordinated Plan**

Review and seek adoption of minor update to the Coordinated Plan was presented by Estella Hollander. This plan is necessary for 5130 funds. A major update was conducted in FY23 to include vehicle lists and changes to the project list. This FY24 update is minor, and approval is being sought for approval to the Coordinated Plan which will be sent to MetroPlan's Executive Board and Mountain Line's Board.

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The Coordinated Plan addresses the Transportation Gaps and the progress made on the strategies included in the program. Three strategies are complete including developing a train the trainer travel training program, simplifying the paratransit eligibility process, and establishing an on-demand microtransit service.

A motion was made for the approval of the Coordinated Mobility Plan was made by Russell Randal and seconded by Carole Mandino. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Agency Spotlight**

Presentation by Alida Preil from Quality Connections regarding their transportation program. Alida shared the history of Quality Connections and the group's current activities which include Group Home Services, In-Home Services, Employment Services and QC Learning (DTA). Other endeavors include Evergreen Academy Preschool and QC Office. Transportation Services are used for Group Home services, In-Home Services, QC Learning and Employment Services. 57% of services provided by Quality Connections are completed with 5310 vehicles.

QC Office has statewide contracts to provide office supplies statewide. QC has subcontracted with other entities in the state for delivery of office supplies.

13. **WAV Subcommittee group updates**

Updates from the wheelchair accessible vehicle subcommittee was presented by Estella Hollander. The focus of this subcommittee has been to lessen the gap in availability of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles in the taxi, Uber, and Lyft systems. Two local taxi providers have been contacted-Apex and Sun Taxi-about interest in obtaining Wheelchair Accessible vehicles.

The potential idea for partnership with NAU Center for Service and Volunteerism was discussed. Carole Mandino shared that transportation is not the key goal, but there could be in adaption which might involve the AmeriCorp program. The director of the program will be contacted.

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A flyer for Driving Change with Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles was shared with the group.

14. Upcoming trainings

Information on scheduled upcoming trainings and discussion on need for other trainings was presented by Estella Hollander. These included AzTA (Arizona Transit Association) April 8-10 in Mesa, AZ-apply for RTAP funding for expenses.

15. News and updates from CMC members

Soroptimist – Arizona Peaks civic group

Teen Job Fair at Coconino High School – April 24. Contact Sherry Swelns at Coconino High School

NACOG has been working with Greyhound to have additional stops on the Phoenix, Flagstaff, Los Vegas route to include Sedona, Ash Fork, Seligman, and Kingman.

Jessica Watson – Fair Housing Training, April 4 at City Hall

Jennifer Hayes - Veteran's Affairs Home on Gemini Drive has serious structural problem and the opening is delayed indefinitely.

16. Future agenda items

Contact Jamie Martinez or Estella Hollander with future agenda items

17. Adjournment

Jamie Martinez adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.