

Transportation Authority of Calhoun County Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024
Marshall City Hall Training Room
323 West Michigan Avenue
Marshall, MI 49068

I. Call to Order

The TACC meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Tom Tarkiewicz at 9:02 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Vivian Davis, Amy Evans, Janasia Morris, Linda Morrison, Tom Tarkiewicz, and Paul Watson

Staff: Doug Ferrell, Kristy Grestini, Matthew McKee

Absent: Erick Stewart

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: It was moved by Linda and supported by Amy to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion on the establishment of the Local Advisory Council Committee under New Business. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of February 13, 2024 Minutes

Motion: It was moved by Amy and supported by Linda to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2024, meeting with the corrections below. Motion Carried.

- The name Amy Avis should be changed to Mallory Avis
- Change the titles President and Vice President to Chairperson and Vice Chairperson under the slate of officers.
- Meeting Schedule - Contact will be made with City Manager Rebecca Fleury and Superintendent Kim Carter regarding the Battle Creek Public Schools attendance policy and the Battle Creek City Commission appointment responsibilities for Jenasia Morris to attend TACC Board meetings during the school day without a penalty.
- Update of TACC Consultant - the duration of the consultant 's contract will be 14-18 months, depending on the consultant's availability.
- All decisions regarding TACC will be made by policy decisions of this body and not local authority.

V. Public Comments

No public comments were made. No one from the public was in attendance.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. Appointment of Treasurer

Motion: It was moved by Paul and supported by Jenasia to approve Linda Morrison as Treasurer of TACC. Motion Carried.

2. 2024 Meeting Schedule

MOTION: It was moved by Linda and supported by Jenasia that the official schedule for TACC meetings will be scheduled the second and fourth Tuesday of each month through December 31, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Motion carried.

3. 2024 Ballot Initiative

Kristy Grestini shared three budget scenarios and a recommendation for transportation service in the City of Albion, Battle Creek, Marshall, and Springfield. Highlights of the scenarios are as follows:

1. The **Good** scenario restructures the present 8 routes in the Battle Creek and surrounding areas to 5 routes from 5:15 a.m. to 7:15 p.m., Monday through Friday for ADA and fixed routes. Seventeen service vehicles will be used. Saturday service will run 9:15 a.m. to midnight on demand response. Supplemental services in Albion can be added as a response to need. The cost per hour for drivers is \$134.33. There will be two nine-hour shifts for the first vehicle and two nine-hour shifts for the second vehicles. The committee will decide how the second vehicle is used. This scenario has a budget of a .17 millage.
2. The **Better** scenario restructures the 5 fixed routes that operates from 5:15 a.m. – 9:15 p.m., Monday thru Friday with reduced times during weekends. Eighteen vehicles will be used on demand response. This scenario requires a 2.503 millage to accommodate the required levels of service. Demand response estimates include the busiest times of the month when ridership increases.
3. The **Best** scenario include fixed weekday routes, operating from 5:15 – 9:15 P.M. Monday thru Friday. There will be demand response vehicles on the weekend. Saturday fixed routes run from 9:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. with 4 vehicles. The demand response on Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to transport passengers to church and other places of interest. This scenario will accommodate that level of service at a 3.316 millage.

Conversations should be held with TACC and individual communities to address specific transportation needs. We must structure the conversations to address service needs in the various communities, establish boundaries, provide supplemental services, and collaborate with local businesses that are impacted by transportation service delivery.

Recommended scenario

The recommended transportation service for the four cities and outlining areas are:

- Redesign the presently implemented weekday schedule for the four cities to 5:15 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.
- Increase the 22 demand response vehicles that are operating in the TACC boundaries during the weekday.
- Saturday and Sunday service would not have fixed routes. This will give us 10 demand response vehicles 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
- This scenario has a 2.6621 millage budget to provide Saturday and Sunday service.
- Individuals could transfer from route to another route.
- Frequency is presently low; this scenario would bring frequency back to pre-covid rates.
- Presently transportation is provided up to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile outside of the boundary areas.

Decisions and concerns shared:

- When and where should we remove or add service at some of the service areas?
- Will the replacement and maintenance cycle be funded by capital funding?
Other dollars will come from a countywide millage, the fare box (approximately 7%), grants, and additional vehicles can become additional revenue.
- How do we encourage business buy-in the focus areas?

Request from TACC

1. The staff is asked by the committee to develop a map of what is covered outside of the normal boundaries with parcels that show property taxable values of the areas we serve.

Additional Discussion:

2. The millage rates and additional cost of an average home in the impacted communities at a millage rate of 2.666 were discussed.

Motion: It was moved by Paul and supported by Jenasia to proceed with the Recommended Scenario proposed for five years, with a demand response for Saturdays and Sundays. Motion carried.

VII. New Business

1. Creation of a Local Advisory Council and a friend of TACC Committee

Selection Criteria for LAC

- One person from each focus community
- Meets 1-4 times per year
- Composed of 5-7 members
- One disabled person, senior citizen, and one member from the community action council
- The Local Council of Aging must approve one LAC member. They do not have to be a member of the agency on aging.

Responsibilities

- Approve an Accessibility Plan
- Identify specialized services
- Participate with Friends of TACC

2. Creation of a friends of TACC

Selection criteria for Friends of TACC

- Community members to become actively involved in marketing TACC
- Community members with a storyline
- Community members who can identify specialized service needs
- Community members who can relate to a cross section of the community

Responsibilities

- Members must register with the county clerk
- Members with a storyline
- Members must be able to relate to a cross section of the community

VIII. City and County Report

a. Update on TACC Consultant position

There was no report.

b. Articles of Incorporation

The TACC Articles of Incorporation have been approved. Members have been appointed, and the Bylaws must be approved by the county. We have a verbal agreement from Battle Creek, Albion, Marshall, and Springfield.

IX. Commissioners' Time

Member Comments

- Jenasia met with State representative Jim Haadsma who pledged a verbal commitment to TACC.
- Paul suggested TACC research possible federal funding sources to support the program. There is a possibility there are left over funds available from 2023.

X. Public Comments

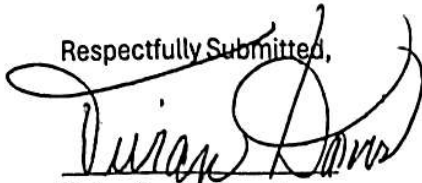
No public comments – No one from the public was in attendance.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

The next meeting will be held March 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Marshall City Hall Training Room, Marshall, MI

Respectfully Submitted,



Vivian Davis, Secretary
Transportation Authority of Calhoun County

Erick Stewart, Chairperson