

Summary of Transportation Planning Council meeting, December 11, 2018

The Q4 meeting of the Transportation Planning Council was held December 11, 2018, and attended by approximately a dozen persons. The new one page laminated transportation option/Medicaid sheets were handed out. One side of this pamphlet lists the major transportation options including times and areas of service, contact information and fare information. The other side has a comprehensive Medicaid transportation assistance contact list as well as the taxi services in the area. These one-stop, comprehensive information sheets are available from the Mobility Manager (330-870-4345) and/or I will be bringing them with me as I make appointments with all the service and transportation providers in the New Year.

I gave an update from the Third Transit Peer Conference which included some exciting new advances that could soon be part of Columbiana County's commitment to provide outstanding transportation services. As technology advances, so do the options of each person, and in some areas it is already possible for persons to schedule their own transportation from an I Phone app, as well as for passengers to "see" the location of their bus in real time so they will know where the bus is and how long it will take to get to them. Real time rider data can also be collected and that would allow loved ones or care givers to "see" when their person got on, or off, the bus and where the bus is currently if it is en route.

CTS software, which is the software that CARTS uses, will also be utilizing and providing real time data by the end of the first quarter 2019, which means some additional services can be provided – for example, riders will be able to receive a call or text notification 15 minutes before their vehicle arrives to pick them up. This will be a tremendous benefit for all since it means clients will no longer have to stand outside in bad weather or wait watching out a window to see if their transport has arrived! Providing real time ETA will help CARTS to continue to increase their efficiency and on-time performance rate, as well as to decrease the no-show rate, in addition to the obvious and huge benefits to the clients. That will be a good day!

A brief discussion was held concerning the trips to and from work progress. To date, 74 surveys have been received. This data is being compiled and used to help CARTS and/or other transportation providers to consider fixed route or additional route systems. Most of the surveys have come from one single human services program, which is great, but it skews the data strongly in favor of just that program. I am again listing the links for both employee and employer surveys and asking for your help in getting broad based, multi-program responses so that the decisions made using this data better reflect the needs of the entirety of Columbiana County and its many programs. I am also willing to bring (and pick up) paper copies of the survey if that is easier for the populations you serve, or to come and speak to groups, or to individually help persons fill out the survey at your request.

Employee Survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/TAsPyXOprUH4zdkV2>

Employer Survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/OI3R4FLcFqPXxh2q1>

The survey links will be kept open until February 14, 2019 to allow the most input.

Lastly in keeping with the regional approach to transportation that ODOT strongly prefers, Sean Sammon from OMEGA presented the Columbiana County Transit Maps, which detail transit data for the entire County in graphic map form. The data represents every trip taken by CARTS over a 9 month period. The maps may be found at the following link:

Columbiana County Transit Maps: <https://arcg.is/1K5u5y>

Any other transit providers with origin and destination data are strongly encouraged to reach the Mobility Manager and add to the database. (No individual or personal data was collected, only origin and destination zip codes) Again, the more broad, diverse and complete data we can provide, the better and more accurate transit planning decisions can be made. I want to extend a thank you to Sean Sammon and Megan Carmel from OMEGA for producing the graphs, maps and charts! I believe they will provide critical information for us as we update our County Coordinated Transportation Plan in 2019.

The next meeting of the TPC will be MARCH 21, 2019 from noon to 1:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Hill
Mobility Manager, Columbiana County
January 2, 2019