

CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING

July 13, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Cascade Township Hall – Large Conference
Room 5920 Tahoe Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Members Present: DDA Members - Puplava, Stephan, Vogel, Supervisor Lesperance

Others Present: Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze, DDA Director Sandra Korhorn, Chris Khorey of McKenna

ARTICLE 1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

ARTICLE 2. Committee Name: Member Puplava asked the committee members their thoughts on changing the committee's name from the "Bus" Committee to the "Transportation" Committee. Members felt that was appropriate.

ARTICLE 3. Discussion Regarding Direction of Committee: There was discussion regarding the committee and the Open Meetings Act. Future meetings will also be noticed and an agenda will be circulated.

The Committee referenced the Bus Goals memo that was circulated at the DDA meeting and the Decision Path on the bottom of the page. Chris Khorey of McKenna indicated he was at the meeting to help. He stated their office can provide research, resources, best practices, etc. Member Puplava asked that the services to be provided are spelled out.

DDA will have to authorize any additional work to be provided by McKenna. The DDA will have to determine the scope of what is needed. Member Stephan asked if McKenna already has information related to the transportation services for Cascade Township? Khorey clarified that he will be presenting at the next DDA meeting on the Strategic Plan process and any information he has is from that process.

There was discussion on how often the committee should meet. It was decided that there would not be a set schedule and the committee would call meetings as needed.

The Decision Path in the memo benchmarked June to Investigate and Analyze The Rapid service. The committee asked staff to compile information regarding the services and a summary sheet, for the committee.

Khorey mentioned the committee should look into The Rapid Connect service, an on-demand service that recently started and operates in Kentwood and Walker. There was question as to who the service is available to.

Members asked that the August DDA meeting include a packet and summary of the existing Rapid service, including all the metrics as well as information on The Rapid Connect, that includes pricing and how they operate (contract, rider transaction, etc.). It was asked whether The Rapid Connect service drivers are employees of The Rapid or Independent drivers? The Committee asked that this information be circulated to them before the DDA meeting.

There was discussion regarding The Rapid millage and which communities pay the millage.

The committee/DDA must determine where the transportation service needs to go for this to be effective and what are the "Must Haves". Currently, The Rapid Route 29 runs in the DDA District. The committee, when they identify opportunities, can communicate any additional areas with the township board.

The Bus Committee memo benchmarked July for exploring and brainstorming transportation options. Manager Swayze discussed the Paratransit options with Hope Network and the Go!Bus.

There was discussion regarding the Hope Network Wheels to Work program. Staff was asked to clarify exactly how this service works (i.e., cost, are employees on the same shift, do employees pay, service area, is it on on-demand or scheduled service, etc.). What is the reliability and consistency?

Brainstorming for other options – Chris Khorey may be able to provide assistance with this area of discussion. It would be helpful if Khorey could provide a proposal for assisting with transportation solutions. Khorey will provide proposals at the August meeting to help with transportation services as well as a Strategic Plan for the DDA. Any update to the DDA TIF plan would be a separate proposal at a later date.

There was discussion on the timeline for the Decision Path memo. The investigation stage will be pushed out beyond August. The goal of the investigation and decision making is to have everything completed, well in advanced, of the time when the existing Rapid service will be up for a contract renewal.

Khorey asked about the timeline for getting The Rapid involved in the discussion? The committee thought fall was the timeline for engaging The Rapid representatives, although this date is somewhat fluid. The thought was, after we gather all information, we would then go to the public with surveys, etc.

It was asked if the Decision Path timeline is feasible or how it should be tweaked? Khorey indicated that he thinks we will want to come up an option, or multiple options, to see if they are feasible and then take those to the businesses, riders, etc. The committee should look at what the

key objectives are, which also allows for the documentation of the pros and cons. It is easier to see the data in a side-by-side comparison with the same categories, (cost, time of operation, etc.). The committee should decide what the key metrics are.

In the end, the decision will be made by the DDA board, at a public meeting, after given a summary of the options/information.

ARTICLE 4. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.