

LCTA Ridership Committee
March 17, 2015
2:00 pm

Present: Lee Horton, Norm Gavlick, Patrick J. Conway, Frank Knorek, Jim Darr, Linda Slater, Valerie Kepner, Joseph J. Fedak, and Sid Halsor.

The AVL system went live with a soft opening on March 16; the official rollout will take place on March 23. Drivers will soon be completing training on the AVL system. LCTA is in the process of taking the necessary actions to set the AVL volume on all of the buses. A phone number will be visible in all buses so that any rider may call LCTA to report a non-functioning AVL system.

Signs have been installed in all of the buses informing riders that they are subject to being recorded (both video and audio recordings).

Approximately 4 to 8 cameras will be installed on Shared Ride buses.

It will be another year before the full transition to the Ecolane system takes place.

John Alu and Jim Darr will be meeting with PPTA and PennDOT to discuss potential Shared Ride pilot programs and to brainstorm ideas and pose them to PennDOT for consideration.

LCTA administrators continue to work on crafting a 6-day schedule for Shared Ride services.

LCTA staff and union representatives, sometime during the week, will conduct a test run to finalize bus service to the CenterPoint Industrial Park.

It was asked if the #7 bus could service the Laurel Run trailer park. LCTA has been told in the past that the trailer park is private property, but it was noted that the park is now under new management. LCTA administrators will look into adding this service.

It was also asked that should fixed route service to CenterPoint go into the evening hours, would Shared Ride services run later as well. The answer was yes, but not right now. It was suggested that CenterPoint employers contract with Shared Ride, as this would be a way for LCTA to service the industrial park via its Shared Ride division.

New ideas are being researched regarding the issuance of student passes. LCTA is starting by first evaluating the current arrangement with the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

Norm Gavlick noted that instead of thinking about placing customers into a fixed schedule, he is looking to fit schedules to customers' demands.

Jim Darr continues to talk with local organizations to let potential Shared Ride users know about the STEP program. It was noted that LCTA could do better at letting people know about the services LCTA is able to offer via its Shared Ride division.

LCTA is in the process of putting signs on the sides of the Shared Ride vans and fixed route buses advertising Shared Ride's services.

Eight new Shared Ride buses have been purchased and will be coming this summer.

It was relayed to the LCTA administrators present that a caravan was sent when a rider needed a wheelchair accessible van. LCTA will look into this.

Joseph Fedak offered to bring any questions and/or concerns to the CCBH statewide meeting on March 30. Joseph is willing to be a voice for LCTA and public transportation.

Wilkes-Barre City Council is supposed to be passing an ordinance banning smoking on the island in the Intermodal. The air quality meters in the Intermodal are still reporting failures; it was noted that, at the very least, this is a public relations problem that would be best addressed by having the meters match the recent test results showing passing grades.

The audio recordings of the bus routes stop at the #16.

For the visually impaired, it was communicated that it is very difficult to find the right bus in the Intermodal. Lee Horton will talk to drivers about this issue to get their feedback. A possible solution that emerged would be to have raised numbers mounted shoulder high on some kind of support and running down the center of the island.

The next LCTA Ridership Committee meeting will take place April 21, 2015 at LCCC's Wilkes-Barre Center on Public Square.