

# LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting Minutes

**Minutes from the February 17, 2021 Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting held at 3:00 PM at the LCTA HQ in Kingston, PA and via Zoom Meeting.**

Present: Joe Roselle (LCTA), Kathy Bednarek (LCTA), Frank Knorek (LCTA), Valerie Kepner (LCTA Board), Tom Bindus (LCTA Board), Jim Durling (public), and Joe Fedak (public).

- A LCTA Official welcomed those in attendance, provided an overview of the meeting, and stated, that today's meeting would center on updated progress of what is happening at LCTA.
- A LCTA Official stated, that fixed route bus ridership is 57% of normal due to weather and COVID-19. Shared Ride Paratransit ridership is at 47% of normal. Paratransit ridership has been hovering around 50% for about the past 6 months.
- A LCTA Official stated, that LCTA has offered to partner with the Luzerne County Cares organization to assist in providing transportation for its vaccination initiative. LCTA would provide its Shared Ride Program vehicles to provide free rides to seniors to Covid-19 vaccination sites.
- A LCTA Official stated, that LCTA will start promoting the Francis Slocum State Park route next month in preparation for the spring and summer. The Authority anticipates starting the run in May/June, depending on the weather, COVID-19, and the opening of the pool.
- A member of the public asked, how the bus stop sign project is progressing? A LCTA official stated that the first three routes are complete and an audit is being done to confirm accuracy. However, there were some issues with the prime contractor's sub-contractor. Once the weather improves, the project will resume and more field audits will take place. However, this will take some time, as there are currently 740 bus stop signs to manage.
- A LCTA Official stated, that the Presidential Executive Order mandate for the requirement to wear a mask on public transportation was implemented. LCTA is utilizing posters, website, signs onboard the vehicles, and the MyStop App to promote compliance. From reviewing onboard videos, the overwhelming majority of drivers and passengers are wearing masks. Drivers can provide riders with a mask, as needed. All drivers have been provided with a bag containing hand sanitizer and masks. Also, LCTA continues to sanitize and disinfect buses each day. We are even looking into new technologies to aid in this effort.
- A LCTA Official stated, that riders can sign up for LCTA text and email alerts for snow routes, service changes, and emergencies. Anyone can sign up. For more information, please see the LCTA website.
- A member of the public asked, if fare collection will resume? A LCTA Official stated that we are still fare free for the time being, and not at that point yet. However, the public will be notified well in advance of any changes to collecting fares with a phased-in process.
- Both the LCTA Official and Board Members thanked those in attendance.
- The next LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum meeting will be held at a time and location to be determined, and will be advertised to the public in advance.