

LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 23, 2021 Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting held at 3:00 PM at the LCTA HQ in Kingston, PA and via Go To Meeting.

Present: Joe Roselle (LCTA), Deborah Dennis (LCTA), Frank Knorek (LCTA), Valerie Kepner (LCTA Board), Tom Bindus (LCTA Board), Joe Fedak (public), Anthony Johnson (W-B Chamber of Commerce), and Jim Durling (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 during these warmer weather months with the pandemic conditions seeming to improve.
- A LCTA Official stated, that the agency started collecting bus fares again as of 6/1/2021. We are boarding passengers at the front of the bus, and disembarking passengers at the rear of the bus.
- A LCTA Official stated, that fixed route bus ridership is 70% of normal (pre-Covid) and Shared Ride Trips Reserved is about 58% of normal (pre-Covid). Ridership is slowly increasing. We continue to disinfect vehicles on a daily basis, and the Federal Mask Mandate is still in effect until 9/13/2021.
- A LCTA Official stated, Dump the Pump Day was held earlier this month. However, unlike past years where we did not charge a fare on that day, we charged a fare due to not charging fares for the past 15 months. This past Monday was the start of the Francis Slocum State Park route.
- A member of the public asked: If we could look into stocking "vomit bags" onboard our transit vehicles for when people get sick? An LCTA Official said they would look into that and develop a procedure around it, if necessary.
- A member of the public asked: What is being done to improve service delivery for workers who use public transit and work in our area industrial parks? An LCTA Official stated, that it has been historically difficult to service all employers in the industrial parks because of the different shift times among all the employers. We have surveyed employers in the past to determine shift times and build a route around that data. However, since Covid, that has been placed on hold. The agency would be open to having a meeting with the W-B Chamber of Commerce and industrial park employers, in order to improve service. A lack of pedestrian access to sidewalks for those who walk or use a bike to get to work in the industrial parks has also played a role in service.
- A member of the public asked: When will the Intermodal ticket office re-open? A LCTA Official stated, we do plan on re-opening the Intermodal, but we do not have a specific time yet due to staffing issues. We are actively working to address those. Tickets and passes can be purchased online.
- A member of the public asked? What about mobile ticketing, ticketing kiosks, and when is the new building being built? A LCTA Official stated, mobile ticketing and ticketing kiosks would be available to sell all types of passes and are being reviewed. Ground breaking on the Murray Complex site is being held up until the fall. Some archeological digging still needs to take place.
- 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.