

LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 11, 2022 Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting held at 3:00 PM at the LCTA HQ in Kingston, PA and online via GoTo Meeting.

Present: Joe Roselle (LCTA), Robert Fiume (LCTA ED), Frank Knorek (LCTA), Tom Bindus (LCTA Board), Kathy Bednarek (LCTA), Joe Fedak (public), Tom Wilk (public), and seven online attendees.

- The LCTA Official welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for getting involved, provided an overview of the meeting, and stated, that today's meeting would center on updated progress of what is happening at LCTA. We would also like to welcome some of our partner organizations in attendance today.
- A LCTA Official stated, the Federal mask mandate has expired and masks are now optional onboard our system.
- A LCTA Official stated, ridership remains at 65% for fixed route, pre-covid levels, but we are seeing improvements in ridership due to the nice weather. Shared Ride ridership is at 75% pre-covid levels.
- A LCTA Official stated, the intermodal customer service office will be opening this Monday, and we are still looking for one more person to hire.
- A member of the public stated, they represent an employer in an industrial park that is expanding and they would like transit service to be available to workers at their new location, who can we contact to start a discussion.
- A LCTA Official stated, we consistently reach out and work with the regional industrial parks and businesses to provide mobility solutions for employee transportation. Provided contact information. However, the developers of these industrial park properties need to better take into account the infrastructure needed for pedestrian traffic and public transportation service. The design of local industrial parks makes it very difficult for public transit to service them.
- A LCTA Official stated, we are continuing to hire drivers, and some recent hires has alleviated the driver shortage. We are looking to conduct a transit study, in coordination with PennDOT, to make the system more efficient, especially for the industrial parks. We are looking to introduce micro transit as an efficient transportation option.
- A LCTA Official stated, October 10, 2022 is LCTA's 50th Anniversary. We will be having events to celebrate this milestone. LCTA is being awarded an EPIC Award by the Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce for outstanding public service to the community.
- A LCTA Official stated, there will be some minor schedule changes to better service the businesses in the Hanover Industrial Park and in Nanticoke.
- A member of the public asked: How was the turnout for the W-B/S Rail Riders baseball game, CEO fundraiser and 31-day pass contest?

A LCTA Official stated: We had about 30 entries for the pass contest, and the baseball game fundraiser had a great turnout, but specific information related to numbers and dollar amounts raised are handled by the team's marketing staff.

- A member of the public stated: My bus stop is in Nanticoke at the corner of South Hanover and Washington Streets used to have a bench, and that bench is no longer there. Can we get a replacement bench?

A LCTA Official stated: LCTA does not own or distribute benches at stops. However, I can reach out to the City of Nanticoke and ask if a replacement bench can be installed at the stop location.

- A member of the public stated: All your bus and van drivers are very professional and helpful, we appreciate them.

A LCTA Official stated: Thank you, we appreciate it.

- A member of the public asked: Will the Francis Slocum State Park Route run this year, and are there any updates on getting bus service to Hillside Farms?

A LCTA Official stated: The Francis Slocum Park route will begin operating in late June, stay tuned for schedule information. We did look into serving Hillside Farms, and it is not viable at this time, but contracting a shared ride van is an option.

- A member of the LCTA Board asked: Are bus schedules in place and displayed at employers in the industrial parks?

A LCTA Official stated: Yes, bus schedules were sent to Mericle Commercial Real estate and placed in the park with tenants, and sent to the tenants in the new Hanover 9 Trade Park.

- A member of the public stated: Pedestrians are not allowed on the roads of the industrial parks, how are they going to walk to and from bus stops?

A LCTA Official stated: We reach out to industrial park developers, individual companies, and the County MPO to assist in bringing awareness and provide guidance in making industrial parks more pedestrian friendly. Certain individual companies purchase their own bus shelters and create turn-arounds for the bus to navigate the property and service employees with their transit needs.

- The LCTA Officials thanked those in attendance. The next LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum meeting will be held at a time and location to be determined, but most likely held in July, and will be advertised to the public in advance.