

LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 27, 2022 Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting held at 3:00 PM at the LCTA HQ in Kingston, PA.

Present: Joe Roselle (LCTA), Robert Fiume (LCTA ED), Charles Sciandra (LCTA Board Chairman), Frank Knorek (LCTA), Tom Bindus (LCTA Board), Kathy Bednarek (LCTA), Lee Horton (LCTA), Valerie Kempner (LCTA Board), Joe Fedak (public), David Atol (public).

- 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, and stated the GoToMeeting service is down today.
- The LCTA ED stated: We are going to be moving forward with our transit development plan and route analysis to improve the system, and add and remove service where demand is present. We will also look at the addition of microtransit to fill in areas of low fixed route ridership, where fixed route service normally would serve.
- A LCTA Official stated: Geisinger Health System has requested we service their new Oak Street facility in Pittston. As well, the Hanover 9 Industrial park has requested we service their businesses in Nanticoke.
- A LCTA Official stated: You will start to see orange colored boxes on the front of the bus. These boxes will allow for the use of an additional bus fare payment method in the form of a re-loadable card. The card can be purchased at a kiosk, and either re-loaded at the kiosk or via an online downloadable app. You can also use a phone app to buy fares and scan the phone on the box to pay. We will still accept cash and paper passes as fare payment. Half fare and senior fares will also be able to be used on this system.
- A LCTA Official stated: LCTA drivers are attending the PPTA bus rodeo competition this weekend in Allentown. We wish them luck.
- A LCTA Official stated: We apologize, but the GO TO Meeting service is down today, not allowing virtual participation. We will look into the issue and have it ready for the next meeting.
- A member of the public asked: Did the Francis Slocum State Park route not run this year?

A LCTA Official stated: Correct, the route did not run due to the park only having the pool open on weekends, and on our end due to a shortage of drivers. It is our understanding the park was able to hire more lifeguards to allow the pool to be open on weekdays, so we will see if we can get any more drivers available to run the route for the last month of summer. We have to service our regular routes before a specialty route like the park route, but we will try.

- A member of the LCTA Board Asked: How is COVID impacting operations?

A LCTA official stated: We currently have 4 drivers out. We are following CDC and PA Dept. of Health guidelines. Masks are still optional while riding, but some of our drivers are still wearing them voluntarily.

- A member of the public asked: Can we get free wi-fi on the bus like COLTS has?

A LCTA Official stated: We can, but there is a cost associated with it, and concerns about inappropriate materials being viewed and downloaded, no matter the amount of firewalls added. There is also the concern of cyber security attacks. We can certainly discuss it among management here and make a decision.

- A member of the public asked: Can we get the night service to run six days a week:

A LCTA Official stated: We can look into it with the route analysis that will be performed, however, there is a cost associated, where service added may lead to service being taken away on other parts of the system.

- A member of the public asked: How is the Murray Complex construction project progressing?

A LCTA Official stated: Construction was slow to start, but it is going along. We are still looking at an 18-24 month completion time.

- 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 August or September, and will be advertised to the public in advance.