**Tusco Bus Advisory Board Meeting**

**July 21, 2022**

**10:30 am**

**Tuscarawas County Senior Center**

IN ATTENDANCE: Drew Litty, Tuscarawas County Board of DD; Jill Cunningham, Mobility Manager; Jamie Smith, Tuscarawas Senior Center Cheryl Wetzel, Tuscarawas Senior Center Transportation; Donna Merrill, Horizon’s of Tuscarawas and Carroll County, Inc.; Shannon Hursey, Access Tusc Transit; Glenn Groh, Consumer

ABSENT: Dave Haverfield; Jerry Waltz; Mike Harrington; Nate Kamban; Kevin Hannahs; Bill Cozart; Joe Krocker; Tracey DeMattio; Deb Hill.

Drew Litty, President called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting was made by Cherie Wetzel and seconded by Donna Merrill. All Yea; President declared the motion is approved.

Financial Report:

Cheryl Wetzel, Treasurer presented the financial report showing a balance of $25,871.50. $2,500 was distributed to each of the following transportation providers: Access Tusc Transit, Horizons of Tuscarawas and Carroll County, Inc, Society for Equal Access and Tuscarawas County Senior Center. Ending balance as of June 30, 2022 is $15,873.65.

Jamie Smith made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Shannon Hursey. All in favor, the President declared the motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. 5310 Mobility Management update – Jill Cunningham reported 5310 Mobility Management project was applied for by the Tuscarawas Senior Center. Total request for grant was $141,875 which also includes a full-time bilingual Community Health Worker (CHW)
2. 5311 Rural Public Transit update- Shannon Hursey reported they are getting by but are still in need of drivers and vehicles. She states they have had to deny more trips than they want to due to capacity issues. Vehicles that the provider started with were older vehicles. Some have 200,000-230,000 miles on them. The 3 newer vehicles are being utilized for most of the out of county trips.
3. Regional Coordination updates- Deb Hill sent her apologies for not being able to attend meeting. She did send an email with updates as follows:

OMEGA update: In August we will be requesting O-D data for CY 2021. We are trying to prepare for the regional plan revision which is slated to take place next year.

ODOT update: Tuscarawas County will be participating in the $3.5 Million dollar Mobility Ohio Pilot project which includes Tusc, Coshocton, Muskingum, and Guernsey counties. It is funded by FTA ( $2.8 Million ICAM grant) and ODOT ( $0.8 Million). The pilot money is NOT money for the providers to provide transportation or secure vehicles, but rather for technology, development and administration of the pilot. The pilot is not slated to begin until January 2024, so it is too early to panic or make any judgements since nearly all of the decisions have yet to be made. The pilot will run from Jan 2024 to Jan 2026. Regional stakeholder input will be sought beginning in the fall with county workshop meetings. Information can be found at [www.MobilityOhio.com](http://www.MobilityOhio.com) or ODOT slides will be on the OMEGA website on this Friday. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to OMEGA or to Macie Moore at ODOT [macie.moore@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:macie.moore@dot.ohio.gov). More details will be shared as they become available. 😊

Also, 5310 and 5311 funding awards are expected to be announced by ODOT by the end of July.

Deb concluded to please reach out to her if there are any questions or concerns.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. TuscoBus has submitted an application to AARP Community Challenge Grant for bilingual decals on all 84 public vehicles. In conjunction with decals for vehicles Jeff Bray Jill Cunningham collaborated on a bilingual rack cards. Update: TuscoBus was not awarded AARP grant.
2. Discussion regarding PUCO at our last meeting. Flow chart was handed out that ODOT provided. Chart list who and how to obtain necessary DOT numbers. Jill Cunningham also stated she was given clarification from ODOT that DOT numbers were required for nursing homes. Jill stated she reached out to Tuscarawas, Carroll and Harrison Counties nursing homes with this information.
3. Regional surveys are out and assistance from transportation agencies is needed to distribute for collection of data.

NEW BUSINESS:

* 1. Discussion on how we can reach out to community to get more drivers. Retirees, Bilingual Residents, Students coming out of high school.
* Jamie Smith suggested maybe a mentor program for High School Seniors. Try to engage our Latino population. Earn their trust and educate about access to job opportunities. Drivers, schedulers even CHWs. Reach out to contact at St. Joes Church and see if we could partner to start a mentor program.
  1. Shannon Hursey requested that TuscoBus reach out to Robin at the United Way to see if we could possibly add a caveat to our grant funding. There has been an increased need for residents for social determinates of health seeking transportation.

Meeting was stopped as 2 members had to leave and we no longer had a quorum.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shannon Hursey and seconded by Donna Merrill. All were in favor and the President declared the motion approved at 11:19 am.