

Johnson County Paratransit Advisory Committee

Minutes

November 23, 2021

Phone in

Present:

Members: Doug Thompson, Jerri MacConell

Ex-Officio: Marc Rahe, Roger Goedken

Others: Tom Brase, SEATS Director, Angie Conard, Kelly Schneider

Absent:

Members: Vicky Robrock, Jon Green, Maszhir Salih, Mark Rummel, Steve Oulman,

Ex-Officio: Ann Trotter, Ron Schieffer

Others: Brock Grenis

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1. Call to order: 11:04
 2. Open Discussion: None.
 3. Chairperson's Report:
 - a. Introductions: via phone
 4. Director's Report:
 - a. The Board of Supervisors looking into ARPA funding for increasing SEATS hours and days of SEATS Demand Response service, including expanded service to North Liberty. This would include an electric vehicle and two drivers designated to this service: This would provide service to some places where fixed route is not offered. Riders can set up a trip but SEATS can deny the ride if they already have too many trips. Not sure when this will start, depended on funding and new vehicles. There will be no advertising or wraps on the buses. Fares have not been decided yet, but it's possible they could charge \$5/trip in rural areas. This service will require two additional SEATS drivers.
 - b. The last update I heard on Sunday service was next calendar year sometime. Could be early or mid – year: Iowa City transit is having trouble with staffing too, may be May or June.
 - c. Driver shortage due to Covid pandemic and Federal regulations including training requirements has put some constraints on SEATS: SEATS hired seven people since the end up August. Some of those are just now on their own.
 - d. We are still trying to bill trips to help with social distancing. How is this working for riders? We are looking into RM Pay and other technologies to help cut the office work time down by billing. We encourage timely payments: Drivers and riders like this. It was asked if SEATS would consider free trips if riders are over age 65. RouteMatch pay works with software, you can pay ahead of trip or work with the software. The budget was not approved with the ARPA funding for the \$65,000 start up fee.
 - e. According to Transportation Safety Administration passengers are to wear masks while riding until at least January 13, 2022. Unless there is something that would prevent to be able to do so: There are about 10 riders that are excused from wearing masks.
 - f. Taking applications for Advisory Committee members: No deadline, must be a SEATS rider
 5. Updates from those in attendance at the Advisory Committee meeting: Would like to meet in person for the next meeting. Brad Neumann is retiring at the end of 2021.
 6. Approval of last meeting's: All in favor, no apposed
 7. Next meeting: Feb. 22 at 1:00 p.m. Johnson County Administration Building

Adjourn 11:27