

LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 21, 2019 Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting held at 3:00 PM at the LCTA HQ in Kingston, PA and via Zoom Meeting.

Present: Joe Roselle (LCTA), Holly Miller (LCTA), Frank Knorek (LCTA), Dyheshia Paul (LCTA), Valerie Kepner (LCTA Board), and Joe Fedak (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. This is the first ridership meeting taking place since August of 2019 due to staffing changes, and the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- A LCTA Official stated the Francis Slocum State Park run just started and is doing well, and we have received positive feedback on the express runs. You will see more promotions to increase marketing of the route. In talking with Park staff, you may see the route extend into the fall. Most people are using the bus to go to the park pool.
- A LCTA Official stated: LCTA is in the preliminary stages of developing a downtown college commuter route that would service Wilkes University and King's College students, with the possibility of eventually servicing LCCC students. We will be conducting focus groups with students. The route would be a safer option for students due to security and cleanliness of the bus. A member of the public stated that we should utilize testimonials from students and essential workers to show how the bus helped them keep their classes and jobs.
- A LCTA Official stated: We did not cut service during the Pandemic. In April, ridership was about 55% down for Fixed Route, and 75% down for Shared Ride. Currently, ridership is about 30% down for Fixed Route and 50% down for Shared Ride. Free fares did not result in an increase in riders. No one has tested positive for COVID-19 at LCTA. We have increased and enhanced the frequency of cleaning each transit vehicle each night and even throughout the day.
- The LCTA Official conducted a Q & A session with the audience.
- A member of the public asked when LCTA will start charging fares again, and there were times when riding the route 13 during the middle part of the day where onboard hand sanitizer containers were empty. A LCTA official stated there is no set answer and it is a very fluid situation, but when we do, a notice will be given to the public. Also, the LCTA Official stated that he will let maintenance and operations know to check on the condition of hand sanitizer throughout the day and re-fill if necessary.

- A LCTA Board Member asked what protocols are in place in the event a staff member or rider tests positive for Covid-19? The LCTA Official stated: We are following CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines. We have implemented mask wearing, social distancing, and enhanced vehicle and building cleaning. We will have driver safety shields in the buses very shortly. If a staff member, driver or rider tests positive, we would immediately notify the PA Department of Health to initiate contact tracing, and take the bus out of service and/or close the building for decontamination. We also contact Shared Ride clients the day before to determine if they are safe to ride.
- The LCTA Official and Board Member 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.