

LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 19, 2018 Public Transit Ridership Forum Meeting held at 2 PM at the LCTA HQ in Kingston, PA.

Present: Norm Gavlick (ED), Frank Knorek (LCTA), Lorri Vandermark (LCTA), Mary Sapack (LCTA), Rosemary Lombardo (Public), and Juan Ramos (Public).

- The LCTA ED provided updates on the operations of the transit system and stated the following:
 - The Francis Slocum State Park Run began this week. It is the same exact schedule as last year.
 - 6/21/2018 is Dump the Pump Day, anyone can ride the bus for free all day long.
 - Discover NEPA is shooting a promo video featuring LCTA bus service as a way to attract businesses and professionals to NEPA.
 - LCTA is coordinating with Mericle Commercial Real Estate to explore the feasibility of building a bus transfer station adjacent to the CenterPoint Industrial Park on RT 315 in Pittston.
 - LCTA will take delivery of two new CNG buses in late August. The new buses will expand the fleet to 40. Five more CNG buses are due to be ordered in 2018. They will be replacement buses.
 - The PennDOT FRITZ project will standardize all technological hardware and software on all PA transit system buses. This includes passenger counters, AVL, ADA stop caller, cameras, and telemetry. Tentative installation is December 2018. LCTA may be one of the first 5 agencies in the state to have the Fritz System installed.
 - LCTA recently completed their bi-annual PennDOT fixed route bus customer service survey. Preliminary data shows a customer satisfaction rate of 90%. A full formal report is due later this year.
 - Night Service is on hold due to the bus operator union bidding process and hours of service regulations. We anticipate to work through this and hope to have the issue solved in the coming weeks.
 - The Murray Project is still active and ongoing. There currently is an archeological study being conducted by PennDOT, PA HMC, and FTA.
 - The new format for ridership meetings has seen an increase in public participation and attendance.
 - North Point Development is in the process of installing bus shelters for its clients at the Chewy.com location due to increased rider demand.

- The Luzerne/Lackawanna County MPO is in the exploratory phase of a study that would see the retrofitting the rail lines between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton into a Bus Rapid Transit Lane and a bike lane. A trip between the two cities would be 15 minutes. The next step is conducting a formal feasibility study once funding is secured.
- LCTA will need to re-time the # 13 and 14 routes due to increased rider demand with the possibility of adding additional service to these routes. The # 8 route will need to be re-timed to make it more efficient. Tentative implementation is Q4 2018.
- Per PennDOT metrics, LCTA monitors the number of passenger trips per revenue hour. The standard metric is 16 passengers per revenue hour. Only about one half of all LCTA fixed route bus trips on a daily basis meet this metric. The LCTA is looking into route planning measures to make the system more efficient in its performance.
- A member of the public asked: What happens to the buses and the technological hardware after the end of its useful life?

The LCTA ED stated: Some vehicles are sold at auction. Some components of the transit system are re-used, and other components are recycled.

- No focus group surveys were distributed due to having been previously completed by the members of the public in attendance at the meeting.
- The next LCTA Public Transit Ridership Forum meeting will be held on 7/17/2018 at a time and location to be determined.