

Citizens' Advisory Board
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
VAC (Volunteer Action Committee)

Thursday, July 3, 2008

Members in attendance: Brad Chase, Carol Johnson, Frank Anderson, George Zeller, Marty Golob, Mary Vada Reese, Rip Ruhlman, Vince Reddy

Two visitors

No RTA staff: Jerry Masek stopped by to see if we needed anything, but was not able to stay due to new responsibilities

Notes

- TWE application for funding and related guidelines (members were asked [look at the application ahead of the meeting](#) if they had a chance)
 - New guidelines for community groups interested in obtaining funding through TWE program were discussed.
 - VAC would like an update and more inclusion on RTA's internal approach to more basic aspects of TWE.
- [RTA tax budget](#)
 - Federal transit funding proposal (I think this is the Saving Energy through Public Transportation Act of 1008, or HR 6052), which passed 322-98 in the House. Unlikely to be voted on in Senate and, even if enacted, would not close RTA's budget gap.
 - Discussed how to help RTA creatively manage the crisis (e.g., ideas on route combinations or streamlining).
 - Noted that in past para-transit has not been during financially difficult times; this time could be different.
 - Idea of tapping capital budget was brought up, as was inadvisability of this approach.
 - Talked about the importance of being able to explain how RTA is funded and to make the case for public transit on a regular basis.
 - Other ideas brought up included (some were dismissed, others were not):
 - Zone-based fares
 - Rush-hour pricing
 - Reopening of talks with unions
 - Increasing the sales tax
- Recommended CAB appointments
 - Where do recommendations to Board of Trustees stand in regard to 3 open slate seats on CAB?
 - 5 vacancies including unfilled trustee appointments.
- Other
 - Adopt-A-Shelter program was discussed