

Minutes

RTA Committee of the Whole Meeting

9:41 a.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Committee Members: Clough (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair) Byrne, Joyce, McCall, Moss, Pellot, Serrano, Weiss

Not present: Bibb

Also Present: Benford, Birdsong, Bitto, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Davis, Fields, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Kirkland, Laule, Mothes, Orlando, Piggery, Schipper, Shaffer, Sutula, Tarka, Temming, Valentino

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that eight (8) committee members were present.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference for members of the Board in accordance with House Bill 197 of the 133rd General Assembly, signed by the Governor of the State of Ohio on March 27, 2020, the March 9, 2020 order of the Governor of the State of Ohio declaring a public health emergency and the April 30, 2020 order of the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Health prohibiting any gathering of ten (10) or more people. The meeting was live-streamed on RTA's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rideRTA) for staff and members of the public.

Code Book Update Project

Dawn Tarka, Associate Counsel II, made the presentation. Today's discussion will be on the proposed revisions to Chapters 1084, 1085 and 1086 of the Codified Rules and Regulations. These provisions relate to Paratransit service. The Authority's policies and procedures were codified in 1989 (Resolution 1989-176). They have been in the process of a comprehensive review and update to bring policies in line with the organizations current operations. These policies according to the Bylaws are subject to review and revision every 3 years. Today they are proposing to repeal Chapters 1084, 1085 and 1086 and to enact a new Chapter 1086. The Board received redlines to the three chapters and a draft of the proposed new Chapter 1086.

The new chapter meets the federal definition of the service area as being within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of a local fixed route. The proposal also maintains service for trips that are 5 miles or less for individuals beyond that $\frac{3}{4}$ mile radius, which goes above and beyond the minimum federal requirement. The provision also grandfathers Community Responsive Transportation (CRT) riders born on or before December 31, 1931. It proposes that the Paratransit service complements the fixed route network. Eligibility is determined in accordance with the ADA. Under this provision, the General Manager has authority to issue administrative procedures, including an updated Paratransit Customer Handbook. The handbook is in the process of being finalized and scheduled to be issued this month.

Mayor Clough asked why 1931 was picked as the grandfather date. Mr. Davidson said when Paratransit was established in the early 90's to replace CRT, that was the date they grandfathered passengers. Those who were eligible for CRT at that time would have been born on or before that date. In the current Code chapter, that's what the provision calls for so they maintained that. Dr. Caver said the CRT was not a ADA service, but was for all seniors. This allowed seniors to keep the service when it went to a ADA service.

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend these provisions to the Board of Trustees for approval. It was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved to move to the full Board.

Executive Session Requested

9:48 a.m. - Mayor Clough asked for a motion to go into executive session to confer with RTA's attorney regarding a dispute that is the subject of pending or imminent court action. It was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Serrano to enter executive session. There were nine (9) ayes and none opposed.

10:17 a.m. - Mayor Clough asked for a motion to come out of executive session. It was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mr. Serrano. There was nine (9) ayes and none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.



Floun'say R. Caver, Ph.D.
Interim Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Secretary