Transportation Partnership on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes: 7/9/2009

Attendance:

Nanette Gilbert, Angelica Simeone-Gilbert, Wendy Rock, Amy Miller, Rodger Simmons, Robert Gage, Pat Kane, Mike Rhine, Tom Keesey, Christopher Blaise, Pam Auer (Disability Rights Network of PA), Pam Le, Franny Stambaugh, Ted Dodge, Rebecca Greenholt, Sherry Welsh, Rich Farr.

A. Meeting called to order by Sherry Welsh at 1:58pm.

Introduction of members in attendance.

Resignation of secretary position, election will be held at the September meeting. Nominations will be accepted for those interested until the September meeting, nominations should be submitted to Sherry via email or telephone.
Email: swelsh@rabbittransit.org.
Phone: 849-0703

B. Due to the resignation of the secretary, the May minutes were distributed late. Therefore approval of the minutes from both May and July's meeting will be done at the September meeting.

Dawn Myers, co-chair, was on a planned vacation and will be at the September meeting.

C. rabbittransit general update:

Happenings-

Dump the pump was June 18, urging public to use alternative modes of transportation to get to work instead of driving alone.

York City Police and SWAT Team did onsite tactical training for a variety of emergency scenarios.

Effective June 1, rabbitExpress Harrisburg will service DGS Complex.

Adams County Transit Authority will have fixed route to service the downtown Gettysburg area. There is no half fare pricing on this route.

July 25 is Hanover Dutch Festival from 8am-4pm. Free rides will be provided from the Ollies' parking lot and Tractor Supply Company in Hanover to the event.

rabbittransit has partnered with DreamWrights Youth and Family Theatre.

Trips Purpose Numbers: A total of 2036 trips, the break down is as follows, work 895, medical 422, education 3, shopping 82, recreational 603 and other 31.

D. Round Table Discussion/Agency Presenation.

AAA (Area Agency on Aging) Presenation is being postponed due to position changes and vacations. TPOD's Dawn Myers will attempt to arrange the presentation for the meeting in September.

Rich Farr-Executive Director of both York and Adams County Transit Authorities explained the difference between the rural funding of Gettysburg versus the urban funding of rabbittransit. There is a $1.00 fee to ride the bus in the Gettysburg area. During peak times there are 5 buses running, with only 3 buses running during non-peak times. If the fixed route in Adams County is successful, there is a possibility of expansion in 2-3 years. The expansion could potentially include a bus from Gettysburg to Hanover, a bus that would go to the outlets in Gettysburg and an AdamsExpress which would run from Hanover to Harrisburg. While these are ideas, they are not concrete plans at this time. The Gettysburg bus is currently in place with help from the Healthy Adams Coalition. The buses currently run only on weekdays with the possibility of some weekend runs in the future.

E. Old Business

Updates from last meeting:

Seniors being added to the group. Seniors are able to take group trips, as well as PWD passengers, so the addition of seniors would be beneficial to the group.

Funding:

ACT 44 was to have a sizeable increase in funding, however because Interstate 80 did not become a toll road, less funding is expected. The transit authority is projected to be safe until approximately 2013. After that date it is expected that the costs will be higher than the revenue brought in. Currently the capital program is less than $100 million dollars so we are only surviving on the gas tax.

New Freedoms Programs, less than $200 thousand goes to PennDot, money was set aside for paratransit use in the area. There

is a possibility of loss of New Freedom's money; however the PWD and lottery funding are still going strong.

Responses to issues emailed to us:

Apple Hill Shuttle- Apple Hill is not a Wellspan run company, it is considered semi-privately owned. This is because each doctor located in the facility is responsible for decisions made as a whole. Apple Hill has requested that only 1 entrance (A) be used for pick ups and drop offs. There are possible changes that could be made.

There was discussion about the difficulty for the blind to navigate through the building due to its complexity as well as the discontinuation of the shuttle depending on Apple Hill and the York Hospital not rabbittransit.

F. New Business

Run for secretary and elections next meeting

Changes to TPOD meetings

Round Table discussions and agency presentations, any ideas from the group should be forwarded to Sherry.

Rider Alerts which can be emailed or texted to a PDA can be received after completing the appropriate information found on the website www.rabbittransit.org. The rider alerts will make you aware of buses running late, changes in routes due to events/weather/construction.

G. Current Issues and Concerns

Mike Rhine-getting on the bus at the mall
Conversation put on hold until after the TPOD meeting.

Christopher Blaise-ADA/PWD
OVR pays for his transportation and schooling. He brought up getting rides after school from HACC to Loganville. He explained that he can get rides into school, but that the paratransit service can not retrieve him from school and take him due to the shared ride nature of our service. He was wondering if evening and weekend services can be extended.
He also asked about having a questionnaire sent to paratransit users to ask what they would like transportation to do for them.

Tom Keesey-New Software

He asked what was involved with the new software changes and what it would do for the riders.

Tom also explained that he feels that the drivers are "feeling disconnected" from the scheduling process.

Answer (part 1): It will help with the increase in rider ship with the same number of vehicles, but with better productivity. Productivity is currently being affected by cancels and no-shows. Eventually scheduling "on the go" will be in place if everything is successful. New software will be on fixed route buses with paratransit vehicles to soon follow. Also explained is that we will have access to technology support as needed.

Answer (part 2): Drivers are not discouraged from asking questions with schedulers. Plan to have scheduler be in dispatch the following day so that they are working with the schedule they made. This is a goal to bridge the circle for transportation.

Paratransit and Fixed Route funding:

Fixed route is funded by deficit where as paratransit is a pay per ride program.

No Show and Cancel Policy:

These policies are currently being looked over. If there are any issues with drivers being early or late, passenger must call rabbittransit so that we are aware as the problems occur. The technology projects that are being started should help with times issues as well as cancels and no shows.

An idea to have a system installed that will call or text passengers that do not have a "front door" to watch from, for example those in apartments, facilities and high rises are being looked into.

Pam Auer-Policies

Collecting information for Best Practices for PWD can be registered online. Company she works for is trying to create a best practices document that would contain information for those are on the PWD program.

H. Upcoming Meeting: September 10, 2009 at 2pm

Meeting Adjourned by Sherry Welsh at 3:15pm

*****Don't forget to submit nominations for secretary!!*****