

Steering Committee Meeting Notes for January 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order slightly after 8:30 am by Deborah Hill, OMEAG Transit Planner. The ZOOM meeting housekeeping rules were reviewed, and the agenda for the meeting was reviewed. The roll call was then conducted.

The main body of the meeting began with a review of the current 2021 regional goals. After review, there was an open forum discussion of the first four regional goals for the purpose of gathering comment and input from Steering members on strategies to accomplish the goals. Suggestions were made without restriction from members of the committee. Time was allowed, and last call was made, for additional comment or suggestion from the group as each goal was discussed. A summary of the goals and suggestions for strategies appears below:

Strategies to Accomplish Goal One: Maintain Ridership and Increase Availability of Transportation Services to Safely Meet Unserved and Underserved Needs

- Install COVID safety measures & promote through all media (social & traditional)
- Marketing – keep the public informed (be repetitive)
- Opportunity to expand service hours/areas (expansion)
- Weekend service?
- Nurturing existing and growing new partnerships
- Marketing
- Expansion
- Try some pilot projects (move past planning)
- Fleet replenishment/expansion
- Address difficulties of hiring drivers

Strategies to Accomplish Goal Two: Increase Access to Affordable and Available Employment Transportation Options

- Employment transportation study (regional project)
- Consider regional options
- Gain employer buy-in
- Create regional provider coalition
- Employment outside of county?
- Board of DD needs to be at table (funding & ideas)
- Expanding opportunities with JFS/OMJ
- Create subcommittee (TAC) to address employment needs
- Create/strengthen partnerships with providers in WV and/or PA (out of region, interstate cooperation)
- Reduce fares for work transportation (part-time/reduced hours for employees)—be flexible as needed to be responsive to conditions

Strategies to Accomplish Goal Three: Build a Collaborative Network of New and Existing Providers and Other Stakeholder Agencies to Promote Affordable, Available, Collaborative Regional Transportation Access for All

- Marketing/advertising the regional resource guide and making it available online (updated regularly)
- Collecting and analyzing data from county TAC meetings
- Strengthen relationships with agencies
- Mobility managers for each county or covering underserved counties
- Use research reports from region to determine potential partnerships (employment study)

Strategies to Accomplish Goal Four: Support Initiatives that Promote Connectivity (Broadband, Cell Phone, and Internet Access) for the Region

- Software access project
- Monitoring/ID/Report dead zones per county
- ODOT has Connect Ohio data
- Regional broadband feasibility study (OMEGA)
- Update maps via providers, surveys, etc.
- \$3m being spent to expand broadband in southern Ohio • Per Lt. Gov's office
- Maps available due to FCC reverse auction

Members were informed that OMEGA will coordinate and formalize the strategies offered, in conjunction with strategies already existing in the Regional Coordinated Plan that are applicable, and the list of proposed strategies for goals one through four will be sent to members prior to the February meeting for review. They will be adopted by vote at the February meeting.

Next attention turned to updates:

Regional Projects have been in a holding pattern waiting for the ODOT project contract to be delivered to OMEGA. The contract was received by OMEGA earlier in the week and is now being reviewed by the legal department. The Regional Resource Guide project and the Media Outreach project are both able to begin now. The Employment Transportation Study project and the OC/OC Strategic Planning project, both of which require an RFP to be developed prior to beginning, are under development. A draft RFP for each project will be sent by OMEGA to the project leads no later than next week for their review and comment.

The regional software access project is slowly proceeding. RLS has concluded the interviews for the needs assessment portion and is now collecting additional data to be included in the RFP. A meeting with SEAT, OMEGA and RLS to discuss progress and next steps is scheduled for this week.

The Advisory Panel to the call center chose co-chairs, Tracy Haines and Shon Gress. They had one meeting with Howard and Andrea of SEAT to better understand how SEAT intended the advisory panel to interact with MOMS Board of Directors and the current call center.

Attention then turned to coming endeavors for the Steering Committee in 2021. Performance criterion will be developed both on micro and macro levels. Revising 5310 scoring procedures with ODOT will continue, resulting in a reimagined Coordinated Plan Support Document which will be sent from ODOT to OMEGA. This revised document will be reviewed for comment with the Steering Committee at the February meeting. The Steering Committee (SC) will also begin discussion and development of regional performance criterion. This will include general performance metrics for the region as a whole, and specific performance metrics and requirements for regional projects moving forward.

There are also new ODOT reporting assignments and requirements. Individual counties will no longer be responsible for preparing a county coordinated plan. They do still have several county requirements that must be fulfilled including yearly submissions to OMEGA of county goals and strategies, county unmet needs, and county level projects that will applying for funding. A chart detailing the responsibilities of the counties and of

OMEGA was presented. Additionally, going forward, all projects that request funding must be listed in the regional coordinated plan. This point was stressed several times.

The meeting dates for CY2021 were presented. In the interest of respecting everyone's time, the Steering meetings in March, June, September, and November will be combined with the RCC quarterly meetings.

A list of items members are expected to have prepared for the February 17, 2021 meeting was presented. They included being prepared to offer strategies for regional goals five through seven and checking to make sure that projects requesting funding are listed in the regional coordinated plan. A list of current projects will be sent to members prior to the February meeting and also at the February meeting to ensure that the ODOT requirement of inclusion is not a barrier to potential funding.

For the good of the region: the new 5311 public transit system, Access Tusc, began services on January 11, 2021. Shannon Hursey is the new Director of Transportation for the public transit system. Congrats to Shannon, Access Tusc, and Tuscarawas County! There were no additional announcements, or comment for the good of the group. The meeting was adjourned before 10 am.