



## **Minutes for the RCC Meeting November 17, 2021.**

The RCC meeting experienced several technical difficulties including audio issues and an incorrect zoom link. Therefore, the meeting began late. The RCC Chairperson, Valerie Shaw, called the meeting to order at 9:15am. The meeting was held in person at the Kent State University Tuscarawas Campus and available on zoom. There were 21 in attendance, 15 in person and 6 on zoom.

Deborah Hill, OMEGA Transit Planner, reviewed the zoom meeting code of conduct, the meeting agenda and did a verbal roll call. Those present on zoom who were not specifically called, were asked to put their names in the chat.

Madam Chairperson reviewed the minutes from the last RCC meeting on September 24, 2021. Minutes were sent to all members prior to the meeting for their review. There were no corrections or additions. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mike McBride; seconded by Tracy Haines. Motion carried.

Ms. Hill presented a proposed slate of officers for 2022. Valerie Shaw volunteered to continue as RCC Chairperson and Shannon Hursey volunteered to be RCC Vice Chairperson. Additional nominations from the floor were requested, and none provided. The slate of officers will be voted upon later in the meeting.

The Steering Committee reports were given by Ms. Hill. There were two items for discussion: the presentation and acceptance of the 2022 Regional Unmet Needs and mid-study reports from the One Call/One Click Strategic Planning Study and the Employment Transportation Study. The proposed unmet needs and both studies were sent to all members prior to the meeting for their review and consideration.

There was a brief review of the responsibilities of both the Regional Coordinating Agency (OMEGA) and the counties to the Regional Coordinated Plan yearly update which is required by ODOT. Though county level coordinated plans are no longer required, or accepted, by ODOT, counties must still conduct surveys, and provide *county* level unmet needs, goals and strategies, as well as provider vehicle information to OMEGA for inclusion in the regional plan update which will be sent to ODOT in December. All county Mobility Managers have provided this information to OMEGA.

In addition, there is an ODOT required *regional* yearly update of the SWOT analysis, regional unmet needs, and regional goals and strategies. The regional level SWOT and regional goals and strategies have been presented to the RCC at prior meetings and adopted by vote.

The Steering Committee developed the regional unmet needs being presented to the RCC for consideration at today's meeting. The Steering Committee developed these regional unmet needs by considering all the following:

1. Updated regional SWOT analysis
2. 2021 Regional Survey of Needs Assessment – over 1800 responses and covering all counties
3. Previously listed unmet needs from stakeholder and public viewpoints from the “current” 2018 Regional Coordinated Plan
4. Lively and thorough discussion at the October 20,2021 Steering Committee meeting including input from Mobility Managers representing the current unmet needs of their counties.

The proposed **Region 9 Regional Unmet Needs for 2022** include:

- 1) Expansion of transportation services.**
  - Including, non- medical service hours
  - Saturday and Sunday service
  - Coverage in rural areas
  - Service options after hours
  - Out of County (OOC) and Out of Region (OOR) transportation
- 2) Education of, advertising to, and increased awareness by, the public of available transportation options,** including understanding about funding sources.
- 3) Short-notice trip services,** potentially considering uber or micro mobility options.
- 4) Transfer points and development of coordinated routes,** especially for OOR trips.
- 5) Adequate funding sources,** including increased availability of coordinated funding sources.
- 6) Available, and adequate number/sources of rider escorts/rider guardians.**
- 7) Adequate sidewalks and pathways.**

In discussion, there were no additions or corrections to the proposed unmet needs. Adoption of the 2022 Regional Unmet Needs will be voted on later in the meeting.

The meeting was then turned over to Dan Dalton, the lead for KFH Consultants. KFH is handling the OC/OC Strategic Planning Study for Region 9. Dan, and his associate Sarah Lasky, presented slides and initiated discussions within the group. They reviewed the organizational, operational, and administrative requirements that would be required of a lead agency for the call center. They also stated that any lead agency being considered would have to have availability, willingness, structure, capacity, and regional support. Multiple requests have been made to all regional RCC and Steering members to ascertain if there is interest by any organization in the region to accept the responsibility of lead agency for the Mobility Solutions Center in 2022. There has only been one respondent and that

is Access Tuscarawas, LLC. For clarification, "Access Tuscarawas LLC" refers to the agency, not the public transit, though the public transit, "Access Tusc", is one of the projects under the oversight of Access Tuscarawas LLC. All RCC members present in person and on zoom were again asked if there were any additional interested parties wishing to be considered for the role of lead agency for this project. Hearing none, an anonymous poll will be sent to all RCC/Steering members seeking consensus of support for Access Tuscarawas, LLC to be considered as the specific lead agency for this project in 2022. Though the final report will provide as much specifics as possible related to Access Tuscarawas LLC as lead agency, it will also contain detailed implementation plans that could be generally used in the future should the lead agency change to ensure continuity of success of the Mobility Solutions Center independent of the specific lead agency. The anonymous poll will also allow for comment to be considered by KFH as they enter the final phase of the study.

Bret Allphin and Sam Tuten next presented slides and a discussion of the employment transportation study which is mainly focused on Coshocton County but includes portions of Tuscarawas, Muskingum, and Holmes Counties as well. They presented summary information gathered from discussions with employers in the area under consideration. They presented a four-route sample plan including cost data and potential ridership numbers for each route. Results do indicate that it is indeed feasible to consider an employment transportation system in the area. They suggested that a pilot might be planned to utilize the route with the highest number of employers, or the one with the most employer level of interest and involvement. Data also showed a potential for a circular employment route within the city of Coshocton. The plan in its entirety can be found online at this link: <https://www.sixmoae.com/services/city-services/coshoctonemployment/>

Madam Chairperson resumed the meeting calling for motions for adoption of the 2022 Regional Unmet Needs as presented, and the RCC slate of officers for 2022 as presented.

Sandy Burrier made a motion to adopt the 2022 Regional Unmet Needs as presented, seconded by Mike McBride and the motion was unanimously passed. Motion to accept the 2022 RCC slate of officers as presented was made by Joe Krockner, with a second by Jill Cunningham, and this motion also passed unanimously.

Ms. Hill then discussed with the members a potential schedule for 2022. It was agreed that each third Steering Committee meeting would be held in conjunction with the quarterly RCC meetings to best respect everyone's time. The third Wednesday of each month from 9-11am was an agreed upon date and time for the meetings, though a poll question concerning the date will go out to all members. It was also discussed and decided that there would be benefit in hosting the quarterly RCC meetings in different locations throughout the Region. This would give areas of the region the opportunity to highlight and share their local amenities and programs. Though funding for member meals cannot be provided, there may be opportunity to arrange an optional meal opportunity at a local establishment at the conclusion of the meeting or to arrange for a meal that members could each pay for in advance. For example, AAA9 in Cambridge might host the meeting with lunch afterward at Theo's which is within close walking distance. The idea of showcasing different areas for the meetings was very well received and so details for that will be worked out for next year.

Madam Chairperson called for the “Good of the Region” discussion and county updates. Ms. Hill presented OMEGA staff changes. Kevin Buettner, OMEGA Transportation Director, will be leaving OMEGA in December. And be greatly missed. Josh Sliker will be onboarding at OMEGA as a Transportation Planner with Jeannette Wierzbicki, OMEGA Executive Director, assuming the Transportation Director leadership. Also new with OMEGA is Josey Rabare who is the GIS Coordinator.

In county announcements, Mike McBride reported there is a new Director of Senior Services of Belmont County. SSOBC also received a grant to assist in providing food for their nutrition center. Congratulations to SSOBC on both counts.

Nicki Silver, Mobility Manager for Muskingum and Guernsey counties, reported that the Region 9 Resource Guide was already gaining attention in the region. She had a call from a physician in East Liverpool who heard about the Resource Guide and wished to be included as she serves patients in Belmont and Columbiana Counties as well as in West Virginia. Nicki also had Resource Guide magnets which include a scannable QR code to the Guide – each person present was given a magnet, with additional magnets available to distribute to local HHS and JFS organizations as well as Senior Centers or others who might benefit from transportation resources at their fingertips. All regional Mobility Managers will have a supply of magnets to distribute. A flyer about the Resource Guide is being developed currently to help increase awareness of the Resource Guide.

There were no further announcements. Motion to adjourn was made by Sandy Burrier, with a second by Mike McBride, and Madam Chairperson called the meeting adjourned at 10:54am.