



## MEETING NOTES

**FRANKLIN COUNTY MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215  
*BOARD ROOM CONFERENCE ROOM*

**April 10th, 2023**  
**10:00 AM**

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Attendance: Barbara Sullivan, Clint Stockham, Jeannie Chai, Amber Boyd, Claire Jennings, Beth Simon, Sophia Marsh, Bob Dowler, Reuben Shendo, Morgan Kauffman, Sophia Marsh, Corrina Hyde, Christine Happel, John Gardocki, Steve Skovensky, Clare DiCuccio, Denise Blackburn-Smith, Emma Strange, Brian Zimmerman, Xander Fay
- b. Introduction of new attendees: Sophia Marsh from Help Me Grow and Morgan Kauffman from Yellow Cab are new attendees

### 2. Updates

- a. Policy Updates:
  - i. Changes to non-emergency medical transportation which would disallow COAAA from providing NEMT through their PASSPORT waiver will go into effect July 2023.
  - ii. The transportation bill was passed and signed by the governor. The budget is for two years and includes some increased federal funding opportunities.
- b. Funding and Planning Updates
  - i. COTA Short Range Transportation Plan: COTA is holding public community meetings to discuss the short-range transportation plan. Refer to the link to sign up to attend either an in person or virtual meeting
  - ii. Zoning reform in Columbus:
  - iii. Letters of intent are due April 4<sup>th</sup> to ODOT for funding
- c. Mobility Management Updates
  - i. Regional Survey: The regional survey for central Ohio has been finalized. Dissemination of this survey will begin at the end of April and will go to the end of August. If you or your organization would like copies of the survey, contact Emma. The survey has been translated into Spanish, Somali, and Arabic thanks to CRIS!
  - ii. Gohio Mobility: On track to launch in June! Now is the time to ask Emma if you or your organization are interested in getting involved in the beta testing of Gohio Mobility or a training in how to use it.

- iii. Region 6 Quarterly Meeting: Region 6 mobility managers met on April 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss ways to increase regionalization and cross-county connections. From this, Mobility Managers will start work on creating an inventory of softwares used by transportation providers across central Ohio as well as start looking into a bi-annual transportation provider event for all of region 6.

### 3. Discussion

- a. Driver Recruitment
    - i. Volunteer driver recruitment challenges: Settlement houses, Community Refugee and Immigration Services, and the Community Resource Center all have volunteer drivers. Some common issues are as follows:
      - 1. Lack of vehicles: most volunteers use their own vehicles. Mileage reimbursement is sometimes available, but very expensive to offer and provide.
      - 2. Drivers need to be at least 25 years old for insurance purposes
      - 3. There is a need for a universal language
    - ii. Public transportation
      - 1. The agreement with the COTA union is coming up
        - a. Unlikely that we can present community needs to the union
      - 2. COTA is experiencing a shortage of drivers. Amber cited the CDLs as a main barrier to having enough drivers
      - 3. COTA is having a career fair April 26<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. **Potential next steps:** Reach out to more volunteer driver programs, investigate supporting 5310 applications for more vehicles so volunteers do not have to use their own, reach out to universities for volunteers, **come up with universal language to talk about volunteer driver programs**, continue to explore how to support COTA's work force endeavors
  - b. Emergency ride program
    - i. ODOT's letter of intent is due 4/21. If we were to apply for funding through ODOT, the emergency ride program would be a 2-year pilot project. We would need a provider and funding would likely come in the form of reimbursement.
      - 1. Potentially we could do a contract with Uzurv. We would also need a call center to schedule rides
      - 2. Organizations/FCMAC members interested in continuing working on this project include Community Shelter Board, Age Friendly Innovation Center, Clintonville Community Resource Center, COTA Mainstream
    - ii. Submitting an LOI by 4/21 would mean an application being submitted in May and funding starting in July. The other option is to wait for the fall for 5310 funding
    - iii. **Next steps:** Reaching out to Uzurv and 211. Following up with the members interested in going forward with the project. Look for more providers for emergency ride program
  - c. Outreach and Gohio Mobility: We will discuss more in the future
4. **Wrap up and details for next meeting**

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>. We will follow up on projects we focused on today.

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>
<b>Goal 1: Expand Services for Disadvantaged Populations</b>	Strategy 1.1: Seek and use 5310 and 5307 funding to support this goal
	Strategy 1.2: Maintain expanded Mainstream and Mainstream On-Demand Hours. Continue to explore rider needs and adjust as needed
	Strategy 1.3: Develop an inventory of non-medical and volunteer driver services. Develop best practice vetting processes
	Strategy 1.4: Support joint RFPs among social agencies for purchased transportation to reduce costs and simplify trips for users
	Strategy 1.5: Identify and pursue regional connectivity through the County Connections initiative
	Strategy 1.6: Support the implementation of fare evaluation for COTA services, including COTA Plus, to support economic accessibility
	Strategy 1.7: Support the integration of bus stop and sidewalk improvements by encouraging the existence of and participating in a working group with the Franklin County Engineers Office and the City of Columbus
<b>Goal 2: Encourage Flexible Policies to Improve Transit Accessibility</b>	Strategy 2.1: Develop an oversight committee for MORPC administered 5310 funding. Encourage a goal to expand reach of federal 5310 allocations.
	Strategy 2.2 Improve coordination for transportation integration in land use decisions
<b>Goal 3: Increase Awareness of Programs and Services</b>	Strategy 3.1: Increase training opportunities for transportation services for customers and care givers
	Strategy 3.2: Release and market Gohio Mobility and develop a user working group for evaluating effectiveness
	Strategy 3.3: Use plain language, picture based instruction, and expand languages offered in marketing and training materials to improve accessibility of outreach initiatives
	Strategy 3.4 Encourage coordination among mobility application providers through API and SDK for one-stop scheduling