

**Summary Minutes
Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

Members: Ian McLaughlin, Robert Kaplan, Jim Yu, Andrei Obolenskiy, and Sarah Birdwell

Staff: Sandra Muhlestein (CCCTA), Pranjal Dixit (CCCTA), Ryan Jones (CCCTA), Christian Sanchez (Transdev), Victor Carranza (Big Star)

Public: Rashida Kamara (CCTA)

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for the September 19, 2023, meeting was approved unanimously. M/S: Yu, Birdwell
- 4. Approval of minutes of July 11, 2023:** The minutes of the July 11, 2023, meeting was approved unanimously. M/S: Obolenskiy, Yu
- 5. Public Comment:** None
- 6. Consent Calendar:** Member Kaplan asked a question with regards to data captured on Clipper usage. M/S: Kaplan/Birdwell- Consent Calendar was approved unanimously.
- 7. Chair and Vice Chair Nominations and Elections:** Ms. Noya provided a summary of the associated duties for Chair and Vice Chair roles. Interim Chair McLaughlin provided an overview of the process for electing the roles. Member Obolenskiy nominated Member McLaughlin for role of Chair and Member Kaplan seconded the nomination. Member McLaughlin accepted the nomination. Member McLaughlin was the sole nomination and was unanimously elected for the Chair role. Chair McLaughlin opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair role. Member Obolenskiy was nominated by both Members Kaplan and McLaughlin. Member Obolenskiy declined nomination citing other obligations. Member Kaplan was nominated by Chair McLaughlin and Member Yu. No other nominations were received. Member Kaplan accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously.

- 8. Fare Changes Update-Informational Only:** Mr. Dixit reported that in June 2023 the Board had approved a two-year extension for the Clipper START and Youth Fare pilot programs. These programs have been under the administration of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which suggests a transition to a 50% discount model across all operators to enhance program effectiveness and encourage greater participation. Following discussions with neighboring transit agencies, the staff recommends elevating County Connection's discount rate from 20% to 50% for these programs. Since this change constitutes a fare adjustment, it necessitates a Title VI analysis and a public hearing process. Additionally, the staff proposes further fare adjustments to streamline the fare structure by eliminating surcharges for Express routes. Combining both these changes into a single Title VI analysis increases the likelihood of ensuring equity across rider demographics. The public hearing will be held at the next Board meeting. Member Obolenskiy and Kaplan asked about how often the analysis/survey is conducted. No comments or questions from the public.
- 9. Onboard Survey-Information Only:** Mr. Dixit presented a report on the Onboard Survey that will be conducted in October. The survey will capture relevant data to see what improvements are needed now and in the future. It will allow the Authority to gauge where resources should be allocated. Chair McLaughlin is interested in seeing the data findings. Member Obolenskiy asked about the ability to add questions to the survey. Mr. Dixit mentioned that the questions have been finalized citing that the Onboard Survey is in sync with the type of questions that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) poses in their own survey. No comments or questions from the public.
- 10. Travel Training Update- Information Only:** Member Birdwell provided an overview of the Travel Training program as well as providing an update which includes conducting group field trips. Member Yu asked if the flyer on the program was posted on the County Connection website. Marketing Manager Ryan Jones mentioned it was currently not uploaded. Member Birdwell mentioned some of the difficulties associated with the Clipper application process for seniors.
- 11. Improving Collaboration between Advisory:** Chair McLaughlin led the discussion on how to improve the collaboration between the Advisory committee and the Board of Directors. Member Obolenskiy would like to see what the Board of Directors meeting agenda so that agenda items can be discussed in the Advisory Committee.
- 12. Committee Member Communications:** Member Obolenskiy mentioned that as a member of the Ironhorse Commission and there have been recent discussions concerning use of autonomous vehicles on the Ironhorse Trail. Currently the Commission is focused on public input.

13. Future Agenda Items: Member Kaplan requested Advisory Committee members to receive the Board agenda packets. Chair McLaughlin brought up the previously mentioned item pertaining to drafting flyers to recruit new members.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm. Next meeting to be held on November 14, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Rosa Noya on October 27, 2023.