



Council of Government Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2022

8:15-9:36 AM

Present: Patrick Ward, Chair, Brenda Bodnar, Chuck Brunello, Jr., Kim Thomas, Daniel Subwick (proxy for Georgine Welo)

Absent: Anthony DiCicco

Agenda item: Approval of Minutes

Presenter: Sattin

Discussion: Minutes of the September 1, 2022 CoG meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes was presented by Mayor Bodnar, seconded by Mayor Brunello. All approved.

Agenda item: Financial Report

Presenter: Sattin

Discussion: Members reviewed the 2022 Budget vs. YTD expenditures. Motion to approve was presented by Eileen Callahan, seconded by Phil Stella. All approved.

Agenda item: Old Business

Presenter: Sattin

Discussion: Investment Committee

Mayor Ward reported that the Investment Committee met on October 18, 2022 and forwarded the following recommendations to the COG:

1. Open a Star Ohio account.
2. Close the CPA account at PNC and invest funds in the Star Ohio account.
3. Transfer \$55,000 from Key Bank Money Market account into Star Ohio account.
4. Open two brokerage accounts at Key Bank-one for CPA and one for the Foundation.

Mayors approved by email. Mayor Ward called for a formal vote to memorialize the action. Motion to approve actions 1-4 as stated was forwarded by Mayor Bodnar, seconded by Mayor Brunello. All approved.

Motion to approve the revised charter as presented at the September 1, 2022 meeting was forwarded by Mayor Bodnar, seconded by Mayor Thomas. All approved.

Agenda item: New Business

Presenter: Sattin

Discussion: Proposed 2023 CPA Budget

Ms. Sattin distributed the proposed budget to the COG and asked that the groups only consider the City Contribution because transportation numbers have not been defined. Personnel costs have

increased; more employees are opting for insurance. A 3% raise was calculated for staff. The Homemaker program was deleted from the 2023 budget. As it stands now, it is fiscally unsustainable. CPA has been researching alternative scenarios to implement the program and will reinstate it once a solution has been identified. Discussion ensued about the way transportation costs were calculated in the past which led to the topic of STC contract negotiations. Ms. Sattin distributed several different iterations of transportation usage by category by cost to look at various ways the STC proposed rate increases might affect CPA budget numbers. Mayor Ward indicated that the operational budget (alternative A) as presented can be approved without the transportation numbers. He asked for a motion to approve, it was forwarded by Mayor Bodnar; seconded by Mayor Brunello. All approved.

Discussion: STC Rate Increase

The meeting then turned to the pending STC proposal which allowed \$23 per one way ride plus \$5.05 a mile. Ms. Sattin reported that she met with Laura Kleinman, director of STC, to discuss the proposed rates. The rationale for the higher rates included the impact of the pandemic on usage, a shortage of drivers which reduces the number of rides that can be offered and other factors which reduced overall revenue. Another factor in the realignment of rates and contracts is that every city /agency using STC negotiated a separate contract with different rates and Ms. Kleinman is trying to standardize the process. Mayor Ward pointed out the efficiencies that CPA provides due to the geographic proximity of the cities and that pricing should reflect that efficiency. In addition, CPA is the third largest user of STC services and should be afforded a rate that reflects the high usage of the service.

Ms. Sattin shared that the average CPA trip is 4 miles which would result in an \$86 round trip cost for an individual rider. Currently DSAS riders pay \$1 a trip and WRAAA riders pay \$4 a trip – that would remain in place no matter how high the rate of the trip. In other words, the cities will bear the cost of the increase, not the riders. Ms. Sattin explained that the rate increase is targeted to the individual rider- we also negotiated a group rate. If there are at least 5 in a van going to the same location, like community lunch, we currently pay \$10.50 a rider each way. Under the proposed contract, that will be raised to \$13 per person, but mileage costs will not be accrued. Ms. Kleinman is proposing a minimum rate of \$60 per van ride, for 1-5 riders. Riders above the 5 limit will be add an additional 13 a ride per person.

Discussion ensued about the cost and service provided. All agreed that the service is of the highest quality and STC does allow for walkers, wheelchairs and oxygen tanks which alternative transportation companies (Uber and Lyft) do not. The group discussed the policy of CPA having to pay the full round trip fee when there is a no-show/late cancellation and CPA's inquiry as to why a round trip is charged when a return trip never occurred. It was recommended that CPA put language in the contract stating that the agency will not pay for a return trip in a no show situation.

Ms. Sattin distributed three scenarios that looked at city costs for transportation (group trips are not included in the numbers) 1) 2023 increases applied with a projected 20% increase in rides; 2) limiting round trips to one a week and 3) limiting rides to medical purposes only.

Discussion about the viability of the scenarios, especially the medical rides only scenario, was lively- a suggestion was made to make better use of Instacart where perhaps CPA could pay for the membership fee, underwrite some of the processing costs, or have a staff person to teach/assist with ordering. It was pointed out that Instacart drops off the groceries and leaves, where STC assists carrying groceries in, checks on the wellness of the older adults and in general provides a concierge

like service. Further concerns were voiced about the need for older adults to get out of the home to increase socialization. Questions about consolidating trips on certain days, restricting usage to four days a week, purchasing a bus to be used by all the cities, and structuring usage to impact the bottom line by analyzing days of the week vs. usage vs. types of rides closed out the discussion.

Mayor Ward stated that he was going to contact STC and tell them that the proposed rates are a no-go for CPA. The mayors agreed unanimously.

Discussion: 2023 meeting dates/times

Presenter: Mayor Brunello

Mayor Brunello requested that the COG consider meeting in the late afternoon. The mayors agreed to alternating meeting times. Ms. Sattin will poll the mayors to determine the best day/time for all.

Agenda item: Adjourn

Presenter: All

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Bodnar, seconded by Mayor Brunello. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 AM.

Patrick Ward, Mayor
Chair, Council of Governments

Wendy Albin Sattin, Executive Director

Date