Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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**Meeting of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging**
**Transportation Advisory Committee**
**Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 10:00am**
**Bedford Area Agency on Aging Office, 240 S. Wood Street, Bedford, PA**

The Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging Transportation Advisory Committee met on Thursday, February 20, 2025. The meeting was opened by Connie Brode, Executive Director of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging.

Item 1- Welcome- Connie Brode, Executive Director of the Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging welcomed all committee members to today's meeting and reviewed the agenda items for today's meeting.

Item 2- Approval of Minutes- Connie Brode asked the committee for the approval of the minutes from the November 14, 2024, meeting. Prudence Harclerode made a motion to approve the minutes, and John Kibler seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Item 3- Staffing Updates- Connie Brode informed the committee of some staffing updates within the CART Transportation Program. Connie introduced John Kibler as the new Transportation Operations Supervisor. Connie informed the committee that Kaitlyn Strauss had been promoted from Transportation Operations Supervisor to Transportation Supervisor II. Anthony Molinari, Transportation Director, informed the committee that Duane Black had been hired as a new CART Driver in Huntingdon County and that Transportation Dispatcher, Marcia Detwiler, had resigned from her position.

Item 4- PennDOT Fare Increase Implementation Report- Anthony Molinari informed the committee that the new, mileage-based fare increase went into effect on January 1, 2025. Anthony informed the committee that the implementation met with some errors in billing code sets, but, overall, the implementation was a smoother process. Anthony indicated to the committee that the overall ridership did not appear to be affected by this fare increase.

Item 5- Review of Billing Impact due to Fare Increase- Anthony Molinari informed the committee there has been an increase in clients wanting to be individually billed for their monthly trips. Anthony informed the committee that this was anticipated, due to the change to a mileage-based fare as opposed to the two-zone based fares.

Item 6- Increase of Repairs Costs and Trends Identified- Anthony Molinari informed the committee that the costs of preventative maintenance on the fleet continue to increase, as prices for parts, oil changes, and labor continue to increase. Anthony informed the committee that transportation has run into a consistent transmission issue with their 2021 Ford Transit Vans. Anthony informed the committee that 4 of the 8 vehicles have been experiencing transmission issues and that none of the 4 vehicles has hit 100,000 miles to date. Anthony informed the committee that one of the vehicles has already required a total transmission rebuild, which cost the agency around $11,000 to repair. Anthony informed the committee that soon after the transmission was fixed, he received reports from 3 drivers, driving the same year, make, and model vehicle, were also experiencing transmission issues. Anthony informed the committee that he had reached out to Ken Ellenberger at Rohrer Bus and Ford to see if there had been any reports of similar issues with the 2021 Ford Transit Vans. Anthony informed the committee that he had also reached out to PennDOT and that John Levitsky from PennDOT was going to speak with other Transportation Providers in the state and see if there were any reports. Anthony indicated to the committee that the 2021 Ford Transit Vans were the first year that the Drivetrain warranty had been changed from 100,000 miles to 60,000 miles and that the transmission issues and repair costs would have been covered under the Drivetrain warranty in previous years.

Item 7- Exploration of Adding Routes- Connie Brode informed the committee that the agency is still exploring and wanting to add additional travel lanes. Connie informed the committee that Southern Fulton County, Bedford County to Fulton County and Fulton County to Bedford County travel lanes are currently being discussed. Connie asked the committee members if there were any other travel lanes that should be discussed for possible addition. Committee member, Michele Heane, indicated that Huntingdon County residents need increased access to Blair County. Committee member, Penny Stup, indicated the need for Bedford County residents to access Blair County 5 days per week.

Item 8- New Vehicle Requisitions- Anthony Molinari informed the committee that the committee that the Agency should receive delivery of 7 Ford Transits at the beginning of March 2025. Anthony indicated that the delivery schedule has not been altered, as there have been no shortages in semi-conductor chips or chassis. Anthony also informed the committee that he would be submitting a purchase order for 4 Ford E-450 Buses to Coach and Equipment.

Item 9- Central Dispatch Office Expansion Update- Connie Brode informed the committee that the contractor for the Central Dispatch expansion will be breaking ground on March 1, 2025.

Item 10- Expansion Of Transportation Committee- Connie Brode asked the committee members if they knew of anyone who would like to join the Transportation Advisory Committee, as the agency would like to expand the size of the committee and have increased representation.

Item 11- IVR- Connie Brode informed the committee that the Agency will be working with Ecolane for the implementation of IVR calling. Connie informed the committee that IVR is an automated system that would contact clients who are scheduled for trips and inform them of their pickup times for the next day trip. In addition, the IVR system would notify the client when the CART vehicle was on its way the day of the trip. Connie informed the committee that this would hopefully reduce the number of no-shows and cancellations at the door and promote advanced cancelling of reservations.

Item 12 Meeting Dates- Connie Brode informed the committee that the next meeting date will be Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 10:00am.