**TRAC Minutes**

**March 2022**

The Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) met on Wednesday March 9th, 2022, in the Administration building’s boardroom at 18th St. The meeting was convened by Chairperson Denise Johnson at 6pm.

TRAC members in attendance were chairperson Denise Johnson, Vice Chair Robert Neely, Secretary Heather Cutrone, Newport News Rep. Melissa Osborne, and Norfolk Rep. Alyson Swett.

HRT staff present were Rodney Davis, Henry Ryto, Linda Carroll, Antoinette White, and Noelle Pinkard.

The November minutes were approved by Heather Cutrone and seconded by Melissa Osborne.

The January minutes were approved by Alyson Swett and seconded by Robert Neely.

Ms. Noelle Pinkard, Organization Advancement Officer provided a legislative update. She said Congress has yet to pass a budget for FY 2023, delaying the allocation of HRT’s federal transit funds. In the House’s transportation bill is $5 million earmarked by Congresswoman Elaine Luria for the new trolley base in Virginia Beach. HRT has received $52 million from the American Rescue Plan and some of those funds will be applied to the operating budget. Prior to the pandemic, HRT was generating $17.7 in revenue, currently revenue is at $8.4 million. The General Assembly has voted to revoke the state sales tax on groceries, of which 20% went to transportation. The impact on HRT is a reduction of approximately $1 million per year. However, the dedicated funds approved last year amounts to approximately $20 million annually.

The May service plan, effective May 15, was presented by Antoinette White, Assistant Director of Service Planning.

The Northside will reinstate its regular service span on all routes. Route 112 Jefferson Ave will have a run time adjustment.

Southside

Rt 6 South Norfolk, Rt 13 Campostella Rd., Rt 14 Battlefield Blvd., Rt 15 Military Hwy will all have run time adjustments.

New Rt 34 Oceanfront Connect will service Park Ave to 19th St. to Atlantic Ave to 22nd St. Via 19th St. to Birdneck Rd. and Virginia Beach Blvd. This will bring services to the Convention Center, Virginia Beach Sports Center, ViBe creative district and Atlantic Ave. between 17th and 22nd St. It will operate on Saturday and Sunday every 15 minutes from 8 am to Midnight from May 15th until the end of the Neptune festival.

Rt’s 30, 31 and 35 will implement seasonal services.

There will be no preseason service on Rt 30. It will operate via Atlantic Ave to 25th St., then on Pacific Ave. to 40th, then south on Atlantic Ave to 3rd St (Rudee Inlet).

The detour on Rt 58 Bainbridge Blvd via Booker St. to Great Bridge Blvd to Mains Creek Rd to Mullen Rd to Libertyville Rd. will become permanent.

MAX Rt 960 Norfolk/Virginia Beach will undergo run time adjustments. The 7:50am trip on Sunday will be discontinued.

MAX Rt 961 Norfolk/Hampton/Newport News will reinstate its regular service span.

MAX Rt 972 Virginia Beach /Newport News will implement an additional A.M. and P.M. trip.

**Director’s Remarks**

Director of Customer Rodney Davis briefed TRAC on the agency’s response to the two snow events, and its service adjustments for the upcoming MEAC Tournament. March 18 is Operator Appreciation Day. April 22 will be Earth Day with free fare on for all services on that day. Upcoming local events include the 4/20 Festival, and the Patriotic Festival.

Mr. Davis reviewed the CAFs filed by TRAC members.

**Chairperson’s Remarks**

Chairperson Denise Johnson thanked Mr. Davis for being so quick to respond to when she needs anything and for keeping her going. Henry Ryto was thanked for always being there to help. She thanked Melissa Osborne and Heather Cutrone for their help.

**The meeting adjourned at 7pm.**