



TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

MINUTES

PRESENT: Kendra Smith – Chair, Mary Morrison, Jim Caldwell, Laura Koprowski, Charles Odimgbe, Neil Greenberg, Paul Lutey, Nelson/Nygaard, Matt Webb, TransPro Consulting Inc.

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

TARTA Next Final Presentation

Mr. Greenberg explained that the TARTA Next project is nearing completion after two years.

Mr. Lutey provided a brief overview on the following aspects of the TARTA Next project.

- Study goal –
 - How to make TARTA better – improve access, respond to community changes, offer more types of service, re-design fixed route network
- The TARTA Next vision has three many elements –
 - Improve urban mobility – changes are necessary to simplify service, focus frequency where the demand exists and extend service to new destinations, which will build a framework that can be expanded with additional resources in the future
 - Expand regional connections – Microtransit, special event service, etc.
 - Enhance customer experience – connecting points, bus stop improvements, etc.
- What has been done –
 - State of the system, community outreach, service alternatives, fare evaluation, TARTA Next vision
- Community engagement –
 - TARTA Next Advisory Committee helped shape the vision by developing a comprehensive stakeholder, rider and community engagement plan
- Service scenario surveys –
 - Scenario A – concentrate service in areas with greatest ridership potential
 - Scenario B – expand geographic coverage
 - The recommendations provided are designed to fit within TARTA's financial constraints
- Strategic investments made in the past few years include –
 - Higher wages and benefits for TARTA's workforce
 - Re-instated Sunday service
 - Investing in new vehicles, technologies, and passenger facilities
- Near-term improvements over the next 12 – 18 months
- Next steps over the next 3 – 10 years

Ms. Koprowski added that the full report will be sent to the Board when it is available, which is expected by Sept. 23. The Board will then be asked to adopt the Vision plan this fall.

Revised Resolution No. 49-22 – Site Assessment

Mr. Odimgbe explained that as suggested by the Board, the two projects designated in the initial version of Resolution No. 49-22 have been separated and they will now focus on just the downtown Transit Hub. Although there have been changes in the resolution, TARTA will follow all FTA required procedures and processes when going forward with the site assessment.

Mr. Caldwell requested the Board be provided the initial resolution showing the revisions that were made.

Ms. Smith recalled that at the August Board meeting she requested third-party expertise to outline the process in this type of engagement and what is asked of the staff and Board by the FTA. This would ensure that everyone is operating from the same place of knowledge and understanding.

Ms. Koprowski introduced Matt Webb, Principal, TransPro Consulting, for clarification on the process for a project of this type. TransPro Consulting was brought on board in 2020 to assist with developing a strategic plan and provide expertise in rebuilding TARTA.

Mr. Webb explained the process for a Facility Study / Alternatives Site Selection Study as follows.

- Core scope of a Facility Study / Alternatives Site Selection Study
 - Develop a purpose / need for federal funds
 - Clearly identify future goals
- FTA requirements to access federal funds
 - Provide required documentation
- Once future action is identified there are additional FTA requirements to access federal funds including Environmental Justice & Title VI analysis
- Typical timeline
 - 52 – 68 months from the time the Board authorizes initial feasibility to shovel in the ground

Mr. Webb's presentation will be sent to all the committee members.

Ms. Smith encouraged the committee to consider this request when it is brought to the full Board at the September 15th meeting.

There was no other business to discuss, and the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.