

GRTC Transit Advisory Group (TAG)

October 2019 Meeting Minutes

Location:

City Hall
5th Floor Conference Room
900 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219

Time:

5:30pm-7:30pm

Members present:

Sam Davies, Adam Lockett, Kayla Diggs Brody, Jessica Reveley, Alan Flynn, Wyatt Gordon, Monika Huddleston-Elrod, Taylor Jenkins, Cody Symanietz

Members absent:

Courtney Vaughan

Agenda:

Welcome/Introductions

1. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Alice Woodson, the woman who was struck by the Pulse bus on Broad St.
2. Current and new TAG members introduced themselves
3. GRTC personnel present introduced themselves (Julie Timm, Tim Barham, Sheronda Hill, Anthony Carter, and a representative from Marketing)

Approval of Minutes from July 2019 Meeting

1. July 2019 minutes were approved

Induction of New Members

1. New members were introduced and inducted as members of the TAG
 - a. Alan Flynn - representing Chesterfield
 - b. Wyatt Gordon - representing Chesterfield
 - c. Monika Huddleston-Elrod - representing Petersburg
 - d. Taylor Jenkins - member at large

Election of 2019-2020 Officers

1. Nominations for officers for 2019-2020 were solicited from the group
 - a. Sam Davies was nominated and approved as Chair
 - b. Adam Lockett was nominated and approved as Vice-Chair

- c. Kayla Diggs Brody was nominated and approved as Secretary

Public Comment

No public comments

Message from the CEO of GRTC

1. CEO Julie Timm thanked the TAG for its continued support transit in the Richmond region
2. Ms. Timm posed several questions to the TAG:
 - a. What does the TAG envision for the future of the group?
 - b. How would the TAG like to serve GRTC?
 - c. How can GRTC serve the TAG?
 - d. Does the TAG have a wish list, information needed or a list of things the group would like to accomplish?
3. Ms. Timm invited the TAG to visit her whenever they would like

Role/Mission/Goals of the TAG for 2019-2020

1. The TAG openly discussed what they envisioned their role to be currently and future goals of the group
 - a. Should the TAG solely represent and provide opinions of riders, have more of an advocacy role, or be a think tank?
 - b. It was expressed that it is frustrating to not have the ability to change things as a TAG member while listening to the public's concerns
 - c. It was suggested that maybe there were other platforms for GRTC to solicit feedback on an ongoing basis from the larger public audience
2. Members of the TAG provided personal goals as representatives of the group which included:
 - a. Increasing the amount of routes to Petersburg
 - b. Efficiency of the system
 - c. Be a voice for Chesterfield County residents that do not get heard
 - d. Attend more public meetings
 - e. Potentially engaging groups in the community
 - f. Helping GRTC achieve its mission
 - g. Asking GRTC to call on the TAG for help because it has not really been done in the past

Service Updates

1. The route expansion in Chesterfield were discussed
 - a. Route expected to be functional by March 2020
 - i. It would travel from the Food Lion to John Tyler
 - ii. Includes 21 stops
 - iii. Transfers from 3C an option
 - b. Frequency has not been finalized
 - c. Pedestrian infrastructure and amenities still being discussed
 - d. A question was posed about night classes and John Tyler and whether or not the time table would accommodate the various times

Pedestrian Safety & City of Richmond

1. Mike Sawyer from the City of Richmond gave a presentation on Vision Zero
2. Mr. Sawyer reviewed pedestrian injury and fatality data within the city of Richmond and methods to reduce or eliminate these numbers
3. Attitudes and beliefs about driving and pedestrian safety are critical to make sustainable changes
4. He also provided the TAG with information as to how they can advocate for enhanced pedestrian infrastructure in the city and the surrounding counties
 - a. The Right of Way manager in the City should be contacted if pedestrian infrastructure is missing or damaged
 - b. People concerned with photo speed enforcement and primary seatbelt law should contact their state representatives
 - c. City councilpersons

GRTC Focus Group – Think Tank Items

1. What are the next steps?
2. GRTC vision both from CEO and Board
3. Increase advocacy role
 - a. Regionalization of GRTC
 - b. Expansion of service
 - c. Help folks understand how transit can help them
4. TAG members are advertisers for GRTC service
 - a. Help make transportation vital for Richmond
5. Mr. Davies asked how we can help with regionalization
 - a. Ms. Timm responded that we need to be unconstrained by local municipalities
 - i. Setup a State level source of funding for transit operations
 - ii. Spread the word and support GRTC at a grassroots level
6. Ms. Timm asked what do you want to do to support?
 - a. Send Ideas to Mr. Davies
7. Mr. Davies requested GRTC send questions and action items to TAG

New/Upcoming Business and Open Discussion

1. Mr. Lockett requested a greater indication of bus only lanes; cost effective ways to signal bus only lanes
 - a. Mr. Davies asked what can we do?
 - b. Ms. Timm responded that we need to increase an overall awareness and cultural change, not a physical change (Raise people’s awareness of the mobility corridor)
 - c. Mr. Sawyer responded that there’s a limit to design and safety has to be on the person looking out for themselves
 - d. Red paint is currently in Federal experimental phase but it’s for enforcement and not safety measure
 - e. There is not enough room on the street to install flex posts
 - f. Other technology to come
2. Mr. Flynn requested more information on the expansion of the Chesterfield corridor.
 - a. Why doesn’t the bus come down to the Chesterfield Towne Center, but Short Pump has a bus?

- b. Ms. Timm responded we need funding. She suggested to contact the Board of Supervisors. Constituents need to let people know what they want.

Mr. Davies adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16 at 5:30pm