

# Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission

## Minutes

Sept. 27 6:30 pm

Present: Karen Wagner, Renee Powell, Terry Hart, Jim MacPherson, Damian Humphreys, Herb Asplund

Herb led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved with one change. The FedEx report was moved to the beginning because Herb had to leave.

The June Minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

1. Grants: Karen Wagner reported that a NOFO has not been issued for the 2023 RAISE grants but the USDOT has been allocated \$1.5 billion for those grants. She passed around copies of the 2022 grants that were approved for Connecticut. She said AARP gives grants that benefit seniors, but not exclusively. Those grants do not require matching funds. Damian Humphreys volunteered to research those grants. He said an NCAA grant that has \$6 million in Title III money for 38 towns in the Greater Hartford area. He doesn't think South Windsor has gotten any money. He will research that further. Karen said applying for a South Windsor Greater Together grant seems to be a bad match and she didn't think it was worth our time in 2023. Commission members agreed. She asked everyone to keep watching for other grants, especially those with diversity requirements.
2. Trolley: Funding has been approved for the microtransit pilot program. Competitive applications will be accepted through CROC districts. Nothing has been posted yet. Nothing new on the FedEx bus runs.
3. Free bus program: As of now, the free bus program is scheduled to stop on Dec. 1.
4. Bus shelters. New schedules are being posted in some bus shelters. South Windsor's have not been done yet.
5. State budget. There is \$444,218,523 in the 2022-2023 state budget for transportation spending. That is an increase of a little over \$5 million from last year's budget. It includes \$220,168,000 for bus operations.

### **New Business**

1. The Commission has a new member, David Basile. He replaces Kathy Hale, who resigned over the summer. He expects to be at the next meeting.
2. New bus route: In December, CTTransit will change the 96 and 92 bus routes to include a jog off Rt. 5 to Ellington Road. That reflects the growth in new businesses along that stretch.
3. Annual report: Karen Wagner proposed that we not do an annual report this year because nothing much has happened. Commission members agreed.
4. Publicity: Karen suggested doing an article on the places in town that could be reached by a short bus ride. Commission members deferred about whether it would be useful. Karen will draft an information piece.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 25 at 6:30 pm.