

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission  
Minutes of Special meeting  
April 15, 2021, 7 pm

Present: Karen Wagner, Herb Asplund, Jim MacPherson, Kathy Hale, Renee Powell, Terry Hart, Carly DeLuca.

Herb Asplund led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The March minutes were approved unanimously.

The agenda was approved unanimously

The intern subcommittee reported on the interview with the perspective intern. A motion to accept her for Commission work to credit her master's degree was proposed and passed unanimously.

**Motion: To accept Carly Deluca as a Commission intern, starting in late May and extending through the summer until her 160 of work for credit is completed.**

**Old Business:**

**Grants :** Karen Wagner mentioned that she had not heard anything from the South Windsor Greater Together Community Fund. She also gave a lengthy report on the USDOT RAISE grant, which is the new version of the BUILD grant. The deadline for this year is July 12. There are four webinars to help people prepare to apply for the grant. No dates have been set yet but she will alert Commission members when they are.

The new grant has criteria that is similar to the BUILD grant: job creation, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, innovation, partnership. Commission members have already checked off several of those. If we go for the planning grant, \$30 million has been designated for those but a third is reserved for low-income communities. However, all of the \$100 million grant allocation is split equally between urban and suburban/rural areas. There was a discussion of how we fit into the various criteria. Herb Asplund reported that nothing under the infrastructure action fit our situation.

Karen also reported on a webinar she attended regarding electric vehicles. The group running the webinar was excited about our project and will help make connections to potential grants. We have no money to buy a bus ourselves. A sustainability grant might be one approach. Carly will research that.

**Trolley:** The RAISE grant requires an official name for the project. Karen asked people to suggest names. We will choose one at the next meeting. She also asked everyone to review the Trolley Vision. She read a list of nine positive economic impacts of mass transit in communities. Jim MacPherson will ask Michele Lipe who to contact for insight into traffic patterns in the IHOP/Walgreen's plaza. Kathy Hale is still waiting for a response from the owners as to whether they would provide access.

**Legislative issues:** Sue Larsen had a meeting conflict but passed along her report that there is nothing in the current Legislative session that affects our projects.

**New Business:**

**Questionnaire:** Karen discussed the suggested additions that were sent in about the business questionnaire. Commission members agreed there should only be a focus on a general business questionnaire until the route is settled. Doctors' offices should be included. Terry Hart suggested using Survey Monkey, which appears to have a low fee.

Next meeting date to be determined.