

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission Minutes  
October 26, 2021, 6:30 pm

Present: Terry Hart, Michael LeBlanc, Kathy Hale, Jim MacPherson, Karen Wagner

Kathy Hale led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and agenda were approved unanimously.

**Old business:**

Trolley

Town buy-in: Sue Larsen was absent so the report on her meeting with town staff was postponed. Karen noted that Sue said they were not very encouraging but agreed to keep the discussion open to find common ground.

WiFi: Jim Macpherson reported that the options for an outside vendor to provide Wi-Fi access on the bus look too expensive due to the high cost of equipment and connectivity charges. Others agreed. But Jim said he would talk to the town's IT department to find out if they could handle it somehow. Karen will talk to CTTransit to find out how they do it. Jim said TransLoc could provide a system that provides arrival and departure information for \$3,275 plus a monthly fee of \$95 per vehicle.

Hop-on, hop off: Terry Hart passed out copies of his extensive research on Hop-on, Hop-off services around the state. He reviewed the existing on-demand bus services in Connecticut, mostly in the southeastern portion of the state. He discussed routes, times, service areas, ridership, and funding.

There were many questions about how these services would work for a single town. Terry will reach out to Rep. Tom Delnicki for information on state resources. Mike LeBlanc will ask his contacts at CTTransit for information. Kathy Hale will talk to Greater Hartford Transit for their help.

*Traffic statistics:* The police department provided traffic accidents statistics for 2019 through 2021 for Sullivan Avenue/Buckland Road, Pleasant Valley, Ellington Road, Chapel Road and John Fitch Boulevard. Speed, poor sightlines, and poor design all seemed to be factors. These numbers will be used when applying for future grants.

**New business:**

*Route 5:* A few residents have approached Karen asking for help reducing accidents and speeding on John Fitch Boulevard. The Commission discussed ideas. Terry will talk to the police chief about his view on traffic cameras, which are not allowed in Connecticut right now. Kathy mentioned the new safe streets laws. She will research that option and report at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

The next meeting is January 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm.