

**CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING**

November 2, 2022

1:30 p.m.

Cascade Township Hall
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Members Present: DDA Members - Stephan, Supervisor Lesperance

Members via Zoom: Puplava, Vogel

Others Present: Chris Khorey & Danielle Bouchard of McKenna, DDA Director Sandra Korhorn

ARTICLE 1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

ARTICLE 2. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Supervisor Lesperance, supported by Member Stephan. Motion carried 3-0.

ARTICLE 3. Approval of the Minutes of the July 13, 2022 Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Stephan, supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 3-0.

ARTICLE 4. Review and Discuss Public Transportation in Other Regions

Danielle Bouchard indicated this information is based on discussion from the last meeting. The group discussed gathering information from comparable communities within the Great Lakes Region and other areas in Michigan to see what other suburban communities are doing with public transportation.

The memo outlines a summary of other transportation services researched. Demographic information was used to determine comparable communities. A couple of items to note are some communities offer on-demand services, curb to curb, services for individuals with disabilities or Dial a Ride. Some of these options will take riders to the nearest fixed route stop.

It was asked what BRT stands for? Chris Khorey indicated this mean Bus Rapid Transit, similar to the Silver Line or Laker Line that The Rapid has.

Other communities offer a dedicated lane for BRT routes as well as traffic signal priorities so the traffic signal turns green as the bus approaches.

It was asked which area is most similar to Grand Rapids? Chris Khorey felt Ankeny, IA, was most similar. It's an area just north of Des Moines, about the same distance that Cascade is from Grand Rapids. They are at the end of the route and their bus service is irregular. One route only comes 5 times per day, another route runs more frequently during the week with no service on the weekend. This route runs on a loop through the community and then runs direct to Des Moines. They also have On-Demand service within the community. This service operates only during the week.

It was asked who funds these bus services in other regions and communities? Chris said he was unsure but they could look into it.

It was asked how the surrounding areas in Kent County pay for The Rapid service? The core six cities have a millage, which can be looked into further. It is unclear how the outlying communities pay for their service, but McKenna will research this.

How many other outlying communities are using The Rapid? Chris indicated right now Alpine, Gaines and Plainfield are. Byron may be using the service and GVSU may be paying for the Allendale service, but they will look into it.

The On-Demand service (Rapid Connect) is serving Walker and Kentwood at this time.

The committee indicated they would like information on who is using the service in Kent County and how is it paid for, to include the Rapid Connect.

It was asked if anyone reached out to The Rapid to see what types of services they can provide? If not, the committee would like to request this information.

ARTICLE 5. Discuss Next Steps

McKenna will research funding sources in other regions as well as Kent County. They will gather additional information on Rapid Connect. The group would like to know what services The Rapid is able to provide for the same cost the Cascade DDA is currently paying.

It was asked if the group should schedule a meeting before the holidays or wait until after? It was decided to circulate any information received and then schedule a meeting after the holidays.

Scott Vogel joined the meeting via Zoom and the committee updated him on the discussion.

ARTICLE 6. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

ARTICLE 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

ARTICLE 8. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Member Vogel and supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.