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**Community Transportation Coalition**

**of Cattaraugus County**

*“Striving to Develop the Community Vital Transportation**System.”*

*"Striving to Develop the Community's Vital Transportation System”*

**Community Transportation Coalition Meeting Summary**

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**March 19, 2024**

**10:00 am – Noon**

**Jamestown Community College – Olean Campus**

The Community Transportation Coalition of Cattaraugus County met on March 19, 2024, at Jamestown Community College – Olean Campus, Olean, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

**Those Present Affiliation**

Tom Donnarumma Transdev/First Transit

Valerie Giardini Transdev/First Transit

Nate O’Brien Intandem

Sue McAuley United Way Cattaraugus/Allegany County

Julie Hall Interfaith Caregivers

Audrey South Intandem

Gwen Cooper Ardent Solutions

Carrie Whitwood Ardent Solutions

Bonnie Saunders Cattaraugus County DOA/NY Connects

Jodi Fuller CCA

Thomas Lecceadone Public

Jessica Weinman Cattaraugus County DSS

Keri Kerper City of Olean

Vito Sportelli City of Olean

Melissa Ball Cattaraugus County DCS

Joseph Sempolinski Assemblyman Giglio

Crystal Abers Cattaraugus County EDPT

Kimberly LaMendola Southern Tier West

Angie Kennedy Seneca Nation

Tammy Jumerson Seneca Nation

Nichole Zink Cattaraugus County DSS

Rob Defazio St. Bonaventure University

Kate O’Striker Cattaraugus County EDPT

Connor Maxwell Cattaraugus County EDPT

Dalton Fries Cattaraugus County EDPT

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Connor Maxwell welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Coalition in 2024. He gave a brief overview of what is going to be discussed during the meeting.

The following meeting agenda was reviewed via PowerPoint:

* Introductions
* Background of Local Transportation Planning
* Why We Have to Update
* Plan Update Process
* Existing Plan
* Strategies/Accomplishments
* Surveys
* Steering Committee Selection
* Future Meetings

Following the meeting agenda review, all attendees were invited to introduce themselves and their interest/connection to transportation within Cattaraugus County.

**2. Local Transportation Planning Background**

The meeting opened up with a brief background on local transportation planning.

The role of Executive Order 13330 was to “Enhance access to transportation to improve mobility, employment opportunities, and access to community services for persons who are transportation disadvantaged.”

Previous legislative acts affecting transportation funding were then discussed, including SAFETEA-LU, MAP-21 and the FAST Act.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was then discussed, which was signed into law on November 15, 2021. With $108, this legislative act is the largest federal investment in public transportation in American history. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law seeks to advance public transportation in America’s communities through safety, modernization, climate and equity.

**3. General Overview**

**Why Does the 2019 Transportation Plan Need Updating?**

To maintain funding for most Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs, it is required that there be a local updated coordinated transportation plan. As a “quality air attainment” area, Cattaraugus County is required to update its Coordinated Transportation Plan every five years. The existing plan will be reviewed and updated.

**Who is Involved in the Update Process?**

Plan update participation will come from the Community Transportation Coalition (CTC), as well as the CTC Steering Committee and the Administrative Team.

A current list of 73 individuals makes up the Community Transportation Coalition (CTC) and were used for the invitation to today’s meeting. The list is still currently being updated to reflect current transportation providers and interests.

The Steering Committee will be composed of members from the CTC, and will serve as the core working group for the update.

The Administrative Team is currently composed of two members from the Steering Committee. They will be coordinating the update process and facilitating all the meetings.

**4. Plan Update Process**

1. Establish a Steering Committee
2. Create Communication System
3. Collect & Compile Data and Information
4. Update Plan and Disseminate Draft Plan
5. Presentation of Final Plan to Coalition

**5. Existing Plan**

**Components of the Plan**

The current existing plan consists of nine sections:

1. Introduction
2. Federal Program Funding Used for Transportation Services
3. Plan Development Overview
4. Demographic Analysis
5. Inventory of Services and Resources
6. Accomplishments
7. Needs-Gap Analysis
8. Coordinated Solutions and Strategies to Meet Unmet Needs
9. Expected Benefits

**Statements**

The current Mission Statement and Vision Statements of the CTC were reviewed.

**Mission Statement:** “*Our mission is to work collaboratively to create a system that*

*identifies needs, understands resources, maximizes access and*

*mobility, and minimizes costs for the entire community.”*

**Vision Statement:** “*Cattaraugus County’s public transportation system will play a*

*vital role in the sustainability and growth of our communities.”*

The current mission and vision statements were deemed satisfactory as-is.

**Existing Plan Review**

1. Demographic Data (Using updated 2020 Census data)
2. Documenting current transportation services within the county
3. Assessing transportation needs
4. Identifying and prioritizing solutions
5. Developing Coordination Strategies

\*Some parts of the 2019 transportation plan may remain valid and may not have to be updated

**Accomplishments/Strategies**

There was a brief discussion regarding the transportation accomplishments since the first transportation plan was written (2009). The following is the list of accomplishments:

1. OATS Olean-SBU-Allegany Bus Route
2. City of Olean – Intandem Partnership
3. Cuba-Olean-Salamanca OATS System
4. OATS-Access Allegany Link
5. Seneca Transit System
6. County-wide Mobility Management (VMC)
7. One Stop Coordinated Transportation Gateway
8. Paratransit System
9. Regional Coordination & Cooperation (STW)

An email will be sent out to transportation providers in the county to help update the transportation accomplishments throughout Cattaraugus County.

**Surveys**

Surveys will be used throughout the planning process to help identify county transportation needs. Dalton Fries mentioned how the county plans to use the same surveys for the transportation service providers, as were used during the 2019 plan update. The transportation survey intended for the public, however, will be slightly modified to fit the 2024 transportation plan update needs.

**Open Discussion**

The lack of quality reliable public transportation to medical appointments was briefly discussed. This lack of availability of medical transportation has created a “crisis” in the county, as no means of travel to get to an essential appointment can create a “life or death” situation.

Further discussion led to the topic of communities heavily reliant on public transportation to services such as health care, as well as grocery shopping. Such communities include Salamanca and Olean, among other municipalities in the county.

A group discussion about the current state of OATS (Olean Area Transit System) occurred and what it means for the county and its transit riders.

**Future Meetings**

No future meetings are finalized, however upcoming meetings are being planned for Tuesday June 18th, as well as Tuesday September 17th.

All meetings will start at 10:00 AM unless stated otherwise.