Coordination Council Meeting
June 8, 2017

In Attendance:

Jonathan Creamer – Cecil Transit
Evan Horgan – DTC
Heather Dunigan – WILMAPCO
Sarah Pinto – CCDSS
Suzanne Kalmbacher – Transit Operations Supervisor
Chuck Thomas – DTC
Shirley May - BCN
Theresa Thomas – Town of Elkton
David Trolio – Director of DCS
Karl Guldner - BCN
Dorothea Phillips – CCDSS

The meeting began at 11:00 AM with Jonathan introducing Suzanne as the current Transit Operations Supervisor.

Suzanne went over the agenda and discussed the following:

- Suzanne discussed the departure of the previous Transit Chief, Wayne Winters
- Suzanne and Jonathan discussed the upcoming Dump the Pump event where the fixed route services would be free for the day, Charles and Evan confirm DART is also participating
- Bus Annunciator – it is planned to have fixed route vehicles outfitted by 6/30/17
- Service Expansion – Plan to start shuttle service between MARC and SEPTA rail starting around the end of September, in the process of procuring 6 buses for the fleet. Dave spoke about the difficulties in past procurement where buses could not be secured due to protests and how Cecil Transit is avoiding the issues that occurred previously in the current procurement

Karl Guldner inquired on whether Cecil Transit will pursue propane/CNG buses. David stated that we had put it on our budget in previous years and it was not approved by MTA. We would be interested in the future if we could do a joint venture with roads or another department to order a larger number of CNG vehicles at once and make it more feasible to have a refueling station. Karl stated they were considering putting in a fueling station at their location.

Heather asked if there would be representation from MTA in the future and Jonathan noted that Jason Kepple was invited and set to come to the meeting but was not able to make it.

Suzanne talked about the barriers Cecil Transit had been dealing with in procuring vehicles for our aging fleet and staffing the drivers needed to run the service. She talked about a shift from an employee referral plan as an incentive to offering training for drivers pursuing the CDL license.

Suzanne discussed changes to the Elkton-Newark schedule with adding a stop and adjusting the times.

Jonathan gave a status update for the Taxi Voucher Program – The program exhausted the supply of vouchers the previous month (May 5, 2017). Jonathan discussed the zero sum nature of the program and discussed limiting the agencies that started purchasing voucher on behalf of clients.

Jonathan gave a status update on the Veteran Bus Pass program which continues to supply free passes to vets but is running low on funds. Jonathan is reaching out for donations to the program and soliciting veteran agencies to purchase the passes directly.

Sarah Pinto from DSS asked the Cecil Transit start up weekly training with the WISH class which had taken place with the previous Transit Coordinator. Jonathan agreed this would be a good idea and planned to schedule times in the future.
Jonathan discussed how the Health Department had extended their ability to coordinate dialysis clients going forward. Suzanne noted this was helpful with the limited availability of demand response service, stating the current wait time was nearly one month for a ride.

Jonathan talked about an upcoming even “New Night” in Newark where Cecil Transit would occupy a booth with other transit agencies called the TRIP group. Suzanne talked briefly on the advisory committee she was now participating in.

Karl discussed wanting to check out Cecil Transit’s routing system because they were looking to upgrade to computer aided dispatching. Dave and Jonathan briefly discussed some of the strengths and weaknesses of the current RouteMatch system.

Heather Dunigan noted that construction was starting at the Newark Train Station. She noted that they had done a rider survey that they would later share to give Cecil Transit rider information.

Heather then talked about her work with the Newark Bike Project about being able to give out free bikes to people who get a referral from a social services agency. Sarah noted this would be very good for participants in the WISH program.

Sarah noted recent discussion of the agreement between DSS and Cecil Transit and how the agreement had been incredibly valuable in operating the WISH program.

Evan Horgan stated the DART was also awaiting the results of the Newark train station survey and did not have further updates.

Dave closed the meeting with some general notes on transit, detailing that the Transit Development Plan was still underway, and discussing methods Cecil Transit will be using to try and encourage more applicants in future hiring attempts.

Chuck Thomas briefly discussed the new use of Hydro-electric buses in California.

Meeting adjourned 11:37 AM.