

Minutes

Advisory Committee on After School Transportation December 9, 2014 - 11:00 a.m. Rm. 201

Members Present: Dewey Loselle - Co Chair, Karen Klein, Gene Cederbaum, Ameer Borys, Jen Tooker, Karen Beitel, Sandy Evangelista. Also Nancy Carroll, Norwalk Transit District
Not Available: Jennifer Johnson-Co Chair, Clarissa Moore, and Rick Webber

Minutes Prepared by: Dewey Loselle

- Group was updated on latest status of submission to Federal Transit Administration with regard to Extension Request. It was stated by N. Carroll that a ruling was expected shortly and perhaps within the week. Feedback was cautiously positive.
- Group was updated on the latest status of the co-bid with the Board of Education with regard to soliciting bus companies to provide service for the after-school routes. The RFP is out. A bidder's conference to be held on 12/18 and bids are due back 1/15. N. Carroll volunteered to attend bid conf. with D. Loselle to help answer any questions.
- It was discussed whether there was anything else that the programs, PTA's or parents could do with respect to supporting our extension appeal with the FTA. N. Carroll thought not. We have reached out to our Federal legislative representatives and they have all signed a letter in support of our extension. It was discussed that if our extension request gets turned down that programs will need to reach out to their parent groups to let them know that the service will not be available after Jan 1 and they will need to make alternative arrangements.
- A discussion was held with regard to potential future funding of any private routes that are created in the event one of the bus companies bids a reasonable price to service our after school routes. It was noted that the new cost will likely be 2-3 times higher than the current cost due to the State and Federal subsidization involved with the Norwalk Transit buses and facilities. It was suggested by Transit Director; Gene Cederbaum that consideration should be given to having the program next year funded in some manner jointly by the Town, BOE and Programs/Users. Others felt this should now clearly be a private program and should be supported by programs and direct users. Cederbaum further commented that the how payment for the service is structured should be an issue discussed in a public forum to which all interested constituencies (e.g., BOE, BOS, PTAs and the general public) are invited to participate. He further commented that a decision should not be made until input from these constituencies is obtained and evaluated. Depending on what happens with the bid responses it was discussed that the funding issue could be an item to be taken up during this year's budget discussions.