

Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)
Minutes
September 16, 2015

In Attendance: Scott Andrealia;, Ed Molloy; Sandra Probert; Cathy Bell; Bob Schoenfeld; Therése Brzezinski; Hari Dhoundijal
Absent: Lori Scharff; Paul Banyon

Meeting called to order by Chairman at 10:10 a.m.
Minutes from August 18, 2015 meeting accepted.

Mike Setzer:

Budget

- Bus Transit Committee meeting takes place September 17th. Discussions on next year's budget to begin.
- Funding level concerns for Fixed Route
- Budget for the current year was balanced, but that is largely attributed to a capital grant, which was one-time funding.
- The solution is in Albany – State funds
- While Upstate and MTA received new \$\$, Downstate received nothing. (Alarm raising)
- Failure to balance the budget will mean service cuts down the road.

Fleet

- 52 new Fixed Route buses on order; delivery expected mid-December
- New Flyer buses feature low floor with ramp.
- RFP's for 41 new Able Ride vans (side entry lifts) – Will go into service sometime in 2016.
- Not permitted on parkways: Attempting to secure waiver from DOT.

Go Mobile

- Predictive algorithm provides valuable real-time information about bus locations, etc..
- App has been slow to start-up (Android issue) and is not yet disability accessible.

Hempstead Terminal wayfinding concerns

- Hari raised the issue that it is extremely difficult (impossible) for Guide Dog users to locate specific bus bays because Guide Dogs are trained to prevent their handlers from getting near the stations that identify each

bay. Could bay announcements be implemented to provide audible identification?

Able Ride (Darryll)

Driver Mate App

- Currently used by Super Shuttle drivers for their manifests. Helpful for moving rides to supershuttle. (Some GPS issues at this time, though.)
- NICE may adopt the app themselves in future, as it is much more interactive.
- Integration of cancel and confirm (ETA portion) will cost more \$\$.
- Hari asked about option to make online reservations. According to Darryll, this will not happen anytime soon, due to cost and problems with the Trapeze system.

Re-certification

Ed asked how many days a passenger has to re-certify. Darryll indicated, "90 days."

- FTA will perform on-site audit in November, 2016.

Fixed Route (Darryll in for Jack)

- As a result of a lengthy discussion on training issues and direct involvement of TAAC in the process, Darryll agreed to have the NICE
- Training team present at the October meeting.

No Public comment

Due to lack of time, Scott tabled discussion of TAAC Goals, with the agreement to take up the matter at the top of the agenda for the October meeting.

Next TAAC Meeting confirmed for October 20, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 11:32

**Respectfully submitted by:
Therése Brzezinski**