

**Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)
Minutes
September 20, 2016**

In Attendance: Scott Andreala; Gina Barbara; Ed Molloy; Therése Brzezinski; Cathy Bell; Robert Schoenfeld; Kelly McClean; Mike Godino; Hari Dhoundiyal

Absent: Sandy Probert

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

- **Minutes from August accepted**
- **Lowell Wolf discussed membership issues, indicating that 2 members must be added to bring TAAC to a roster of 12. He also reviewed necessary steps for the election of Chair and Vice Chair for the October 2016-September 2017 term.**
- **Once interest in positions was established, ballots were cast.**
- ***Elected: Chair -- Gina Barbara; Vice Chair -- Robert Schoenfeld***
- **Both new officers will be sworn in at the October meeting.**

Old Business:

- **In response to a question from Hari regarding OTP and accountability, Jack's explanation as provided at the August meeting was reviewed:**
- **Jack's research into the question showed that lack of accessible taxis on Long Island prevents NICE from offering such a voucher as an option because wheelchair users would not have equal options to customers who can use the inaccessible taxis that dominate in the area.**
- **As an alternative, NICE has leased 15 cars as a means to take some burden off the strained Able Ride fleet.**
- **The model of subsidized trips was raised as another option for pre-booked trips, but this continues to prove challenging, as taxi companies and other car services are reluctant to take on the liability inherent in such an arrangement.**
- **Jack will continue to look at other possibilities for reimbursement for late trips with careful attention to the need to maintain fair equity.**

Fixed Route Updates -- Jack Khzouz:

- **Jack clarified that outside enunciator buttons on flag-stops at Hempstead Transit Center are grouped so busses will be not be announced in route order, but rather, according to time due next order.**
- **30 New Flyers are on the way, with two received last week. The balance will be here by November 1st.**
- **Articulated busses expected delivery in February-March, 2017. They will initially go into service on the N4 and N6.**
- **New service restoration completed as of September 6th: N80/81 is back, serving 600 passengers a day. Elmont Flexi is running well.**
- **Information kiosks are not yet live.**

- Extensive road closures and service impact for Presidential Debate at Hofstra on September 26th.
- Jack discussed Everyone Rides NICE -- A newly established 501(c)3 which will supply human services agencies/CBO's with free MetroCards for their clientele.

Able Ride Updates -- Tesheena Spencer

- Reviewed statistics for TIC and Able Ride.
- Able Ride phone queue has been long due to loss of one reservationist. The position has been filled. In meanwhile, overtime is being offered in order to fill the gaps until such time as the new reservationist is on-board.
- Call intake is on the rise, as are the number of Able Ride applications received.
- The option for online reservations is being researched.
- First Ford Transit vehicle was put into service yesterday. Customer feedback cards will be available to passengers. This input will influence upcoming bid for additional new vehicles.
- A total of 7 Ford Transit vehicles will be on the road by next week.

Public comment:

None

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Minutes Submitted for October 18, 2016

Next TAAC Meeting: November 15, 2016