



Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity Transportation and Mobility Sub-Committee



MINUTES Monday, February 7th, 2022 6:00PM

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87266696768?pwd=amFhWXc0NDJ5a3p5cjRKZ3ZsT05Ldz09#success>

Members Present:

- Peter Kobak, Co-Chair
- Antwaun Banks
- Jamie Bell
- Aaron Chess
- Gloria Clark
- Daniel Elliott
- Tina Foley
- Fred Young Jr
- Kennedy Banks

- Ronald Rasberry, Co-Chair
- George Ghareeb
- Lorene King
- Anshuman Reddy
- Ursula Towne
- Douglas Troop
- Latareus Horton
- Brinda Mehta
- Liane Hentsche
- Catherine Lawless

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

6:06 PM meeting called to order

2. Approval of Minutes

- Catherine Lawless made the motion to approve January meeting minutes
- Dan Elliott seconded this motion

3. Informational Items and Reports

- 1. Response from Steering Committee in regard to personnel identification request as we conduct the business of the sub-committee in public – The Steering committee did not want to entertain the request for badges at this time to identify the Trans Mobility Sub-Committee while operating as commissioners. Co-chair Ron Rasberry asked if he could purchase the badges himself. **Ron will reach out to the steering committee to see if Tim Bertschy and Mary Peterson have any objections to this motion, will seek to gain approval to do this. He will later seek reimbursement if possible.**
- 2. CityLink Planned Improvements – email from Emily Watson regarding the changes to the bus routes – changes will be enacted on March 6th, changes to the CityLink routes were shared with the sub-committee and discussed. Beneath the map that was sent – there is a summary. Eliminated Route 9. Changes discussed- the bus routes won't run down Loucks street anymore, forcing people to walk down Forest Hill. People will also have to walk instead from North Street to Knoxville. There is a report that describes why these changes were made.

Main reason given for these changes was insufficient ridership. Could the use of our badges enable us to discuss this with the people who were using this service? 9Question proffered by Co-chair Ron Rasberry.0

The document discussing why changes were made was shared in the chat of the meeting, but Co-chair Peter Kobak will email to the entire sub-committee. Lorene King requested to be more included in these decisions of CityLink or at least be notified or changes in advance.

4. Discussion

1. **Pick final Transportation and Mobility indicators** (data points) to submit for consideration to the Steering Committee – In early 2022, our target is to pick a few measurements that allow us to gage the state of Transportation and Mobility in relation to Racial, Justice, and Equity in Peoria. Slide shared:

Indicators discussed on December 6, 2021

1. Proximity to bus stops for all neighborhoods – time to get from bus stop in neighborhood A versus B.
2. Safety (survey at bus stops and transfer stations)
3. Time of day to ask those who patronize the public transportation
4. On-time for service – how often are buses late by area
5. Affordability for the riders – is the service affordable

Discussion ensued regarding this shared slide of indicators of progress of the Trans Mobility sub-commission:

Did anyone else have anything to add this this list? (Question from Co-chair, Peter Kobak.) Lorene King suggested that we change the wording of #4: How often are the busses on-time? Car ownership rates by race – factor suggested by Co-chair Peter Kobak. Dan Elliott suggested – Would like to add a factor that would revolve around the safety of the other people who are in the community, not just those using the bus service. Will add focus on issues around traffic accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers. Peter Kobak has also suggested that the bus stops are not cleaned up. The latest snowstorm has made us consider the effective clearing of sidewalks to be able to use public transportation. From Brinda Mehta: How many racially diverse students take public transportation? From Ron Rasberry – can we get the language of the maps and brochures in various languages?

Summary of changes (following will be the basis of the sub-committee survey):

1. Proximity to bus stops for all neighborhoods – time to get from bus stop in neighborhood A versus neighborhood B
2. Safety:
 - a. How people feel at bus stops and transfer stations (survey)
 - b. Incidents of safety on buses or at stops
 - c. Traffic accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers
 - d. Whether bus stops are cleaned or not
3. Time of day to ask those who patronize the public transportation
4. On-time for service – how often are buses on-time
5. Affordability for the riders – is the service affordable?
6. Transportation Rates
 - a. Car ownership

- b. Bike ownership
7. Racial diversity of ridership of buses
 - a. Language of signage and brochures
 - b. Number of complaints filed
8. Free Vouchers – how are these communicated?
9. Also allow for “Other”

The sub-committee discussed voting on the top 3 indicators to use as our measurement of the success/improvement of the RJ&E in Peoria to provide to the RJ&E Steering Committee. (Question from Co-chair, Peter Kobak) Could we provide a survey to rank the 7 items listed above through something such as Survey Monkey or other survey tool? Lorene King suggested we have the Steering Committee choose the top 3 that we should pursue. Co-chair Peter Kobak discussed the methodology of addressing what we might do with the indicators to make improvements by walking us through what car ownership changes might look like. Who will create the survey for the group? **Ursula Towne will create a survey and send to Peter Kobak and Ron Rasberry for review. Create survey link by February 14th. Send out and allow 2 weeks to complete the survey (Feb 21st). The survey will not be anonymous. We will target to send out the results 1 week before the next sub-committee meeting (Feb 28th).**

Will also add another question about the length of the meeting – get open feedback from the group.

Can we come up with ideas on how to create an uptake in public transportation? (Lorene King)

Fred Ricco Young Jr. is drafting a survey about challenges with public transportation. He would like to share with the sub-committee over email. The group approved this idea.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 7th at 6PM.

5. Recommendations to the Steering Committee

- Not applicable this meeting. Our sub-committee will be providing our indicator ranking to the Steering Committee after our next meeting.

6. New Business

- Not applicable.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM

February 17, 2022

Dear Fellow Commissioners:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity and for your efforts in advancing racial justice and equity in our community. We wanted to briefly address where we stand and what we look forward to achieving in 2022.

We began our work last summer hoping to move forward quickly, while recognizing the enormous task of addressing issues which were centuries in existence. The efforts of other communities are instructive, but our community's issues have their own unique history which will not allow for simple, cookie-cutter responses. In addition, the lingering effects of COVID limited the fast start we had hoped for and restricted our ability to meet our initial, self-imposed deadlines. Our circumstances were also complicated by the demands of the Open Meetings Act with respect to when and how to meet.

Nevertheless, we have been impressed by the determined efforts of our Sub-Committees to meet and conduct focused work to further our mission. Sub-Committee minutes show that solid work has been taking place. Moving forward, our Commission's work plan calls for four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Data Gathering (current)

The Sub-Committees have been asked to identify quantifiable factors which indicate inequities in their subject areas and gather data related to those factors in order to: create a baseline; identify others in the community working in those areas; gather input and information from the community; and investigate what other communities are doing in this subject area. We plan to create an online community "dashboard" as a repository for this work.

Stage 2: Goal Setting

The creation of strategic goals to "move the needle" in each subject area, using the data and information gathered in Stage 1.

Stage 3: Implementation

The creation of an implementation plan regarding the aforementioned strategic goals with identified responsibilities and specified deadlines.

Stage 4: Evaluation and Update

Ongoing review and continual monitoring and updating of the plan for success against our baselines.

The deadlines for each stage have suffered due to the limitations of COVID. Our deadline to complete Stage 1 (with a report to the City and County) is now June 1. We plan to complete Stages 2 and 3 by the end of the first quarter of 2023. We are pleased to report that we have recently hired an intern to work with the Commission.

We are planning an in-person meeting of the full Commission in the next few months as COVID will allow. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email Mary Peterson (mspeterson612@gmail.com) or Tim Bertschy (bertschytim@gmail.com), co-chairs of the Steering Committee.

Finally, we have recently added a number of new people to the Commission, and we are always looking for people who are willing to serve. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let us know.

Thank you again for your work on behalf of racial justice and equity in our community!

Steering Committee
Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity