

Aging in Community Meeting

COMMISSION ON AGING

March 12, 2019 9:30-11:30 am

7300 Calhoun Place, Room 6C Rockville, MD

In Attendance: Monica Schaeffer, Nanine Meiklejohn, Richard Jourdenais, Amy Harbison, Marsha Weber, Miriam Kelty

Staff: Pazit Aviv, Marcia Pruzan and Shawn Brennan

Guests: Dana Hirsch, JCA; Will Kenlaw, MCDOT; Deanna B. Archey; MCDOT, Mary Sweeney, GROWS, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Steve Lorberbaum

Topic	Discussion Points	Decisions/Follow-up
1. Presentation on Ride On Flex Program Pilot Will Kenlaw, Deanna Archey, MCDOT	There are 79 fixed Ride-On routes which average daily ridership of 62,000-74,000. Ridership is declining due to telework, better gas prices, and service issues.	The Committee was urged to give feedback on the needs of seniors before the pilot launches this summer. The committee felt that there were a number of suggestions to make this service more attractive to older adults including those with disabilities. Right now, the service feels best suited for millennials and commuters.

		Here are some of the suggestions offered at the meeting.
	<p>Flex, a one-year pilot program, will be an on-demand service through an app, within a well-defined geographical zone in Glenmont, Wheaton, and Rockville. The time periods they are considering are peak, midday, and late evening.</p> <p>It will be a “book and go” service, meaning people will need to use a Smart phone/app to arrange for the bus.</p> <p>The goal for this service is to fill gaps in service, not compete with already existing fixed route services.</p> <p>The passenger is given an estimated arrival time, and the goal is that the total time for the trip is a maximum of 20 minutes. They are partnering with VIA on the technology for the pilot. The rider must first register for the service, but unlike Uber or Lyft, the payment can only be made in cash or by using a Smarttrip card.</p> <p>A public forum is planned for some time after Easter. June 19 is the estimated</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Make the service not solely dependent on smart phones, but instead a call center. 2) Most of the outreach to publicize this service is electronic in nature (listserves, social media). To reach seniors they should consider direct mail postcards to targeted zip codes, and flyers at libraries, senior centers, places of worship. 3) Create point-to-point service for Seniors and an accessible designated/covered pick up location. <p>Actions: It was decided that Monica, Miriam, and Dick will work on a letter to MCDOT’s representatives with recommendations on how to make the pilot more attractive to seniors.</p> <p>There was also a discussion about requesting demographic data from MCDOT at the midway point of the pilot, which is scheduled to launch this summer.</p>

	launch date.	
2. Next meeting- April 8	Mary Sweeney will lead a discussion on alternative housing models in the county.	
3. Meeting adjourned	The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am with thanks to all in attendance.	