

PORA Sun Cities Transit Committee

Minutes for ZOOM Meeting: February 24, 2021, 10:00 am

Members Present: Kathy Chandler, Deeann Hoover, Barbara Horton, Kate King, JR Reese

Members Absence: Harry Abramowski, Pam Schwartz (leave of absence), Howard Salten, Yasminsa Snider, Trudy Ware

Updates and General Discussion

- Kathy Chandler briefly described the **autonomous vehicle pilot proposal** Chris Baker, owner of the company, presented before the Rec Center Board. The proposal would establish a solar run, autonomous vehicle that would carry 6-12 people. A driver would be present to help individuals & those with wheel chairs, etc on & off the vehicle.
- In addition, 24 two-seater electric vehicles would be available with a volunteer driver, probably volunteers from NWVC, to bring individuals to the shuttle or to the Rec Center, errands & medical appointments.
- Vehicles could run on the main streets but not on 101. At a minimum, the vehicles would run on the main streets and connect to rec centers, drug stores and the library.
- **The pilot would be paid by Baker's sponsors.**
- **Property for the necessary infrastructure would be leased to NWVC.** Vehicles would be insured.
- **The Rec Center Board voted not to participate in the pilot**, though their reasons are vague and issues raised may not be consistent with the pilot plans. For instance, the Rec Center would not be responsible for either the capital or operating costs. The county would most like assume much of these costs. It is unclear why the Board voted before its issues could be addressed.
- **Regarding funding for this project, Livingston is supporting legislation** that would *sponsor a transit planner for unincorporated localities* so they could compete for available transit funds through MAG. The legislation would also *introduce language that would allow neighborhood circulators to be eligible for funding under Prop 400*. Legislators Payne, Gray and Carroll are also introducing or supporting such legislation.
- MAG perceives the legislation as limiting its authority and thus does not support it.

- **Several local entities support this pilot**, like the SCW Foundation; the Fire Department (currently allows NWVC to park their vehicles on Deer Valley Road) but doesn't have sufficient space to accommodate the pilot's infrastructure; and Jan (?) & Sun City, which also does not have space. Some churches are also interested in the pilot and may have sufficient space for the pilot. Conversations re ongoing.
- Kate reviewed key components of the **Phase 3 Sun Cities Transit Implementation Plan**, and recommended Committee member read the *Funding Analysis section which identifies 7 existing options for funding transit in the Sun Cities, as well as a potential funding source.*

The next SCTC ZOOM meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 10:00 a.m.