

Public Hearing Minutes

5311/DOAP Grant Application for Funding

Date: March 10, 2022

Time: 9:00am

- I. Call to order-Bill Wagoner
- II. 531/DOAP Grant Application-purpose of the meeting was stated-Bill Wagoner
 - a. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain public comment and consider the economic, social, and environmental effects of the application for Public Transportation Financial Assistance under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act of 1991 as amended (49 U.S.C §5311).
 - b. Introduction of DAR Administrative Director Kaycie Sanders
- III. Definition of public transportation as it related to Section 5311-Kaycie Sanders
 - a. The amount of 5311 federal dollars that is being requested under this grant opportunity is \$57,161.00.
 - b. Total budgeted program expenses for FY23 are \$396,295.
- IV. Current services stated
 - a. Douglas County is currently served by 5 buses, 4 of which are equipped with lifts to serve individuals with accessibility challenges.
 - b. Advanced reservations can be made by calling 1-800-500-5505 from 6:30am-6pm.
 - c. Appointments for services are scheduled in advance Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Depending on the location and the destination of requested trip, these times are subject to change.
 - d. Demand Response transportation defined and that advanced scheduling is required by the customer
 - e. Current services offered outside of Douglas County: Transportation every Monday and Friday from 10am to 2pm to Champaign/Urbana, transportation

to and from Coles County on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm, and transportation to and from Decatur on Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm.

- f. More information can be found on www.dialaridetransit.org
- g. Douglas County advisory council scheduled to meet March 15th at 10am via zoom. To request a link to the council meeting please contact Patricia Hicks via email www.phicks@lifespancecenter.org. Zoom link will also be on County Webpage.

V. Public Comment Section open, 5 minutes per person or 15 minutes per topic

VI. Public Comment

a. Amanda Minor:

- Asked for clarification on dispatch hours compared to hours of operation. Kaycie Sanders clarified.
- Asked if DAR would consider partnering with Rides Mass Transit to help in the transportation of Parkland College students to Champaign daily with a meet up at Loves filing station. Bill Wagoner advised purpose of this hearing was pertaining specifically to the grant application not operations.
- Asked if the transportation budget was publically disclosed and/or subject to FOIA request. Patricia Hicks advised the budget was not currently publically posted.

b. Sara Ruholl:

- Based on the definition of demand response, asked if the Zipline in the past or in the future was or would be funded with the grant funds being applied for. Patricia Hicks answered no.
- Asked if an RFP is something that anyone has considered to get another transportation company in to service Douglas County. Bill Wagoner stated that is something that would have to be brought to the Douglas County board during a different platform as this hearing was specific the application for Section 5311 funds. Sarah Ruholl stated the persons present should be able to address the question. Bill Wagoner again advised this was not the appropriate time for parties to be making this inquiry. Sara Ruholl stated that her question was not answered and requested documentation to that effect be included in the meeting notes.

VII. Hearing adjourned at 9:10am

Attendees:

Patricia Hicks

Bill Wagoner

Colleen Lehmann

Amanda Minor

Richard Hein

David Porter

Sarah Ruholl

Kaycie Sanders