



Special Education Transportation Task Force
August 19, 2016
Minutes

Members present: Jay Sullivan, Colleen Cavanaugh, John Hennessey, Gerry Mazor, Mike Mullen, and Mike Laliberte

Meeting Convened at 10:00 AM

Agenda Items

FY16 Contract Update

Amount not billed against FY16 contract was \$35,617.62. A summary of activities for FY16 will be presented to the DESE as per contract specifications. The paperwork for the FY17 contract is in process.

Work Plan FY2017

A work plan with budget was presented for discussion. Monies can be moved under budget line items if necessary, the budget for special education transportation reviews may need to be increased if demand increases. Going into the year with commitments from Fitchburg, Westford, Seekonk, for new reviews; Gateway and South Coast are in final stages. Part of the review process will involve a survey with a 6-month on site follow up with the district.

The meeting structure moving forward was discussed. Mr. Sullivan will chair the meetings. In addition to contract updates, time will be set aside for each stakeholder to discuss what they see as important to the project from their organizations perspective

Contracted work planned for the year includes; district reviews for Fitchburg, Westford and Seekonk. A survey will be developed for districts to complete after review and a follow up visit will be made to Easton Public Schools. A presentation has been scheduled for the November MASS/MASC conference in November. A vendor table will be available to distribute information and make individual contacts. The website will be updated with new October 1 data after the first of the year, vendor contract information is currently available and will be updated when possible, Google analytics will be used to track website usage, useful documents will be uploaded as necessary.

Ms. Carl Jentz, representing ASE, informed MAPT prior to the meeting, that ASE plans to draft a document that the Commissioner could use to inform districts of the project, encourage use of the website and the availability of district reviews. This letter will be sent to Mr. Sullivan for final edit. Brochures will be distributed at their fall conference and a question relative to interest in a special education transportation review will be added to their conference survey.

Mr. David Verdolino, representing MASBO, informed MAPT prior to the meeting, that they would like to see a "Save the Drive" session facilitated by the DESE, most pressing issues districts face in transportation, ideas

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how to solve them and provide information on reviews and website. Mr. Verdolino will also be reaching out to the MASBO roundtable groups to encourage them to schedule presentations relative to the project.

Mr. Mike Mullen, maaps, expressed interest in a workshop with private day staff and school personnel responsible for transportation. How can the private day school be more helpful around transportation? The collection of the ridership data gave their members a role in the project, with this not occurring, how can they support the project. Would the legislature re-visit funding for transportation given the collaboration around transportation?

Mr. John Hennessey, MAPT, expressed an interest in collecting ridership again, this was very helpful to the transportation folks. The process had been set up for minimal work on the school side to submit this data, this should be re-visited.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Future meeting dates will be held at TEC, commencing at 10:00 AM on October 6, 2016, January 12, 2017 and April 27, 2017.