**AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION**

**MINUTES**

**State Affairs Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, August 14, 2014**

**Attendees:** Steve Billings, chair; Lisa Bacot, vice-chair; Geri Beardsley; Don Chartock; Elizabeth Stutts; Tuck Duncan; John Dockendorf; Sharon Edgar; Leeann MacWilliams; Jacklyn Montgomery; Patricia Monahan; Michael Sanders; Jason Spain; John Taylor; Kathy Jordan; David Levy; Mary Leary; Andrea Wilson; Ian Ritz; Sarah Probasco; Jim Dickey; Lisa Guthrie; Tom Mauser; Todd Allen; Art Guzzetti; Rich Weaver; Matt Tingstrom

**Welcome:** Steve Billings, chair, welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.

**Minutes from last meeting:** The committee voted to adopt the minutes from the March 9, 2014 meeting.

**NCHRP 20-65 projects**

John Dockendorf briefed the committee on the 5 new projects that will be coming under contract in the coming months through NCHRP 20-65 that cover:

1. Best practices for bus replacement for state DOTs.
2. 5310 fund administration.
3. State oversight of transit facilities.
4. Medicaid revenue match requirements for health and human services transportation. States are called upon to provide guidance.
5. How states are using the administrative resources provided by FTA.

In addition, the NCHRP 20-65 committee set aside $50,000 in funding to see how many states are using 5307 and 5310 are being used for JARC and New Freedom type of projects respectively. Additional funds were placed in reserve for unforeseen needs.

**AASHTO Standing Committee on Public Transportation Meeting**

Steve Billings, chair, provided the following updates from AASHTO Standing Committee on Public Transportation Meeting:

* SCOPT held discussion about reauthorization.
* There is a push from state DOTs to give public transportation more prominence.

**Highlights from State Public Transit Association Leaders Round Table**

Lisa Bacot, vice-chair, briefed the committee on the State Public Transit Association Leaders Round Table, which took place on August 13, and included representatives from more than 14 states. It was discussed that the discussion initiated at the Round Table continue at the APTA Annual Meeting.

Steve Billings, chair, urged this, and noted that state DOT’s have a number of forums to discuss their issues, so state transit associations should take advantage of the opportunities offered by the State Affairs Committee.

**Suggestions for how APTA can be of greater assistance in supporting transit at the state level**

The committee then discussed the following ideas on how APTA can better serve the interests of transit at the state level:

Heather Wheeler explained how in Idaho is that public transportation role is shrinking at state DOT. There was a reorganization that occurred in July 2014.

Lisa Guthrie requested making available more fact sheets on policies such as NEMT and by providing opportunities to partner on outreach tools including email and social media. The idea of adapting APTA’s federal tools for state and local issues was discussed.

Tuck Duncan requested allowing state associations to buy into *Where Public Transportation Goes, Community Grows* campaign. Discussion also included the need to update the letter writing messages on CAPWIZ.

Art Guzzetti suggested having a webinar on what Michigan Public Transit Association is doing to setup its own transportation brokerage.

David Levy inquired if APTA considered partnership with Brookings or Heritage for suggestions on NEMT.

The committee discussed concern that APTA’s governance structure has minimized state units in its decision making process. Michael Sanders mentioned that with himself and possibly other State Affairs Committee members joining the APTA Executive Committee, there are channels to work through and convey state unit concerns.

Jacklyn Montgomery reminded the Committee about the National Conference on Rural Public & Intercity Bus Transportation that will take place Oct 26-29, 2014 in Monterey, CA.

**Adjourned at 5:35 pm.**