

BATA Local Advisory Council Minutes
Tuesday, January 21, 2025
12:00-1:00pm
Hall Street Transfer Station
In Person: 115 Hall St, Traverse City, MI 49684
Virtual: VIA Teams

Bill Clark began the meeting at 12:04pm.

Council Members in Attendance:

Fern Spence: Community Representative (virtual)
Matt Moritz: Community Representative (virtual)
Lana Payne: Commission on Aging
Linda Joppich: Community Representative
Mandy Joppich: Community Representative
Lena Vander Meulen: Leelanau County Senior Services (virtual)
Amanda Molski: Area Agency on Aging (virtual)
Demarie Jones: Disability Network No. Michigan (virtual)
Mitch Treadwell: Traverse City Commissioner

BATA Staff in Attendance:

Eric Lingaur
Bill Clark
Chris Davis
Tracy Melville
Keir Rasmussen

1. Bill Clark welcomed the council to the 2025 year.
2. Introductions of Council Members
3. LAC Chair for 2025

Linda Joppich was nominated as the 2025 LAC Chair with everyone present in agreement.

4. 2025 Vehicle Accessibility Plan

Bill Clark walked through BATA's VAP and accompanying slides and provided an update on BATA's current vehicle make up and the future plans.

Bill explained to the council that the number of buses that can provide the Link service went up by almost 30%. All buses are equipped with both types of technology to service fixed routes and on-demand services. BATA's four new EV vans are now included in the current fleet. BATA will still be receiving two more EV vans that will ADA accessible. BATA's previous goal was to be around 80% lower emission vehicles by 2026. Due to COVID, manufacturing and supplies and demand BATA is currently around 60% and will remain there for a while, BATA is still receiving new vehicles and looking into whether it's possible to convert any vehicles to be more fuel efficient further down the line.

5. BATA Rolls From 2024 to 2025

- Bill Clark reported on the fixed route systems. Very few changes to routes. The West Flex Route is no longer just a school route and can provide much-needed service to the west side of town. The Village Loop Route 13 Kingsley bus has added frequency to the route and is able to meet at the new transfer center to connect to other routes. Village Loop Route 12 Interlochen runs every hour instead of every two hours. BATA's Link service is steadily climbing and providing around 350 rides per day.

- BATA will be updating the current fare system in 2025. The current fare system will no longer be supported, which means an overhaul of the fare system. This will include changes to the ticket system, method of payment, apps and options. BATA is looking into new fare systems and what will be a good fit for BATA's needs.

- 2024 Ridership. BATA's total ridership increased by 10% from last year. Total ridership a day is near 1,300. Total rides given in 2024 was 421,088.

- Upcoming M-22 Construction. Construction will begin in March. BATA is currently working on route structure and traffic flow. MDOT has been communicating with BATA with information on construction. More updates to follow.

- Airport Pilot Shuttle Service. BATA is piloting a shuttle service during the hours of 4am to 7am. This will allow people to catch early morning flights. The pilot program will begin in February. The pilot program will start in Traverse City to begin and will be reevaluated later to expand the service area and possible late-night hours.

- BATA thanked Kelly Dunham for her 15 years of hard work and dedication to growing and expanding BATA to what it is today. Chris Davis gave an update on the search for a new Executive Director. TransPro Consulting has been hired for recruiting. April is the target date for a new Director.

-Eric Lingaur shared that Parking Services in Traverse City and BATA's IT Team have installed video screens in the parking decks that provide information on route information on where you can catch the next BATA bus and helpful information on how to use public transit to help people navigate the city.

2025 Local Advisory Council Membership

Linda Joppich: Chair / Community Representative

Matt Morritz: Community Representative

Dan Buron: Goodwill Northern Michigan

Lana Payne: Commission on Aging

Mandy Joppich: Community Representative

Fern Spence: Community Representative

Lena Vander Meulen: Leelanau County Senior Services

Amanda Molski / Heidi Gustine: Area Agency on Aging

Demarie Jones: Disability Network No. Michigan

Susan Odgers: Community Representative

Lacey Edgecomb: Senior Center Network

Mitch Treadwell: Traverse City Commissioner

CC: Alex Simonetti/MDOT, Chris Davis/BATA, Eric Lingaur/BATA, Bill Clark/BATA

Approved on: 1-30-25

Linda Joppich Chair: Linda Joppich