

# City of Memphis



A C WHARTON, JR. – Mayor  
Advisory Council for Citizens with  
Disabilities

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TENNESSEE

## **Memphis Transportation Advisory Committee June 13, 2014 MATA Trolley Barn**

**Committee Members:** Betty Anderson, Chair; Louis Patrick, MCIL, William Bass, Mid-South PVA.

**Guest:** Tom Fox and Alvin Pearson, MATA and Johnnie Mosley, Chair, Citizens For Netter Service.

Ms. Anderson reported on May 30 meeting at Hooks Library. 35 people attended. She was very pleased with attendance and audience participation. Mr. Pearson suggested that in future we reserve front row for chair users and that we have speakers and audience microphones with a runner to deliver mike to audience. He suggested that we and MATA do similar presentations twice a year and stated that MATA would host the next one at Central Station.

Mr. Pearson said that Judy Booker is doing customer training for MATA. Mr. Fox reported on funding from the county. MATA has applied for funding to run a shuttle inside Shelby Farms; approval of grant pending. \$70,000 was approved by county commission to run shuttle bus on weekends from Hudson NET to visitor's center at Shelby Farms. Proposed by Steve Mulroy whose final term will end this year.

Mr. Fox also reported on the status of shuttles to Grizzlies and UofM basketball, Liberty Bowl and Southern Heritage games. MATA's board and city council agree that MATA should discontinue shuttles—to and from suburbs—unless the event sponsors buy enough advertising to cover the full costs of the service. Council budgeted additional funds above Mayor's request providing none be spent on shuttles.

Mr. Bass suggested that the MATA website create a page with information regarding services for persons with disabilities. He said he keeps getting asked the same questions over and over regarding MATA. Mr. Pearson said he will talk with their IT person about creating such a page; he asked Mr. Bass and Ms. Anderson to help draw up a list of FAQs.

Group discussed need to develop written emergency evacuation procedures for trolley, MATAplus and mainline buses. We recommended involving fire and police for trolley evacuation. We also discussed desire of several groups to see MATA's written policy and procedures manual. MATA representatives seemed reluctant to provide them; perhaps we need to refine our request to specific areas. Mr. Pearson said that MATA is working with city and county EMA in emergency procedures. He invited participation of persons with disabilities.

We also discussed the need to better inform potential riders and agency personnel who approve applications. Need to revise application to focus on functional limitations, not specific disabilities. We also need to target agencies who are approving MATAplus applications too easily. Mr. Pearson will provide MTAC a list of agencies and numbers of approvals.

Should something like this precede application signature? "I understand that my eligibility to use MATAplus depends on my inability to use MATA's mainline service in certain weather conditions....."

Submitted by Louis Patrick  
June 14, 2014