

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 2, 2021

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator



SUBJECT: Paratransit Service and Lower York County Demonstration Route

The following information will provide a brief update on new transportation services coming to York County. The first of these new services will provide transportation to individuals with disabilities. This paratransit service has been determined to be a requirement by the recent completion of the Federal Transportation Administration's triennial review of the Yorktown Trolley Service. In addition to the paratransit service, the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) has been awarded a grant to establish a demonstration route in lower York County. The new demonstration route will serve as an extension of WATA's existing fixed-route service.

Paratransit Service

Upon the completion of the WATA's triennial review of the Yorktown Trolley Service, performed by the Federal Transportation Administration, it was identified that a paratransit service must be established as a complement to the existing fixed-route service in Historic Yorktown. Under the Code of Federal Regulations 49 CFR 37.121, public entities operating a fixed-route service shall provide paratransit or other special services to individuals with disabilities that are comparable to the level of service provided to individuals without disabilities who use the fixed-route service. The paratransit service must encompass a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile radius from any point on the existing fixed route. For any individual to utilize the paratransit service, they must first complete an application process and then be determined to meet the eligibility requirements. York County and WATA staff are diligently working to meet the paratransit requirement in the most cost-efficient manner.

Lower York County Demonstration Bus Route

WATA is currently in the planning phase of establishing a demonstration route that would extend their existing fixed-route bus service to lower York County. The program will be funded through a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Grant, which WATA has secured. The demonstration route will initially run for a period of three years, is projected to begin in the spring of 2022 (barring any setbacks from COVID-19), and will make stops along the Route 17 corridor from the York-Poquoson Courthouse to the Yorktown Walmart (see Appendix 1 and 2). Near the conclusion of the demonstration period, the viability of the service will be reviewed, and a determination made on whether to continue or terminate the extended fixed-route service.

Additionally, the WATA staff have offered to provide a presentation that provides a more in-depth look at the demonstration route and answer any questions the Board may have.

Fuller/3504

Attachment:

- Appendix 1
- Appendix 2

Appendix 1 - North Along Route 17 From the Yorktown Walmart to the York Poquoson Courthouse



Appendix 2 - South Along Route 17 From the Yorktown Walmart to the York Poquoson Courthouse

