

Diversity Roundtable
Achieving a Culture that Values Diversity
Greater Lafayette Commerce
Thursday April 3, 2025
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
The Arts Federation (TAF) and Zoom

Minutes
Impacting Change in Issues of Diversity and Inclusion
DiversityTippecanoe.org

1. Welcome/Introductions – Christopher Munt, Tetia Lee, Linda Swihart, Bryan Walck, Sara Atkins, Newlin Howard, Tracy Bryson, Bob Downing, Lon Lucas, Troy Greene, Elva James, Ken McCammon, Iseral Quintarro, Judy Gainey, Sheila Rosenthal, Lindsay Mptubwaele, Amy Sundell, Johanna Wu, Stephanie Rambo, Tracy Orbin, Naj McFadden, Jos Holman, Ebony Barrett, Amy O’Shea, Sanjiv Mishra, Yalonda Brown, Don Schriber, and Jan Walker were present.
2. Announcements – **Christopher Munt**
 - a. Summit – Christopher reminded everyone that the Diversity Summit is scheduled for April 24 at Ivy Tech Community College. There are still openings for registration
 - b. Changing July 3rd DRT Meeting to July 10th
 - c. Jeffery Robinson event – Jos Holman, May 6th at 7 pm, Long Center
 - d. Tippecanoe County Housing Solutions Conversations on April 8th-April 11th.
www.uwlafayette.org/housingsolutions/
 - e. Transformed Birth Services is hosting an event. "Art For Empowerment: Building Maternal Futures" on Friday, April 18th from 6-8:00pm at Matchbox. We will enjoy dinner and artistic performances. Attendees will also hear from families we have supported and details about the nonprofit. <https://givebutter.com/h14bNF>
 - f. Hands Off Event: Occurring this Saturday at noon at the Margerum Fountain and will march to the Courthouse. 12:20 pm, speakers will begin.
 - g. May 5 or 6: Activity will be done to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the murder of George Floyd.
3. Program — Keep CityBus Moving 2030: Prioritizing your needs, reimagining the future of transit, presented by **Bryan Walck**, manager of customer experience for City Bus (**Sheila Rosenthal** introduced Bryan and provided a summary of Bryan’s experience with CityBus.
 - a. Introduction and vision for the future. Mobility is a necessity and connects individuals to the community.
 - b. Financial Landscape and challenges and equity considerations. Nearly 40% of the funding is from federal investment; 29% from State; and 22% from usership. There

is a projected shortfall of \$3M at the end of 2026.

- c. Costs continue to rise, and funds have not continued in line with the costs. There is a huge demand for their services.
- d. Reduced public transportation affects individuals, especially individuals struggling on a socio-economic basis.
- e. CityBus has not raised fares in over two decades despite rising operational costs. There will be modernized fare collection and fare capping. The current fare is \$1 per ride. Monthly cap for monthly use will be \$28.
- f. 2030: A Stronger Network for the Future plan will establish guiding principles of the comprehensive Operations Analysis. CityBus is a huge economic driver locally as well as regionally. Routes will be reviewed for potential changes based on the growth and change from the communities that are served.
- g. CityBus is at a crossroads and will be optimizing the “bones” of the network. They are establishing a system to increase efficiency.
- h. Aligning Series and financial realities: there is more demand than they can accommodate. They will focus on high ridership times.
- i. Workers in industries with non-traditional hours are likely to be impacted the most. Low-income riders will also be impacted.
- j. Public transport is a shared investment that benefits everyone.
- k. There will be public meeting notices issues, public input sessions, and opportunities to advocate for public transportation.

Q: Sheila asked if there were efforts that CityBus can share for the remaining part of the legislative session. PMTF is the line item that CityBus' allocation is included. At a state level, they are not, as of now, looking at any funding changes.

Q: CityVan is run in partnership with Enterprise rental company and is available only to people who are commuting to work. There is currently discussion regarding using the CityVan for the donut counties as well.

Q: How does CityBus define historically underserved?

Q: How does CityBus gather numbers regarding potential ridership. CityBus uses census data to help inform their services.

Q: Federal Rules: operates in compliance with Title VI for accessibility.

4. Hot Topics, if time permits

- a. YWCA sale of their building to the City of God church was discussed with individuals sharing their thoughts on the purchase and potential effect.

5. Future Topics – **Christopher Munt** (5 minutes)

- a. May 1 – Concerns of Arabs/Muslims in Greater Lafayette Area, Dr. Akram Almakki (Sheila Rosenthal). This meeting will be hosted by Amy Sundell.
- b. June 5 – Hanna Center update, Kajeen Monroe (Tracy Orbin). This meeting will be hosted by Barb Clark
- c. July 10 – Racism as a Public Health Crisis Community Action Team, Andrew Lane (Sheila Rosenthal). This meeting will be hosted by Ebony Barrett.
- d. August 7 – Journalism, the impact of its demise on communities, on governmental conduct, on citizen participation, and on the exercise of free speech (Roberta Schonemann). This meeting will be hosted by Barb Clark.
- e. Sept 4 – Immigration, Dr. Margaret Hass (Monica Casanova)
- f. Oct 2 – English Language Learning Students, Maribel Masoodi, Dual Language Instructor at Edgelea School (Monica Casanova)
- g. Nov 6 – Housing Report, (Christopher Munt)
- h. Dec 4 – DEI, Ebony Barrett and Tenecia Waddell-Pyle (Lindsey Mputubwele)