

## Clean Cities Meeting Notes – May 4, 2020

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### **Attendees:**

Sharp Energy – Mike Petito

RideShare – Kathleen Grier, Amy Reardon

Chesapeake Utilities – Dave Detrick, MQ Riding

Sierra Club – Sherri Evans-Stanton

State Fleet Services – Dan Bent

League of Women – Peggy Schultz

WILMAPCO – Randi Novakoff

Hilton Bus – David Zickafoose

DE Transit Corporation – Rick Walters

Diver Chevrolet – Rich Diver

Div. of Air Quality – Ajo Rabemiarisoa

Div. of Climate, Coastal and Energy – Susan

Love, Nicole Rodi, Breanne Preisen

Breanne Preisen welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a quick few Clean Cities updates. All report have been submitted for 2019 and we have received our signed Cooperative Agreement for the year 2020.

Breanne would also like to bring back the Clean Cities newsletter as long as it was beneficial, and the group found value in it. She also shared that coalitions across the country have put together a one-stop-shop for webinars and training for alternative fuels.

**Clean Cities Webinars:** <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18PgifGxKDI0Sot7f4PXXr7ov-Sg8uxEyzpehKh0LuTI/edit#gid=412825710>

*Please do not share this link with anyone outside of the coalition. If you think any of these would be valuable to your clients/customers/colleagues, only send the applicable webinar links. This is a working document and will be updated often.*

### **VW RFP Update**

There was a virtual pre-bid meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> for phase 3 Heavy duty vehicles and School buses. The presentation and questions and answers section of the meeting are available on the website: [http://bids.delaware.gov/bids\\_detail.asp?i=6210&DOT=N](http://bids.delaware.gov/bids_detail.asp?i=6210&DOT=N). The deadline for proposal submissions has been extended to June 1, 2020.

The RFP for DC-Fast charge stations is still being developed. We continue to monitor the situation with COVID-19 and how that may affect applicants.

### **TCI/Climate Action Plan Update**

Susan Love gave an update about the climate action plan workshops hosted the first week of March by the Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy. The Division held three public workshops, one in each county, to gather input and interest about the climate action plan for the state. More than 250 people attended the workshops, with Wilmington being the largest attended workshop. The workshops focused on mitigation in the categories of transportation and resiliency. Additional online forums in the summer and fall are being planned to continue to garner public input. We are still planning on moving forward with the Climate Action Plan and anticipate releasing it in December 2020. The website <https://declimateplan.org/> has updates and notes from the workshops.

TCI was on target to sign a multi-state MOU in May but the group is re-evaluating that time line. The states continue to work together and there will be an announcement forthcoming about how they will

be moving forward. There are still many workgroups that meet and continue to discuss the policies. More details next time we get together.

There is a lot of good planning underway on how to reduce GHG from the transportation sector for the state and region.

**Sierra Club comment:** There may be more of an appetite to consider TCI because there would be more interest in spending funds that aren't state dollars. Pressure can come from NGO's.

**League of Women Voters comment:** Looked at TCI and they have reservations regarding environmental justice. Could our Division direct some attention to environmental justice?

Peggy asked that Susan speak to her league for more information.

**RideShare Update on VMT and tracking teleworking miles** - RideShare Delaware is trying to capture current air quality impacts of teleworking. You can record your vehicle miles traveled in the rideshare program App (RideShare Delaware) or online: [www.ridesharedelaware.org](http://www.ridesharedelaware.org).

## Coalition Member Updates Round Robin

### **Sharp Energy Update:**

Numbers are down across the board because they service a lot of restaurants and school buses.

Alternative fuels are the largest hit because a large portion of propane fleet are school buses. They have also taken a hit on airport shuttle parking. Propane market is low because diesel and gas prices are low. They will be offering some great pricing of 1-2 year fixed low prices for their customers in the coming months.

### **Hilton Buses: Have you looked at reaching out to the school bus companies?**

Federal and state incentives will allow companies to buy 1-2 months of gas using the CARES act and Federal PP. The government will only forgive what you spend and the remainder will turn into a loan and must be paid back. This would encourage companies to buy the propane now so they can spend the and it won't turn into a loan.

### **RideShare Delaware:**

They are thinking about commute solutions and how some commute solutions from the past aren't relevant now since everyone is teleworking. They are concerned people are going to go back to driving their own vehicle because they are weary about public transportation. They are working closely with DART to try and plan for the difficulties of shared commutes.

### **Are there thoughts about designs for mass transit to assist in social distancing?**

There is talk about what the future of public transportation looks like. They are already implementing strategies such as no-fare to reduce contact.

### **Chesapeake Utilities:**

The company has done a good job of teleworking. April consumption for CNG was down but that was expected. The station is open 24/7. They added 3 more converted F150's and 4 more are waiting at Autoport for conversion. They are considering the VW funds that are available for heavy duty and are hoping to submit an application. Unfortunately, COVID has taken center stage for companies that may be good candidates for the RFP. They provided an update on Waste Management usage- usage has been slightly higher than average and they are not exactly sure why; they may be running more routes or longer routes. A challenge to making CNG competitive is the prolonged low price of oil and gas. In

regards to COVID and telework, many CEO's from the energy industry are talking about work from home until 2021.

**Delaware Transit Corporation:**

Ridership on public transit is down close to 75%. DTC started the alternative fuel transition of their public transit in 2014 with 5 trial buses. Now DTC has 268 transit buses that run on alternative fuel and by the end of next fiscal year they will be at 100 % alt fuels! They also have 14 electric transit buses and 14 depot chargers. They are expecting 6 more electric buses over the next year 2 of which will be running routes in Sussex county. They bought three Bolts as well and 3 stations in Wilmington and Dover.

**Hilton School Buses:**

The school is still paying for normal routes, but most revenue is developed from sporting events and field trips which aren't happening. Dave is concerned that there are small bus contractors that are already talking about closing before the end of summer, that many bus drivers are high risk, and there is already a school bus shortage. The impacts of COVID in the school bus system in Delaware could cause significant increases in traffic and idling vehicles due to more parents taking their child(ren) to school.

**WILMAPCO:**

The Wilmapco team is looking at transit ridership usage and traffic data for the Wilmapco region. They are focusing on long range planning (20 years) so COVID has not yet significantly impacted their planning. They continue to move forward with community plans through virtual workshops which have been extremely successful. Their main concern with virtual public engagement is engaging those who don't have access to computers. Randi also shared that there is a group, called Westside Grows, that is leading efforts to potentially close streets to traffic and make them walkable and bikeable areas.

<http://www.westsidegrows.org/>

**League of Women Voters:**

Hope that some good will come out of people depending more on walking and biking places.

**Diver Chevrolet:**

Diver Chevrolet is excited that GM is pushing so hard to make 25 vehicles electric by 2025 a reality. GM has kept all their electric vehicle programs at the forefront even during this uneasy time for OEM's. The Diver dealership is open by appointment only and has seen an increase in daily appointments since re opening; however, still not the same number of people as before.

**Sierra Club:**

The Sierra Club of Delaware has been doing a number of podcasts and livestreams. They would be happy to work with partners of the clean cities program to develop a live stream or podcast.

**Delaware Fleet services:**

Fleet is excited to add 5 new Chevy Bolts to their vehicle list, all deployed at DNREC within various state parks. They also have negotiated 30+ charging station installations at leased sites for fleet services charging.

12:00

Next meeting TBD