

**Windham Region Transit District**

**Public Hearing on Proposed Fare Changes, Afternoon Session, Thursday, April 23, 2015 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Windham Town Hall Auditorium, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT**

**Public Hearing MINUTES**

Voting Members Present: T. Currier (Columbia); T. Coonradt (Mansfield); Marge Roach (Coventry)

Staff Present: E. Grant, R. Kurcinik, D. Noll

Public Present: Noah M. Lerman, Amy Vas Nunes (Windham Aids Program), Chris McNabe (Horizons), Annie Clark

**1. Open Hearing**

E. Grant opened the hearing at 3:02pm

**2. Presentation**

E. Grant went over the proposed fare structure and the proposed implementation date of July 1, 2015.

**3. Public Comments**

Noah Lerman, 264 Mount Hope Road, Mansfield

Mr. Lerman noted that he uses the bus exclusively for transportation. He uses a bus pass and sees no problem with these changes as a Mansfield resident, but is concerned about the new fares being difficult for Windham residents. He uses Dial-A-Ride to volunteer at the No Freeze Shelter in Willimantic. He inquired how the fare increase will affect the quality of this service or otherwise what the increase will be paying for. Mr. Lerman is very pleased with the service he gets from the driver.

R. Kurcinik noted that this fare increase is to help address the current funding deficit at WRTD. Dial-A-Ride is the program with the largest funding deficit.

Amy Vas Nunes, 10 Valley Street Extension, 5J, Willimantic

Ms. Vas Nunes uses ADA Dial-A-Ride. She inquired about our fare rates in comparison to other transit districts. She noted that this community has a very low median income. Vas Nunes uses ADA Dial-A-Ride for grocery shopping, education, and more, up to six trips a day. The new cost is very high and will be difficult for her and others on fixed incomes.

Chris McNabe, 13 Garrick Drive, Storrs

Ms. McNabe represents Horizons, a local agency that serves many Dial-A-Ride customers. She supports the rate increases and believes it will not adversely affect those customers.

Annie Clark, 129 Natchaug Street, Willimantic

Ms. Clark uses Dial-A-Ride and fixed route bus service to get to work and run errands. She has a very low income, but supports the fare increases. She does have sympathy for people in even more difficult financial situations than hers and is concerned about the strain on them. However, she wants to see the bus company continue to exist and be available in this community.

This session ended at 3:38p.m. Respectfully submitted by Dagmar Noll, staff. 2015 JUN 15 P 2:41

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*Patricia P. Sprague*  
WINDHAM TOWN CLERK