

Chisago-Isanti County Heartland Express

July 17, 2020

Phone Conference

Present via Phone: Paul Smith – Heartland Express Transit Director, Mike Warring – Isanti County Commissioner, Mike Robinson – Chisago County Commissioner, Chase Burnham – Chisago County Administrator, Julia Lines – Isanti County Administrator, Penny Messer – Isanti County Family Services Director, Bob Benson – Chisago County Human Services Director.

New Business

MnDOT Funding –

Paul stated that MnDOT had recently provided updates to all transit systems that they would be covering 100% of operating expenses from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021. This was made possible by funds they received from the CARES Act. If funds are still available at the end of this period, MnDOT will continue to cover operating expenses until those are resources are exhausted.

Paul stated that Heartland Express had received requests from community groups such as PHASE/Industries for free rides for their clients as they begin to transition back to normal operations.

Discussions were had about the financial impact that COVID has had on local businesses and other non-profit groups within the community. Paul suggested that Heartland Express could offer free fares for the remainder of 2020, as it would not have a negative impact on funding this year because of the CARES Act.

Commissioner Warring made a motion to vote on going fare free through December 31, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson. The motion passed with the support of all members present on the call.

Other Business

None.

2020 Meeting Dates

November 20, 2020

Moved by Commissioner Warring to adjourn.