

MOA PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD & MAT-SU TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 9, 2015, 5:30PM-7:00PM

EAGLE RIVER COMMUNITY CENTER; 12001 BUSINESS BOULEVARD SUITE #170

MOA PTAB PRESENT:

Kevin Jackson Jay Dulany
Stephanie Cornwell-George Jed Smith

STAFF:

Sandy Hansen Judy Tymick
Christine Sondej Lance Wilber
Abul Hassan

Mat-Su TAB:

Dan Elliott Dave Lendin
Beth Freed Rick Best (?sp)
LaMarr Anderson

Guests:

Deb Stone Don Labary
Naomi Nelson Jennifer Tew
Debbie Passmore Karen
Sam Moore Graciela Paz
Mike Weller Sharon Scott
Eugene Haberman Brad Swarts

Absent:

Tim Sullivan
Carlette Mack

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by M.O.A. Chairman Jed Smith.

II. ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF, AND GUESTS

After roll call and introduction of MOA PTAB & Mat-Su TAB members, MOA quorum was not met.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kevin moved to approve the agenda and Jay seconded. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for March 12, 2015 were not approved due to lack of quorum.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Eugene Haberman expressed that he would like to see the joint meeting with the Valley and Anchorage be available for the public to attend in two separate venues; one in Anchorage and one in the Valley. He sited that public comments are generally set at 3 minutes and not 2 minutes and that meeting rules are not adhered to at the PTAB meeting. Eugene also pointed out that city council meeting and board meeting should not be held on the same days so that the opportunities of the public to attend can be maximized.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING & REPORTS

- a. MOA Vanpool Program Update

- i. Judy Tymick, MOA acting Marketing Manager, introduced Deb Stone as the MOA Vanpool contractor known as VRide. She stated that there are 66 vanpools; 31 from Mat-Su to Jber, 30 from Mat-Su to locations in Anchorage, 3 from Anchorage to Girdwood and 2 within the Mat-Su Valley with a total of 829 participants. Judy stated that the VRide contract expires in January 2016 and MOA is exploring the option of making changes to the new contract similar to systems in the lower 48. She stated that a RFP (to be released summer 2015) would be proposed to include a lease signed by the contractor in which half the vanpool fees would covers the cost to run the program with the goal of reduced Administration work to reflect a reduction in funding.

Jed asked what the costs are and if the fees are based on distance.

Judy stated that the cost averages \$125.00 per month, per participant.

b. Mat-Su Borough Transit

i. Sharon Scott, Mat-Su Consolidation Update

Sharon Scott provided a handout of the discussion items and agencies involved. She stated that the Mat-Su and DOT are working together with transit providers (Valley Mover, Sunshine, Mat-SU Health, Mascot) to consolidate services to receive State funding as required. She stated that they have been actively meeting to identify key services and specific agency involvement with the goal of full implementation July 2016. The merging of agencies and services to be offered has not been determined. Sharon provided the next meeting date: May 6, 3:00PM at Wasilla Senior Center.

Abul asked if there was a general scope.

Sharon stated that they are in the process of identifying the users and core fixed route service areas which would include Talkeetna.

ii. Jennifer Tew – Valley Mover Operations Update

Jennifer Tew provided a handout of Valley Mover services with 16 round trips from the Valley to Anchorage Monday-Friday, providing 81,000 rides last year. She stated that they are using a 5311 funding grant and a new \$50,000 VA Grant to provide 3 round trips to the VA Hospital. Jennifer stated that they added 4 daily round trips to Providence/UAA area from the Valley based on voiced need from Valley riders. She informed us that they have outgrown the previous Park & Ride at Fred Meyer and that the Target (across the street) has agreed to allow their lot to be used as a Park & Ride beginning April 20, 2015.

Lance asked if the VA trips were passengers from the Valley.

Jennifer confirmed that the trips to the VA are riders originating from the Valley with a 6:45am arrival time for employees and later trips for those with appointments. She added that Valley Mover hopes to add more bus stops within Anchorage and asked if the MOA Transit Board could assist with that goal. Jennifer stated that she would like a sign for Valley Mover at the Downtown location.

iii. Naomi Nelson – MASCOT Operations Update

Naomi Nelson provided a handout of the services they provide; a deviated fixed route (since 1999), demand response, work program services (including job search/child care) and Taxi

vouchers for a discount. She stated that they serve Mat-Su, Big Lake, Palmer, Wasilla and connect with the Chickaloon (CATS) System and Sunshine Transit System.

Jed commented that they serve a large area, how do they measure ridership?

Naomi stated that they keep track of annual number; 3000 rides in Chickaloon, 6000 rides in Sunshine, and 27,491 rides for MASCOT with 20,000 rides in senior services. She acknowledged that some service areas are a challenge with low density populations such as Knik Goosebay Road (KGB) and roads without bus pullouts can also be a challenge.

c. House Bill No. 21- Regional Transit Authorities

Copies of the House Bill were distributed to members. Discussion regarding the possible application of the House Bill and intentions to allow Municipalities and Boroughs to work together to provide future transportation within the state not limited to Rail service. Many believed it was a similar Bill introduced by Senator Huggins.

Jed suggested that the Representative of the Bill, Representative Josephson be invited to talk to PTAB during the next meeting. He hoped that Rep. Josephson could clear up the intentions and details with the hope of the Bill advancing further in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Moore thanked People Mover for offering bus service for those to attend the meeting.

BOARD COMMENT

LaMarr Anderson thanked all for participating in the joint meeting. He encouraged MOA to work with Valley Mover to provide a sign in Downtown Anchorage.

Beth Freed agreed with LaMarr and added that Valley Mover is not competition with People Mover and a sign would assist customers to identify the location to meet the bus.

Rick Best (Sp?) predicted growth in the Valley and as such, encouraged Anchorage to work with the Valley to provide options for transportation.

Dan Elliott reiterated the importance of bus riders being brought to Anchorage as People Mover would be potential customers. He stated that he is thankful for the joint meeting.

Jay Dulany asked why there is not a sign.

Lance Wilber stated that People Mover is in need for more space Downtown which is at a premium so giving it to as many as seven other providers with signage is not likely. He stated that he managed to request the removal of metered parking spaces to accommodate Valley Mover as a courtesy. Lance stated that a sign placement request would go through the MOA Traffic Engineering and the sign shop which in the past, has not felt obligated to comply.

Stephanie Cornwell-George inquired about the new senior housing complex built through Cook Inlet Housing Authority being constructed on Coronado Street in Eagle River and possible People Mover service for those residents.

Lance affirmed that he is aware of the new housing and the board has expressed interest in more service in Eagle River however, funding is a big component to expanded service.

Kevin Jackson stated that this meeting is the first joint meeting he has attended and it is worthwhile.

Beth Freed added that Alaska Railroad expressed offering commuter service however they found that it would be too costly for the average rider so they considered placing buses and cars on trains to Whittier as an alternative commuter operation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35PM

Next Meeting Date:

Next Tentative Meeting items:

- a. PTAB regular meeting: May 14, 2015 (City Hall, Mayor's Conf. Rm #830)
- b. Summer off – no scheduled meeting until August 13, 2015

Mat-Su Schedule – TAB Meeting

April 22, 2015 2:00PM Borough Admin Building in Valley

April 27, 2015 2:00PM New Horizons Telecom Building 901 Cope-Industrial Way, Palmer