

Public Transit Advisory Board
September 13, 2018, 5:30 p.m.
ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM (#155), CITY HALL

PTAB PRESENT:

Andrew Ooms
Doug Miller
Gretchen Wehmhoff
Freddie Olin
Elijah Haines
Samuel Moore

STAFF:

Jamie Acton
Bart Rudolph
Nicholas Abugel
Kurt Hermes
Alison Gutacker
Christine Schuette

CITIZENS PRESENT:

Judith Stefchak	David Brown	N. Williams
Linda Larson	Sophia Dirks	L. Prado
Alice Hjellen	Rich Edwards	Joseph Prado
Alan Rice	Amber Handsakor	
Margaret Henderson	Jed Smith	
Maurice Hendrickson	Beverly Moore	
Linda Henderboon	Lily Joe	
Garciea Pae	Vera R.	
B. Wilki	Joshua Williams	
Carl Kancir	U. Williams	
Karen Carson	S. Williams	
Jeffrey Manfull	G. Williams	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Gretchen Wehmoff called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

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

Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff, Mr. Andrew Ooms, Mr. Doug Miller, Mr. Elijah Haines, Mr. Samuel Moore were present. **Mr. Freddie Olin** had an excused absence. After roll call, a quorum was present.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement was made by **Ms. Wehmoff** to those in attendance that there would be a public comment period in which those wishing to make comments would be allowed two minutes each. Comments would also be accepted after any agenda item. Comments would be accepted both during the public comment period and during the agenda item period so long as the comment made during the agenda period related to that item.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The September 13, 2018 agenda was approved unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 10, 2018 minutes were approved unanimously.
The August 20, 2018 minutes were approved unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Margaret Henderson – Said that she had heard that the lease was up at the Downtown Transit Center and she was wondering who she could leave a comment with about an idea she had to relocate the transit center. She was advised by **Ms. Wehmoff** that she could email **Ms. Acton** (Transit Director) or customer service about this.

Jeffrey Manfull – Said that he wanted to thank the transit department for installing a bus stop at the corner of Benson and Minnesota.

Karen Carson – Said that she was very happy that the Benson and Minnesota bus stop was added.

Amber Anseeker – Said that she was concerned about loitering and intoxicated individuals at bus stops, especially at the stop on 13th and Gamble.

Bev Wilikey – Said that she was very happy about the changes that were made to route 11. She also wanted to compliment the new drivers and cleaners at the Downtown Transit Center for outstanding work.

Judith Sethrack – Said that she is a Southside bus rider, that she does not own a car and is having problems with route 91 not showing up at its scheduled times. She said that the lack of a route 60 makes it difficult for people to get around on the Southside of Anchorage. She would like People Mover to consider installing a more substantial route for South Anchorage.

Linda Larson – Said that she supported reinstating route 60 or another route providing more service to South Anchorage. She noted a medical clinic that serviced Medicaid recipients was now inaccessible to her by public transportation. She also stated that BusTracker was having timing issues – buses were being reported as not existing when in fact they were in service.

Alen Rice – Asked if People Mover could investigate more environmentally friendly buses, either powered by liquefied natural gas or electric instead of diesel.

Lory Wood – Said that she had a question about what was going on with the Dimond Transit Center. She would like to know why the interior waiting space was closed for use. **Ms. Acton** stated that she would address this issue when it came up in the agenda.

Carl Kancir – Said that he had been coming to PTAB meetings ever since the new transit system was advertised. He said that he was upset when People Mover put out three maps and said choose one. He did not want route 60 removed. He also brought up a few examples of people he has met that must walk a long distance to use the bus because of the lack of route 60. He was also upset about 15-minute service. He explained that he could not use the service because he does not know when he could expect the bus to be at a specific stop.

Beverly Moore – Said that she has been riding People Mover for 40 years and she still is not used to the new system. She is also having trouble with buses at Northway Mall, specifically route 31. She was also not aware that the AnchorRIDES phone number had changed. She was advised of the new number by **Mr. Hermes**.

Public comment was closed at 6:00 p.m.

VII. BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Item 6a - Introduction of new PTD Director, Jamie Acton

- i. Ms. Acton* introduced herself explaining that she had previously worked for the Public Transportation Department from 2009 to 2014 as a mobility planner. She stated that she had most recently worked with AMATS and is happy to be back with Public Transportation Department.

- b. Item 6b - Nominations/elections for chair and vice chair.
 - i. **Mr. Miller** nominated **Ms. Wehmoff** to chair. It was seconded by **Mr. Andrew Ooms**. **Ms. Wehmoff** was elected as chair. **Mr. Samuel Moore** was nominated to vice chair. It was seconded by **Ms. Wehmoff**. **Mr. Moore** was elected as vice chair.

- c. Item 6c - PTAB vacancies
 - i. **Ms. Wehmhoff** stated that there are three vacancies, one of which needs to be filled with a person with disabilities.

- d. Item 6e – Free bus passes at PTAB
 - i. **Ms. Acton** stated that there was no official policy regarding giving out free passes and that this issue was brought about to see if giving out free bus passes at PTAB meetings was still of interest. She stated that People Mover would write some language to formalize the distribution of free passes at future PTAB meetings.

- e. Item 6f – MOA operating budget update
 - i. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that a draft budget has not been released. The city is currently anticipating a 10 million dollar deficit. PTD has not been asked to cut its budget at this time. PTD’s outlook is that there will be no cuts going into the next year.
 - ii. **Ms. Acton** stated that People Mover has not been asked to cut its budget this year.
 - iii. **Ms. Acton** stated that People Mover discovered issues with the original scope of work for this project; specifically, FTA funds had been used for items outside the original scope of work. She stated that People Mover had contacted the FTA and informed them that some of their funds were used on items outside the original 14-point concept, which was primarily concerned with pedestrian improvements. The reason the public is now unable to access the pedestrian waiting facility at the Dimond Center was in part due to unapproved FTA funds being used for interior improvements. People Mover is now looking for ways to pay those funds back to the FTA. People Mover has agreed to be out of the parking lot and under the canopy at the Dimond Transit Center by October 1, 2018.
 - iv. **Unknown** – Stated that she would like to know how People Mover was tracking donations. **Ms. Acton** stated that she would research this issue and get back with the citizen.

- f. Item 6g – Ridership update
 - i. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that in August People Mover increased overall ridership. Since People Mover implemented its new service, it has lost about three percent of its ridership from this time last year.
 - ii. **Carl Kancir** asked **Mr. Rudolph** if there was a way of tracking how many people get on and off at a particular stop. Mr. Rudolph explained that there are automatic counters on buses which track how many people get on and off the bus.

- g. mTicket update
 - i. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that mTicket is working well for People Mover, with over \$20,000 a month in revenue.

h. Short-Range Transit Plan

- i. **Ms. Schuette** stated that since the last PTAB meeting People Mover has had a few internal meetings about the short-range plan. The handout that **Ms. Schuette** provided, entitled “Committees,” described the breakdown of different groups, all of whom have an interest in the Public Transportation Department. PTD Executive Management/Mayor’s Office have final decision-making authority on this plan. PTAB provides input and advice to the development of the plan. Interagency partners provide feedback with adopted plans and regulations. Stakeholders are community members and the agencies which can distribute information and enhance the participation of the public. The steering committee will have a representative from each section of the Public Transportation Department to help guide decisions internally and the Core-Project Team will be responsible for implementing the short-range plan.
- ii. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that People Mover implemented the new system in October 2017. People Mover does not have a plan going forward; this short-range plan is in fact to provide options going forward to cover different circumstances that the PTD might face in the future.
- iii. **Carl Kancir** asked how People Mover captures data from people who comment that they would like route 60 or another route to return, since people on the former route 60 can’t get to these PTAB meetings due to lack of public transportation. **Mr. Rudolph** responded that People Mover has all the comments from prior PTAB meetings and historical data from how many people used to ride those routes. People Mover has feedback from community council meetings from those affected areas and will continue to go out to community council meetings and other public meetings around town.
- iv. **Carl Kancir** also noted that the sign to cover one’s mouth when coughing should not be in the back of the bus.
- v. **Ms. Schuette** stated that the timeline was broken down into blocks; she went over the timeline and different events on that list.
- vi. **Mr. Rudolph** described the difference between the last system change, “Anchorage Talks Transit,” which was driven by choices, and this short-range plan, which is completely data driven to find ways to incrementally improve the system.
- vii. **Ms. Wehmhoff** asked People Mover staff to consider having an outside voice for the steering committee.

i. Route Report Card

- i. **Mr. Rudolph** presented the route report card that would be the template for what data People Mover would be collecting for the short-range transit plan. He described some of the data points that would be collected on the report card such as vehicle revenue miles, vehicle revenue hours, and cost per passenger. **Mr. Moore** asked why the speed of transit was important. **Mr. Rudolph** responded that transit should be reasonably quick and that transit being double the time it takes to get to a destination vs. driving should be the maximum. He stated that People Mover would attempt to look at bus bunching, on and offs at each stop, ridership by time of day, how many wheelchairs and bicycles are being used on the routes, safety, jobs and housing in proximity to bus routes. **Mr. Haines** asked if there would be a measure that People Mover would be using in its report card to track

stop accessibility. **Mr. Rudolph** responded that People Mover's engineer was completing an inventory of stops which included gathering data about stop accessibility.

j. Short Range Plan Name

- i.* **Ms. Schuette** asked the PTAB board to vote on the short-range transit plan name. **Mr. Moore** voted for Transit On the Move. **Mr. Haines** seconded Mr. Moore's vote. Transit On the Move was unanimously voted in.

VIII. NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE

Next Meeting Date: October 11, 2018, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Location TBD)

Comments:

Mr. Ooms asked the public in attendance to consider applying to be on PTAB. He also brought up the issue of crash data and whether there was a correlation between bus stops and pedestrian vehicle collisions.

Mr. Miller was very happy about the bus stop on Benson and Minnesota. He was also interested in being able to see a report on route 60 and how many boardings and alights took place prior to the implementation of the current system.

Ms. Wehmhoff stated that she was excited to have the short-range transit plan. She also stated that she was going to take the bus on September 19. She shared that she was going to try to ride all the routes to build a better understanding of the system. She also asked what would be the correct way for a senior to call and schedule a ride with the Chugiak Senior Center. The director of the Chugiak Senior Center explained the current process to book a ride. She also described an issue with their phones on the first week of service; specifically, GCI had misrouted their main line, but that issue has been resolved.

Mr. Moore stated that he rode the Valley Mover and was very impressed by the service. He also stated that he is a daily People Mover rider and has no complaints about the service. He did, however, have a question about a timing issue with route 35. He explained that when it drops off at the McDonald's on Benson, it misaligns with route 10, causing him to wait an additional 15 minutes for the next one. He also stated that he occasionally sees the luggage racks on route 10. **Ms. Acton** informed him that it was an equity issue; the FTA mandates that everyone has to have equal access to any feature on a bus.

Mr. Haines introduced himself. He stated that he is happy to be serving on the PTAB board. He also stated that he works for the Alaska Center for the Blind as a mobility trainer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Wehmhoff motioned to adjourn. **Mr. Miller** seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.