

Public Transit Advisory Board
April 14, 2016, 5:30pm-7:00pm
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM SUITE#830

PTAB PRESENT:

Jay Dulany
David Levy
Jed Smith
Britta Hamre
Felix Rivera
Kevin Jackson
Andrew Ooms

STAFF:

Bart Rudolph
Will Brown
Collin Hodges
Whitney Tillman
Abul Hassan

Excused:

Samuel Moore
Carlette Mack

Citizens Present:

Andy Klein Joni Wilm
Debi Stone Moira Sullivan
Lenora Morford

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm by Chairman Jed Smith.

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

After roll call and introduction of guests, quorum was present.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement was made to those attending by Chairman Smith that there will be a public comment period in which those wishing to make comments will be allowed two minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dulany made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Levy moved to approve the minutes from March 10, 2016. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- a. Introduction of New Member – Britta Hamre was welcomed to the board.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Andrew Klein – Mr. Klein has been a resident of Anchorage since 1963 and has used the transit system since its creation. Mr. Klein is visually impaired and pointed out that it is difficult for him to read the bus signs due to the red text on a black background. Mr. Klein also mentioned security concerns with inebriates on buses at night, and would also like to see a bus route get established on Elmore Rd. that would service Far North Bicentennial Park.

VII. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Bus Stop Amenity Distribution Guidelines – Mr. Rudolph provided the board members with a Resolution of Support drafted by Mr. Moore. After a brief discussion between board members, the Resolution of Support for the Public Transportation's Bus Stop Amenity Distribution Guidelines was passed unanimously.

VIII. BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Planning Committee – Mr. Jackson provided an overview of the *Choices Report* from Jarrett Walker & Associates. He pointed out the conflicts between increasing ridership or increasing coverage, and the higher cost of operation faced in Anchorage when comparing transit agencies of other cities of similar size.
- b. Marketing Committee – No report was given from this committee due to the excused absence of sub-committee members.
- c. Finance/Administration – Mr. Levy provided a summary of the items discussed at the last meeting of this sub-committee. Mr. Levy would like to make it the goal of this sub-committee to diversify and expand the funding options for People Mover. Both Mr. Rivera and Mr. Levy made the board aware of the state’s fiscal situation and stressed the importance of encouraging state support for public transportation.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. AMATS Public Participation Plan – Joni Wilm of AMATS provided a detailed overview of the AMATS Public Participation Plan. Ms. Wilm discussed the background of the project and how the plan was developed. The new plan aims to simplify many of the transportation concepts, as well as reduce the amount of text on each page. By doing this, they are hoping the plan will be easier to read and comprehend for the average person. Ms. Wilm stated that the operation of AMATS can be difficult to understand by the public and they are hopeful that they can answer many public questions through this document.

Mr. Rivera was pleased to see that extra effort is being placed on communication with non-English speaking populations.

- b. March 2016 Ridership Report – Mr. Rudolph provided the board with copies of the March 2016 Year to Date Ridership Report.
- c. Anchorage Talks Transit Update – Mr. Hodges briefed the board on the public outreach efforts that have been done in preparation for the May 5th Anchorage Talks Transit event.
- d. Staff Reports – Mr. Rudolph provided an example of a sign that both Marketing and Customer Service staff developed to inform riders that they are under surveillance while aboard the bus.

Public Comment – Mr. Klein mentioned that the public has a negative perception of People Mover because of the rising security concerns aboard the bus and at transit facilities.

In response to Mr. Klein, Operations Superintendent Abul Hassan provided an overview of how problem individuals are being dealt with and the changes that have been put in place to reduce misconduct on buses.

X. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Dulany and Mr. Ooms welcomed Ms. Hamre and they are looking forward to working with her.

Mr. Levy was curious if an update of the AnchorRIDES and Vanpool programs could be given at the next meeting. Mr. Levy was also concerned about the on-time performance of People Mover service on the weekends. He was also curious about any progress at the Downtown Transit Center.

Public Comment – Melinda Gant with the Anchorage Community Development Authority (ACDA) was in attendance and provided the board with the following information: Ms. Gant said that ACDA is looking at closing the Downtown Transit Center by the end of 2016. They are currently conducting surveys with individuals who use the transit center in order to determine what the social service needs of the area are. Ms. Gant also commented that the ACDA board is looking into the feasibility of moving the Transit Center to the 5th Avenue Garage. They are looking into this because it would provide People Mover with a permanent space that was not subject to a lease agreement.

Ms. Hamre thanked the board for their welcoming demeanor and appreciated the public attendance and comments at this meeting.

Mr. Rivera reminded the board about the Vision Zero online public survey that closes on April 19th.

Chairman Smith also commented on the Vision Zero project, and would like the board to remain active in participating in it. Chairman Smith was also curious about efforts to encourage more private sector involvement in transit through the adopt-a-stop program.

XI. NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE

Next Meeting Date: May 12, 2016

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Levy made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.