

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

DECEMBER 13, 2012, 5:30 PM

CITY HALL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM, SUITE 155

PTAB PRESENT:

Sally Spieker
Jed Smith
Jay Dulany
Andrew Ooms
Tim Sullivan
Patrick Reinhart
Carlette Mack

Absent:

Carol Wren

STAFF:

Lance Wilber
Sandy Hansen

Guests:

David Levy
Todd Logan
Kevin Jackson

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Chairperson Sally Spieker.

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

After roll call and introduction, a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion for approval of the agenda was made. Lance asked to include 'Advertising' under 8C, Staff Reports. Sally Spieker suggested switching the order of New Business and Staff Reports for today's meeting. The changes were accepted and approved.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for November 8, 2012 were approved as submitted unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Levy stated that he returned from Washington D.C. as Map 21 Legislation was the point of discussion. Map 21 has new safety and performance measures requirements for Transit agencies. He expressed that the Alaska delegation is in support of Transit and he will continue his work in Juneau.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. How do we grow – 2013 Priorities

Lance talked about tasks to consider for the Board's priorities in 2013. He outlined a list of possible subjects; Map 21, New Service Opportunities, Operating Budget 2013-2014, Transit Centers (Dimond, Downtown and Midtown proposal), Alaska Transit Conference in Juneau and AMC support to name a few. Lance suggested that a lunch meeting can be planned to discuss details

prior to the next PTAB meeting in January 2013 if requested. He mentioned that there were plans to renovate the most used bus stops in Anchorage located in Mt. View. Lance said that he has a meeting scheduled with community leaders and owners of land that surrounds the bus stop at Mt. View and Bragaw to coordinate efforts.

Andrew asked about additional information on the Midtown Transit Center Proposal.

Lance explained that he was asked to find land as part of the Municipality per State Legislator request for a new Transit Center to be built in midtown using 8 million dollars requested by the Administration. This could offer the opportunity to eliminate the current landlord situation and allow Transit to operate the facility with retail rental space. He affirmed that a new midtown Transit Center would require a route restructure and a revamp of our system.

Sally inquired about other cities that have a Transit Center in a central location other than Downtown and how it works for them.

Lance acknowledged that it would be interesting to compare other cities to Anchorage.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

a. Ridership & Fuel Report

Lance talked about the handout of November's year-to-date ridership and fare report. He stated that the ridership is slightly lower than 2011 however he believes that the new fareboxes installed in June 2012 will provide transit with accurate numbers in the future.

Lance stated that fuel costs have initially placed Transit in a 165,000 deficient however an increase in advertising and additional revenue has made up for the shortfall.

b. 2012 Budget

Lance informed the board that the Assembly has adopted the B budget plan which would keep the current service in 2013. The Assembly has not voted on the final decision for the 'Fines and Fees' portion of the budget. Lance stated that the Assembly has plans to use one time funding to cover the increases proposed throughout all departments which would not require an increase in Municipal 'fines and fees' in 2013.

PTAB members discussed the impact of the 2014 budget if increased fares are not adopted and the goal of increasing service would not be likely. A discussion regarding the benefit of addressing the Assembly again to reiterate the Board's position was dismissed after it was determined that more information is required.

c. Advertising

Lance informed members that controversial signs are being displayed on buses paid for by "Freedom from Religion" showing traditional Christmas format and a "There is no God" message. Lance provided members with photos of the ads and the bus advertising policies. Lance talked about the Municipal code for advertising restricting Tobacco, Nudity, Sexual content and Alcoholic Beverages. The ads do not reflect the views of the Municipality of Anchorage or People Mover although they may be controversial.

Carlette and Andrew expressed that the group “Freedom from Religion” is a strong presence in Washington D.C and Madison Wisconsin with advertising on Public Transit.

Lance encouraged all PTAB members to ride the bus and report back to him their experience. He said that any feedback about our service is appreciated to improve.

VIII. *PUBLIC COMMENT*

a. Todd Logan mentioned that the Downtown is a desired destination of many individuals and requiring a transfer would be the “kiss of death” if the Midtown transit would be People Mover’s main center.

Lance agrees that more work is needed to determine where the Transit Center location would be and how it would impact our current system.

X. *BOARD COMMENTS*

Andrew said that he has been riding Route #15 and #8 with success to commute to his worksite. He likes the bus tracker feature retrieved from his phone.

Jed stated that he rode Route # 36 about two weeks ago whereas an inebriated individual created a scene. He was surprised that another passenger chose to intervene and defuse the situation without the assistance of the driver or APD.

Jed reiterated the importance of Alaska Mobility Coalition and encouraged others to become members.

Jed said he would like to see informational notices on buses reminding passengers to attend the PTAB meetings.

Sally rode the bus downtown today and she said it was fun. She said she is retiring from the University of Anchorage at the end of December and she hopes to become more active in PTAB in 2013.

Tim asked if additional staff could provide the Board with information such as Advertising (bus wraps and bus ads) and Randy Bergt to discuss upcoming special projects in 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Next Meeting Date-

January 10, 2013, We will convene at 5:30pm, City Hall room 155.

Tentative Meeting items:

a. Follow-up on PTAB 2013 Goals

