

# PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 14, 2013, 5:30 PM

CITY HALL TRAINING ROOM, SUITE 700

## ***PTAB PRESENT:***

Sally Spieker  
Jay Dulany  
Patrick Reinhart  
Tim Sullivan  
Carlette Mack  
Kevin Jackson

## ***Absent:***

Andrew Ooms  
Carol Wren  
Jed Smith

## ***STAFF:***

Lance Wilber  
Sandy Hansen  
Randy Bergt

## ***Guests:***

Renee Lacy  
Dennis Handy  
Robbie Killen  
James Brodie  
Todd Logan

## ***I. CALL TO ORDER***

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm 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***

The agenda was approved as written unanimously.

## ***IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

The minutes for February 14, 2013 were approved as submitted.

## ***V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

### ***a. 2013 Performance Measures***

Lance inquired about subtractions or additions to the priority list provided during the last meeting. He stated that the priorities listed would be reported to PTAB quarterly. Lance admitted that he has not researched other systems equal in size to determine how People Mover compares to others.

Tim Sullivan moved to approve the measures as written. Jay Dulany seconded.

After a short discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

## ***VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS***

### ***a. None***

## ***VII. NEW BUSINESS***

### ***a. None***

## *VIII. STAFF REPORTS*

### *a. 2013 Capital Projects*

Randy Bergt, People Mover Capital Projects Engineer, provided a handout detailing construction projects completed to date and project priorities for 2013. He stated that he has worked for People Mover for 11 years and within that time, Anchorage has seen vast improvements in bus stops meeting ADA compliance, facility improvements, and upgrades to existing lighting and furniture at bus stops.

Randy stated that the funding for projects is received through FTA grants and primarily in coordination with the Alaska State DOT and other Municipal offices. He listed completed projects significant to People Mover such as the new paratransit facility, Transit Maintenance roof replacement, and upgrades to the warm storage facility and lighting improvements.

Randy stated that the video surveillance safety and security project at the Downtown Transit Center, Dimond Transit Center and 3 chosen bus stops allows APD to prosecute individuals that engage in illegal activities. He said that it has deterred unwanted activities after installation.

He talked about 14 'real time' electronic signs that provide customers time information. These signs are heavy and require special electrical elements.

He noted that the Museum was a major project which was completed in 2010. He mentioned that snow removal is currently completed by ice melt and shovels and not in-floor heating elements used in construction to keep walkways clear in the winter months. An agreement was proposed to pay for the heated sidewalks between the Museum and Public Transportation however, the museum declined the proposal.

Tim asked about the possible solution and Lance affirmed that he planned to revisit the issue by fall.

Randy highlighted a few projects scheduled for 2013; U-Med Phase III and IV, Dimond Center Intermodal improvements, Wal-Mart East new bus stop, Natural Pantry, Pendland Parkway drainage, Spenard Road, Muldoon at Chester Creek and DeBarr Road resurfacing.

Randy was proud to say that in 1996, People Mover's bus stops met ADA standards for 20% of it's bus stops and to date, People Mover's bus stops are 78% ADA compliant.

Patrick inquired about the vandalism at bus stops and solutions available.

Randy agreed that in the past People Mover had broken glass issues which were expensive to maintain. He stated that perforated metal panels and new opaque roofing materials are being used to discourage vandalism.

### *b. State funding for Public Transportation – Letters of Support*

Lance provided a copy of the letter from Mayor Sullivan to Governor Sean Parnell and Assembly Resolution 2013-40 passed by the Assembly in support Capital funds and Alaska Mobility Coalition's request for state matching funds. He thanked Jed Smith for the letter on behalf of PTAB

addressed to Alaska State Senators in regards to the budget and the AMC's request for matching funds and the support of the Alaska Neighborhood Health Center's request for \$90,000 to offset funding for shuttle service.

c. Downtown Transit Center – Condition Report

Lance stated that Judy Tymick, Customer Service Manager, has been documenting facility conditions and she has provided a report with photos. He recommended that members review it and provide comments.

Carlette mentioned that Heather Harris had a meeting with ACDA voicing concerns about the Downtown Transit Center and Heather reported that the ACDA were receptive to her feedback.

Patrick inquired about the APD substation returning to retain an office at the Transit Center as a deterrent. Lance confirmed that the security, maintenance issues, and janitorial issues have worsened since ACDA left the building and the APD substation was not manned to be the deterrent required. Lance agreed to set up a meeting and invite members to participate.

d. Other – Memo responding to public comments

Lance provided a memo in response to public concerns and comments voiced at February's meeting:

1. He stated that concerning alcohol related incidents, swearing and loud music are being addressed with operation staff to give more authority to bus operators. Camera installed at trouble bus stops and APD enforcement will reduce incidents.
2. Lance stated that poor snow removal at bus stops is being addressed by hiring permanent workers from seasonal staff for a more consistent crew. Two People Mover trucks have been equipped with snow plows to increase response to snow removal at bus stops.
3. Lance explained that the reasoning to serve Tikahtnu Commons twice is based on property limitations on our abilities to dwell at the mall in the main lane of traffic whereas the VA offers a location to dwell and offer drivers a facility for breaks. He is concerned that the malls' growth could force us to serve the Muldoon and not offer bus stops in the Tikahtnu campus.
4. Lance stated that transit planning is reviewing the suggestion to reroute Route # 75 into the East 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue into the neighborhood and serving the Tudor/Muldoon curve.
5. Lance agreed that marketing different passenger types and he acknowledged that we take an extra effort to attract choice riders.
6. Lance stated that staff is actively looking into the potential to provide more service in the Senior Center and Chugach Manor area by possibly redirecting another route similar to route # 3 and Route # 7.

VIII. *PUBLIC COMMENT*

a. Robbie Killen voiced safety concerns for street crossing on Spenard by Gwennie's Restaurant. She stated that she would like to see a signalized crossing there.

b. James Brodie stated that he is a dedicated bus rider. He is pleased with the technology of smart cards. He inquired about the reader board at the Fred Meyer bus stop. It has not been working for quite some time.

Randy thanked James for his input and he expressed his dismay that the sign has been out for longer than anticipated however, parts are on order and he is hopeful to have it operable in 10 days.

c. Todd Logan asked about possible plans to upgrade the bus stop at the Ted Stevens International Airport. He suggested a shelter for visitors to utilize while waiting for the bus considering the hour headways. Lance agreed that the Airport stop was on the radar for future upgrades.

d. Renee Lacy thanked snow crews and trash removal for improved service. She expressed that the bus stop at Bean's needs attention. She asked for a trash can at the bus stop across from the Holiday Gas Station at 88<sup>th</sup> Ave and Jewel Lake Road.

Randy Bergt mentioned that a drainage project this summer will improve conditions at that bus stop.

e. Dennis Handy Inquired about the number of the Transit Proposition on the ballot in April.

Lance responded that it was Proposition 2 and that notices will be placed on buses to remind customers.

#### *X. BOARD COMMENTS*

a. Each board member thanked all guests for their participation and they encouraged additional participation in the future.

b. Sally shared that she heard that The Pope rides the bus! "If he can, then we all should ride!"

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Next Meeting Date-

April 11, 2013, We will convene at 5:30pm, City Hall Room 700 (due to elections)

Tentative Meeting items:

- a. PTAB regular meeting: April 11, 2013 (tentative staff report Marketing)
- b. PTAB regular meeting: May 9, 2013 To be held in Eagle River  
(tentative staff report Operations)