

# PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

*FEBRUARY 13, 2014, 5:30 PM*

*CITY HALL TRAINING ROOM, SUITE 700*

## ***PTAB PRESENT:***

Jay Dulany  
Andrew Ooms  
Patrick Reinhart  
Sally Spieker  
Carlette Mack  
Kevin Jackson

## ***STAFF:***

Sandy Hansen  
Lance Wilber  
Christine Sondej  
Susan Shiffer

## ***Absent:***

Jed Smith  
Tim Sullivan

## ***Guests:***

Michelle Jett	Kirsten Valentine
Todd Logan	Chris Grgich
Lenora Morford	Sam Moore
Jon Zasada	

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Vice-Chairperson Carlette Mack.

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

After roll call and introduction, a quorum was present.

### ***III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT***

### ***IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

Jay moved to approve the agenda. Kevin seconded. The February agenda was approved as submitted unanimously.

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

Jay moved to approve minutes for January. Sally seconded. The minutes for January 9, 2014 were approved as submitted unanimously.

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

- a. Jon Zasada, representing the Alaska Neighborhood Health Clinic, stated that they accepted surplus AnchorRIDES vehicles from Public Transportation Department and he appreciates the donation. He confirmed that the shuttle service operated by MV Inc. serves 10-22 riders a day running 6.5 hours on weekdays from Downtown Transit Center to the Health Clinic. He confirmed that the funding for the shuttle service will be exhausted by the end of 2014. He stated to the Transit Advisory board that ANHC would like to see a fixed route service to the clinic in the year 2015 as some customers of the clinic require travel time flexibility for extended procedures to utilize People Mover for those trips.

Patrick asked about state funding possibilities. Jon doubted that they would be eligible and he believes that a fixed route service through People Mover would be better long term.

*VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS*

*a. None*

*VIII. NEW BUSINESS*

*a. None*

*IX. STAFF REPORTS*

*a. AnchorRIDES Policy and Service Update –Opportunity for PTAB feedback*

Susan Shiffer, AnchorRIDES Contract Administrator, provided an informational sheet of the proposals discussed during the January meeting. She stated that the proposal options for new policies for senior service on AnchorRIDES could place priority trips for medical, work and volunteer above those for church, shopping and other purpose trips or they could be divided by seasonally by summer and winter. Susan stated that she has not heard from Commissions and senior groups regarding the proposal. She said that most comments she received were from AnchorRIDES customers that wanted no changes.

Sally asked if she receives no feedback, what would happen? Susan said that the M.O.A. code requires that opportunity be provided for public feedback and the comment date expires in April; however it could be extended. The latest proposal will be implemented if no objections are received.

Carlette asked about individuals applying for a waiver to cover those costs. Susan acknowledged that some senior trips do not have option to apply for waivers like ADA/Medicaid eligible clients.

Susan explained that Nutrition, Transportation and Support Services grants are federal funding pass through the State of Alaska, from the Older Americans Act meant for seniors and each community uses them differently. Funding is used as priority basis; Medical, Day Care, Work and Volunteer.

Patrick inquired about volunteers and Senior Center to assist with travel.

Susan said that she had received option for funding for volunteers although the Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion programs will start again this spring.

Lance encouraged the board to weigh in on a recommendation. He stated that a business item can be added to the agenda or a work session can be scheduled to discuss the topic.

Carlette asked the board if a worksession should be scheduled or discuss now?

Sally suggested discussing it now and making a decision.

Lance reminded the board that it was not an action item, and maybe to add it to the agenda for March.

After some discussion, it was agreed to add the item to the March agenda for a vote as an action item.

*b. Worksession summary*

Lance provided a summary of the worksession priorities for 2014 as discussed on January 23, 2014. Lance stated that he placed Patrick to a budget task as Patrick commented that he is interested in that subject. He stated that there is a meeting scheduled with himself, Carlette and Paula, People Mover marketing manager on ideas for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

*c. Ridership Report*

Lance provided a summary of the January 2014 Year -to-Date ridership report. He noted that ridership is down slightly while weekday revenue hours are slightly up from last year. The fare restructure is reflected in the Fare Category report to include the half fare.

*X. SPEECH ABOUT PEOPLE MOVER EXPERIENCE, KIRSTEN VALENTINE*

Kirsten Valentine stated that she rides the People Mover bus by choice due to her dislike of driving a car. She stated that she is a young professional and she lives in Eagle River while she commutes to Anchorage daily. She uses the Route # 102 and while she likes the service, she would like to see later trips from Anchorage to Eagle River so that she can participate in activities after work. Kirsten stated that she is a technology driven person that loves using the bustracker for reports of delays. She suggested a method of purchasing passes on line and she would be okay with a fee for the convenience as she doesn't like entering the Downtown Transit Center. She suggested a payment system similar to the airlines that offer a QR code on the phone that can be scanned at the gate before boarding. Kirsten suggested offering a bike/ski bus service on the weekends in Anchorage for those like herself that enjoy outdoor activities. She also suggested removing seats from the bus to accommodate many bikes and ski equipment.

Kirsten requested that we consider weekend service to/from Eagle River /Anchorage as she would not use her car at all if given the choice.

Christine asked if she parks somewhere and utilizes People Mover in Eagle River.

Kirsten affirmed that she parks at the Carrs Grocery Store and shops before going home.

*XI. BOARD COMMENT*

a. Patrick stated that he is glad to be back in Anchorage.

b. Sally thanked Kristen for her comments and expressed that she chose to live in midtown as she utilizes the bus for various locations. She stated that she would like to see bus expansion while resources to better the system and increase service for healthcare and recreation.

c. Jay asked Lance if he had received additional information from Jim Kubitz regarding the presentation from the Alaska Railroad pilot service from the Valley. Lance stated that he has not heard however he will pass along any information as he is informed.

d. Andrew thanked all that came and to Kristen for her comments.

e. Carlette said that a recreation bus is a wonderful idea.

f. Kevin expressed that the QR code reader used as a bus pass for the smart phones is a great idea.

Christine Sondej stated that the agenda was available on the web site before the meeting for those that wanted to be informed of the subjects to attend the meeting. She said that it would continue to be posted about a week prior to the meeting in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm

Next Meeting Date-

PTAB - March 13, 2014, City Hall, Training Room 700 (due to election conflict)

Tentative Meeting items:

- a. PTAB regular meeting: April 10, 2014 (TBD)
- b. PTAB regular meeting : May 8, 2014 (Joint meeting with Mat-Su)