

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 10, 2014, 5:30 PM

CITY HALL TRAINING ROOM, SUITE 830

PTAB PRESENT:

Jay Dulany
Andrew Ooms
Tim Sullivan
Sally Spieker
Carlette Mack
Kevin Jackson
Jed Smith

Absent:

Patrick Reinhart

STAFF:

Sandy Hansen	Jamie Acton
Christine Sondej	Judy Tymick

Guests:

Buck Bloomer	Donald Head
Beverly Moore	Mary Pastania
Craig Jonnie	Yvonne Begley
Alice Hjellen	Chuck Booher
P.C. Newman	Karen R
Lenora Morford	David Morgan
Kevin Brickley	Harold Bartko

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Chairman Jed Smith.

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

After roll call and introduction, a quorum was present.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

David Morgan, Family Services Commission member, stated that he has a written recommendation that the health commission agreed upon to submit to the PTAB in regards to offering bus service to the Alaska Neighborhood Health Center. He explained that future medical and health facilities are planned for expansion in the Tudor Road/C Street/International Airport Road/ Muldoon area which would increase the need for public transportation. David stated that rerouting the route # 75 would work based on the distance on the map. He suggested that a transit hub in the Tudor/C Street/Midtown area would also benefit all involved.

Carlette asked for clarification of what he means by a "hub".

David stated that it was purely a planning idea for a facility and not a transit center. He said that due to the anticipated growth there would be a need for a facility. David welcomed anyone to attend the health commission meetings to better understand the need to coordinate.

Donald Head asked the PTAB members if they currently utilize the bus to travel. Four members raised their hand. He acknowledged that he was pleased to see that half of the board has used the service. Donald stated that he was not aware of when the fares went up and why. Donald suggested that a bus stop once at 58th Ave /Arctic in the middle of the block be placed back at the intersection corner.

Chuck Booher stated that he attended meetings last year regarding the realignment of the Route # 8 which is no longer serving Donna drive. He stated that his wife uses the bus to travel to

work daily however he must drive her one half mile to the bus stop on Debarr and Edward. Chuck mentioned that other neighbors in his area are inconvenienced since the change however he said he is the only person that would come to the meeting to speak up due to the other neighbors' busy schedules. He acknowledged that Staedem hill is a dangerous hill in the winter months however he suggested that the alternative route would be to use Edward to Donna drive and continue to Turpin via the neighborhood.

Harold Bartko suggested that the city consider offering a bus pass based on a hardship for job search. He stated that looking for a job without transportation is extremely difficult.

Kevin Brickley voiced that he would like to see more transportation. He explained that the city has increased in population by 100,000 and buses need to meet those numbers. He suggested increasing the Route # 3, Route # 9, Route # 45 and Route# 102.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tim moved to approve the April agenda. Jay seconded. The April agenda was approved unanimously.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carlette moved to approve the minutes for March. Jay seconded. The minutes for March 13, 2014 were approved as submitted unanimously.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None*

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None*

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- a. MOA Regional Household Travel Survey (RHTS) and On-Board Survey*

Jamie Acton, Transit Mobility Coordinator, provided a summary of the Human Services 2014 goals. She provided a handout open to comments which details funding updates. Jamie stated that the on-board survey will provide data with economic impacts and planning decisions.

Jed inquired about whether she is working with the health and human services commission.

Jamie confirmed that she talked with David Morgan and she acknowledges the benefit to coordinate with health agencies.

- b. 2014 Service Change Draft Schedules*

Christine provided a draft schedule and summary of the changes for the June service change. She talked about the minor realignment for Route # 13 utilizing Checkmate to Tudor both directions and no longer serving 43rd Avenue and Vance. Christine expressed that Transit operators have experienced challenges with incomplete winter snow removal and vehicles parked on the street. She stated that Checkmate construction provides wider streets and bus stop boarding pads.

Tim asked if there would be a bus stop added at 43rd and Checkmate for those that live on 43rd.

Christine stated that Randy Bergt looked at the options to add another stop and found it would be too close to the intersection to be safe. At this time it is not advised.

c. Public Transportation Program of Projects (POP)

Christine provided a copy of the Program of projects focusing on Table 7 for Transit. She outlined 2015-2018 fiscal years, explaining the funding as it addresses all projects. Christine stated that Proposition 2 recently on the ballot, passed with the bonds used to match the total 4.7 million to get a better return.

Kevin asked if the \$160,000 Fiscal year 2017 money is for midtown transit center study. Christine agreed that it could be used for that or it may be used for the Muldoon redo. She stated that Table 5 which is part of the MPO –Air Quality Competitive funding through midtown transit in 2016 is \$300,000 which is for a site selection.

Jed asked what the difference between 5307 and Air Quality funds?

Christine explained that funding morphed into incentives to use transit versus a single occupancy car for congestion mitigation.

Service change public comments received to date: Christine briefly highlighted some of the comments we received by planning e-mail, survey monkey, planning voice mail and written letter. She stated that a few suggestions to alter the times the bus leaves the Transit Center or missed connections in Muldoon were being reviewed by the scheduler. She expressed that any route time changes can alter another transfer connection or creates interlining complications. Christine acknowledged that 'blocking' trips with longer layovers or meal breaks can eliminate the problem.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Karen Rowland expressed that she has an idea for a new route which would utilize Dowling Road to the Highway and offer service to locations for Tourists to go hiking. She stated that she is having a difficult time finding a job due to the bus service stopping early. Karen would like the hours to extend to midnight or 1am. She had a few suggestions for convenience; offer handwarmers on the bus for sale and have lights on bus stops that can be activated when a customer is waiting to alert the driver.

Donald Head expressed concern for individuals that do not have internet service like those at Beans Café and Brother Francis. He suggested that we go to them to get comments.

Craig Jonnie expressed frustration that he has attended many meetings and there are no changes than before. He said that he would like to see more express routes which would appeal to commuting riders.

X. BOARD COMMENT

Jay inquired about the May meeting with the Mat-Su.

Sally thanked all for taking the time to come to the meeting.

Andrew thanked planning for researching his suggestion to alter the outbound times in the late afternoon hours for Routes 15 and 8.

Jed thanked all for their feedback. He assured those that expressed changes taking time to understand in 2010 the board had discussed cuts to the service and now we are adding trips which is promising.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Next Meeting Date-

PTAB – May 8, 2014, tentative joint meeting in Eagle River

Tentative Meeting items:

Summer off- no meetings scheduled June and July 2014

- a. PTAB regular meeting: August 14, 2014
- b. PTAB regular meeting: September 11, 2014