

Public Transit Advisory Board
November 12, 2015, 5:30pm-7:00pm
ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM SUITE#155

PTAB PRESENT:

Jay Dulany
Carlette Mack
David Levy
Jed Smith
Andrew Ooms

STAFF:

Will Brown	Christine Sondej
Michelle Felix	Bart Rudolph
Ryan Yelle	Collin Hodges

Citizens Present:

Debi Stone
Tanya McPherson
Sam Moore
Nelson Godoy

Absent:

Kevin Jackson (excused)
Stephanie Cornwell-George (excused)

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

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Dulany moved to approve the minutes from October 8, 2015. Ms. Mack seconded. The minutes from the October 8th meeting were approved unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Sam Moore – Mr. Moore stated that communication on bus delays was not adequate during the periods of severe winter weather that occurred on November 2nd and 9th. Mr. Moore experienced longer wait times for his bus along Route 9 than what was scheduled. Mr. Moore would like to see better communication with the public from People Mover during times of severe weather.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Downtown Transit Center Security Concerns/ACDA Progress – Ms. Sondej provided an update on the progress being made at the Downtown Transit Center (DTC). Work has continued with Anchorage Community Development Authority(ACDA) staff to address the security concerns noticed at the DTC. The Anchorage Police Department(APD) has

begun conducting foot patrols of the DTC in an effort to display a police presence. ACDA has made adjustments to the operating hours of the DTC. They will now open the building one hour later, close one hour earlier, and lock the public restrooms at 5pm. RIM Architects has been hired by ACDA to develop plans for the DTC that will include upgrades to security, functionality, and public use of the DTC. These upgrades have been prioritized by ACDA and they are hoping to begin construction in 2017.

Mr. Levy asked if the foot patrols of the DTC by APD officers was a one time event or at what frequency those patrols would be conducting. Ms. Sondej responded by saying the intent of APD was to project a presence at the DTC and also look out for suspected “spice” activity.

Mr. Levy asked Ms. Sondej if she could provide more information on the 2017 construction plan of the DTC. Both Ms. Sondej and Ms. Felix provided feedback to Mr. Levy, stating that plans were still in the early stages, as RIM is currently trying to determine both the needs of the building and its intended occupants.

Chairman Smith provided some background on PTAB’s involvement with ACDA and the DTC. Chairman Smith stated that PTAB members met with ACDA in the spring of 2015 to discuss PTAB’s recommendations for the DTC. He finds the changes encouraging and exciting for transit use in Anchorage.

Mr. Levy asked Ms. Felix about any potential marketing ideas that are being generated as changes to the DTC are made. Ms. Felix stated that she is developing plans, but is hesitant to put any of those efforts forward until she receives more details on the upgrades and changes.

- b. 2016 Capital and Operating Budget Resolution – Chairman Smith read the 2016 Capital and Operating Budget Resolution in its entirety to the board and members of the public. Mr. Dulany suggested an amendment on paragraph six, changing the wording from “your” to “the.” Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the 2016 Capital and Operating Budget with the suggested amendment of Mr. Dulany. Ms. Mack seconded the motion. The resolution was passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sondej introduced the Public Transportation Department’s newest members to the board at this time, Transit Planning Manager-Bart Rudolph and Transit Planner-Collin Hodges.

- a. Community Transit Vision Project – Ms. Sondej began an overview and background of the Community Transit Vision Project. She stated that transit has been observing ridership trends and the impacts that our various service changes have made to our system throughout the years. The most recent short range transit plan was completed in 2002, with small updates completed in 2009. In addition to this vision project, the MPO is also updating their master plan at this time. Ms. Sondej stated that the new visioning project is timely and will be well utilized.

Ms. Sondej also provided an overview of the Request for Proposal (RFP) of the project and its content. Mr. Levy wanted to know if the RFP included a requirement to engage

other transit entities other than People Mover. Ms. Sondej stated that there are requirements in the RFP that the consultant conduct a series of stakeholder meetings to engage community members both public and private. The timeline for this project will be approximately six months.

Chairman Smith expressed his excitement at this project and is looking forward to the results.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

a. Ridership Report, January-October 2015

The ridership report was provided for PTAB members and the public to review. Mr. Ooms asked how the data from the ridership report is being used to determine the impacts of annual service changes. Ms. Sondej stated that the decreases in ridership have been noticed across all routes, however, where increases in service frequency have been made; there have been noticeable increases in ridership.

Mr. Levy asked if there had been an analysis done by transit staff to see if there is a correlation between gas prices and ridership. Mr. Yelle provided an overview of a project he had worked on to chart ridership for the last seven years as compared to gas prices. He stated there is a slight correlation when comparing trend lines, but there isn't any definitive evidence to suggest a direct correlation.

Mr. Ooms was curious about overall Anchorage School District UPass usage. Mr. Yelle stated that he could provide an additional report with that information for him at the December 10th PTAB meeting.

Mr. Levy wanted to know why the MOA UPass usage was so low. Ms. Sondej stated more effort could be placed on advertising the MOA UPass to municipal employees.

X. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Ooms expressed his gratitude to the transit operators for getting him to work during the periods of severe winter weather Anchorage observed on November 2nd and 9th.

Mr. Levy gave special recognition to Christine Sondej for her work with the Public Transportation Department. Mr. Levy also expressed his excitement about the progress being made at the DTC and is looking forward to seeing what ACDA has planned.

Mr. Smith stated that there is a need to have a meeting with the community councils of Eagle River and Chugiak to see if transit is an interest of theirs or what they would like to see in their transit system.

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Ooms. The meeting adjourned at 6:20PM.

Next Meeting Date:

- a. PTAB regular meeting: December 10, 2015
- b. PTAB regular meeting: January 14, 2016