

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 8, 2011, 5:30 PM
MEETING ROOM, #700, CITY HALL

PRESENT:

Sally Spieker
Jed Smith
Jay Dulany
Dianne Blumer
Tim Sullivan
Justin Kirkelie

STAFF:

Lance Wilber
Sandy Hansen

GUESTS:

Todd Logan
Jeff Manfull

Absent:

Patrick Reinhart
Carol Wren

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chairperson Sally Spieker.

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

After roll call, a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion for approval of the agenda was made. The agenda was approved as submitted.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for February 9, 2012 was approved as submitted unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Todd Logan mentioned that gas prices are anticipated to increase this summer which is an opportunity to promote Public Transportation.

Jeff Manfull stated that he is trying to become involved in Community Councils regarding Transit promotions.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. 2035 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Lance asked members to review the draft resolution to support the 2025 Metropolitan Plan and provide feedback for changes. Lance stated that the Assembly work session would be held in the Mayor's conference room Friday, March 9, 2012, noon to 2:00pm. He urged the board to decide the final resolution prior to the next PTAB meeting in April. Lance stated that the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Advisory board and the Equal Rights Commission had transportation as a key topic of discussion at their last meeting. Both of them supported improvements in public transportation

in the community. The Equal Rights Commission submitted a resolution for support of the AMATS plan.

Resolution suggestions:

Sally mentioned spelling errors and she expressed clarification regarding the fifth “Whereas paragraph” as she is unclear of the message it conveys.

Lance explained that a specific funding source is not dictated through the plan and smaller details are reevaluated continuously as transit needs change in time. He stated that the plan includes Highway to Highway, trails, maintenance of roads/trails and replacement of buses for years to come is another ongoing expense.

Jed stated that 2035 is a long range plan and just a guideline based on past growth and projections.

Tim expressed concern that PTAB would be held to the plan as written and if requirements change, he fears that it will limit changes in the short term.

Lance assured Tim that the plan is reviewed every four years which does not limit the support of the plan as written.

Dianne stated that the plan is not a binding document and it is written as a blueprint to forecast future needs.

After further discussion of the resolution, it was decided to accept the resolution with the suggested punctuation changes.

Sally Spieker motioned to approve the resolution with the small changes. Jed Smith seconded.

All members agreed and there were no objections. The motion was passed unanimously.

Lance stated that he would e-mail members for final approval and Ms. Spieker’s signature.

VII. NEW BUSINESS
a. None

VIII. STAFF REPORTS
a. None

Tim asked about the People Mover bus he had seen off the Glen Highway between Anchorage and Eagle River.

Lance stated that a People Mover driver took evasive action to avoid an accident which placed the bus in the snow covered shoulder of the road. Customers on board praised the driver for his actions to keep them safe. Lance stated that he reviewed the video of the incident recorded on board the bus and it appeared that the result could have been worse.

IX. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Todd Logan suggested to the board that a presentation be made to the Assembly by requesting an 'appearance request' which would elevate the stature of the board. He believes that an appearance would be more significant than just a resolution.

Lance stated that he could request one on Chairperson Spiekers' behalf if desired.

X. BOARD COMMENTS

Jed Smith stated that he had attended a Mat-Su meeting with David Levy to promote coordinated efforts for improved transportation within Alaska. Jed expressed that the meeting went well however, there is a lot to achieve to reach the goal of complete coordination.

Jed provided dates for future Community Council Meetings in March 2012. He said that he plans to complete a "practice run presentation" at Federation of Community Councils (FCC) on March 21 to gauge response to the information provided.

Jed listed several Community Council meetings including Oceanview on March 28; Abbott Loop March 29 and Huffman/O'Malley however he was not sure of the date. He asked PTAB members to inform him if they were interested in participation and additional Community Council meeting dates.

Sally praised two women in Transit that were honored in the 'Top 40 under 40 Alaskan Women' for their achievements in business, Carol Wren, PTAB Member and Chrissy Ditmore, VPSI Coordinator, contractor with People Mover Van Pool services.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm

Next Meeting Date

April 12, 2012. We will convene in Training Conference Room # 700.

Tentative Meeting items: