

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 12, 2012, 5:30 PM

MEETING ROOM, #700, CITY HALL

PRESENT:

Sally Spieker
Jed Smith
Jay Dulany
Patrick Reinhart
Carol Wren

STAFF:

Lance Wilber
Sandy Hansen

GUESTS:

David Levy
Chris Eshleman

Absent:

Tim Sullivan
Justin Kirkelie
Dianne Blumer

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 March 8, 2012 was approved as submitted unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Levy, Alaska Mobility Coalition, provided an update of the Legislative bills in Juneau. He stated that House Bill 131 on Transportation is in the Finance Committee. After much negotiation, \$2 million was allocated to the budget. David expressed that State funding is double last year and he is hopeful for increases in the future.

David stated that Senator McGuire proposed to Alaska Transportation Departments to research the prospect of alternative fuels for vehicles such as natural gas.

He informed members that Senator Ellis has been in support of transit throughout the State of Alaska and to thank him if he is represents your district.

Chris Eshleman stated that he is currently living in Fairbanks however he plans to relocate to Anchorage in the future and he is an active Public Bus user. Chris has used People Mover in the last week and he said that buses are full which prompts him to encourage the People Mover Administration to increase funding and frequency of routes to accommodate increased ridership. He stated that the higher fuel costs are also a consideration for future service.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. NONE*

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None*

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- a. 1st Quarter Budget Revisions*

Lance stated that he received the requested amount of about \$500,000 from the Administration to offset the increasing fuel costs and to increase funding to MV Services for the newly awarded contract for AnchorRIDES. He stated that the 2013 budget proposals are likely due in early July 2012 and he would like feedback from board members prior to July however he acknowledged that the Board does not meet in June or July. Lance requested volunteers to provide feedback and possible meetings for discussion. Lance said that he is planning to offer new routes or restructuring for 2013 which would require budget numbers.

Jed inquired about the new service.

Lance stated that several new or expanded services are under consideration including the Alaska Neighborhood Health Clinic at C Street and International. He said it was requested by VA clients to offer an additional route that would serve the VA clinic or increase the current service offered. Increased Eagle River service is also a consideration.

Members present did not volunteer to be involved in the meetings however, Lance said he would contact Dianne, Justin and Tim not in attendance for interest.

Patrick inquired about providing the numbers at the next meeting in May. Lance agreed to provide more information during the next meeting in Eagle River in May or e-mail members for continued discussion in May.

- b. Site Enhancement Report*

Lance stated that our enhancement crew has been working very hard this year to keep bus stops safe and accessible for customers with the record snowfall. Matt Nolan, crew leader expressed to Lance that challenges included using ice picks and axes to cut up hard mounds of snow. Lance stated that some bus shelter floors were one foot below a build up of packed snow which creates a safety issue throughout the winter.

Patrick suggested that a presentation to the board by Matt Nolan would be appreciated in the fall. Lance agreed.

Sally Spieker and David Levy expressed that pedestrians had a challenging time this winter with the snow and ice and the enhancement crew is appreciated for their work.

IX. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. David Levy declared that Alaska Mobility Coalition was awarded a project from Easter Seals for Transportation services for Senior Citizens and Disabled which would take place in September. He promised to provide more details later.*

X. BOARD COMMENTS

Jed Smith stated that he has completed five presentations at Community Council meetings around Anchorage with positive results. He said that he takes about 5 minutes to talk about bus service in the area, frequency of trips and needs for future goals. Jed utilizes a large People Mover system map as reference and he asks individuals to express the needs of the community regarding public transportation. Jed stated that comments included; 30 minute headways, South Anchorage express service and Airport service with better connections to midtown. He said that he has a sign up list available to encourage those that would like to leave their e-mail address for assembly meeting announcements important to transit.

Jed is optimistic to complete 10 presentations by the end of May considering his schedule to date. He said he will continue to e-mail members of the schedule and encourages those that would like to participant. . Eagle River is on the agenda however the council meets the same day PTAB meets in May and it was suggested Jed plan a presentation after the PTAB meeting.

Jed stated that Community Council leaders have praised him for taking the time to meet with them to present information and the opportunity to provide suggestions. Sally has attended a Community Council meeting with Jed and he always welcomes additional members to attend upcoming meetings in May.

Lance praised Jed and Sally for presenting the AMATS Resolution to the Assembly during the last meeting. The Assembly members were impressed that PTAB made the effort to declare their support for the resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm

Next Meeting Date-

May 10, 2012. We will convene in Eagle River, location TBD.

Tentative Meeting items:

- RTA
- Valley Mover
- Budget 2013