

# PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 10, 2013, 5:30 PM

CITY HALL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM, SUITE 155

## ***PTAB PRESENT:***

Sally Spieker  
Jay Dulany  
Jed Smith  
Patrick Reinhart  
Carlette Mack  
Kevin Jackson

## ***STAFF:***

Sandy Hansen  
Lance Wilber  
Christine Sondej  
Judy Tymick

## ***Guests:***

Shirley Smith	Dennis Handy
Joeseeph Pichler	Michelle Butchko
Buck A. Bloomer	
Jeff Manfull	
Karen Carson	
Todd Logan	
David Levy	

## ***Absent:***

Andrew Ooms  
Tim Sullivan

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chairperson Sally Spieker.

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

After roll call and introduction, a quorum was present.

## ***III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

Lance requested to move item 8a. FTA Triennial Review Site Visit to the beginning to accommodate a guest representing the Triennial. There were no objections. The agenda was approved with an adjustment unanimously.

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

Jed moved to approve minutes for September. Carlette seconded. The minutes for September 12, 2013 were approved as submitted unanimously.

## ***V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

### ***a. Proposed Fare Adjustments for 2014***

Lance stated that the proposed 2014 operations budget for the department included the fines and fees proposal from last year (with AnchorRIDES fees adjusted) as it is grouped into one ordinance. He mentioned that People Mover has not raised fares since 2005 with a slight adjustment to offset fuel costs in 2011. He noted that PTAB did a resolution last year with the proposed fare increase and to use that as a guide to write one that reflects the recommendation of PTAB this year. The Assembly is able to make changes in the proposal. Lance stated that he has met with the ADA commission and the Military Veteran Affairs Commission and both agreed that the fares were reasonable. The consensus from the board is to recommend more service resulted in the increase revenue.

Lance provided a handout detailing the fare proposal for 2014. Adult fare would increase and a new half fare would be half of the adult fare which would include senior citizens, youth, disabled individuals, Medicare card holders and Veterans (new category).

Carlette asked if the Assembly would assume that more service would come with the increased revenue to the Transit budget.

Lance voiced that his understanding of the budget numbers indicate that we would only get half of the estimated \$600,000 (\$300,000) to be available for expanded service.

Sally asked the board if a resolution should be discussed today.

Discussion regarding the amount that the transit department would be able to use for service was unclear and after consideration, the board concurred that more discussion would be best after the meeting with the Mayor to receive clarification.

Lance offered to send Jed resolution outline and Jed can fill in the specifics. Jed agreed.

After further discussion, it was decided more discussion would benefit all after meeting with the Mayor on Monday, Oct 14, 2013.

Sally stated that she and Jed planned to attend the meeting with the Mayor on Monday and other PTAB members are encouraged to join them. Patrick and Kevin volunteered to join the meeting.

*b. 2014 Operating Budget*

Lance provided a copy of the 2014 proposed budget comparing the 2013 numbers to 2014. He stated that the changes include non-labor cost saving requested of all departments, fuel savings, projected increased salaries, MV contract and VRide contract for 2014, and the increased fare proposal.

*c. 2014 Capital Projects*

Lance talked about bonds that are used to pay the match for grant improvements such as the \$8.2 million for Mid-town facility.

David Levy asked about the \$225,000 appropriated through AMC Legislation.

Lance said that he uses it for match and is not included in the budget. He said that he doesn't have the agreement for the appropriated money that was awarded this July as a result of the State 2014 fiscal year

David stated that the Legislators will ask about how the money was used and make decisions for future appropriations.

*VI. NEW BUSINESS*

*a. None*

*VII. STAFF REPORTS*

*a. Triennial Review and Site Visit*

Lance introduced Michelle Butchko, a contractor to the FTA, and gave a brief description of the documentation that FTA requires in the audit.

Michelle Butchko stated that there are 18 areas of tracking and recording of assets that she reviews as part of the audit. She has been reviewing transit agencies since 1996. Michelle stated that she is impressed with the paperwork provided so far.

Shirley Smith asked about assistance with the fare increase proposed as she is a senior citizen on a fixed income.

Michelle acknowledged that budgets are challenging for many people now however, she stated that she is impressed with People Mover's bus system in Anchorage.

Joe Pichler stated that he rides the bus all the time and has used Public Transit in other cities that are reliant on Federal Grants. He is concerned for his friends that use Public transit when there are no seats on the bus and no place to wait for buses.

Michelle acknowledged Mr. Pichler's comments and stated that she uses Public Transportation in New York in which she is required to stand all the time.

*b. Ridership Report / Fuel Status*

Lance stated that the ridership summary report January through September 2013 indicates a slight decrease in ridership from last year although the revenue is steady. Fuel costs are under budget to date.

*c. Project Nominations AMATS*

Lance stated that AMATS is accepting nominations for grant project criteria. The process is open to the public for pilot projects, Highways, Trails and Transit projects. He encouraged others that are interested to get involved.

Patrick asked if a Mid-town Transit center was a project that would be submitted.

Lance affirmed that competitive money for Mid-town and Dimond Transit Center is planned. The Dimond Transit Center is short \$1 million to change the entrance and parking lot traffic pattern and configuration which would allow People Mover to board and disembark passengers from both sides of the facility reducing time in the parking lot.

Todd Logan stated that he is an advocate for Transit. He has been attending AMATS meetings for two years and as a lower hillside resident, he would like to see a South Anchorage Express service offered. Todd provided copies of his draft pilot project for South Anchorage/Hillside Express bus route providing pictures and routing. Todd stated that he included Lance and Operations Superintendant, Jody Karcz for guidance on his project. He acknowledges that once the 3 year pilot project ends, several things could happen; The Assembly may see that the service is needed if successful; People Mover may realize the success and adopt the new route or parts of it; if it is not successful, nothing would happen.

Patrick motioned for PTAB to support Todd's proposal. Jay seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Jay motioned a resolution in support of the Midtown Transit Center. Carlette seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Jed offered to write the resolution. Lance offered to send Jed a rough draft to get him started.

#### *VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS*

- a.* Shirley Smith stated that she is a senior on a fixed income. She is unhappy about the bench at Sears Mall being removed due to people sleeping on it which she says happens at all benches. She requires more benches which would allow her to rest. Shirley suggested that Lowe's or Home Depot could donate and build benches for us and use them to advertise to cover costs.
- b.* Karen Carson stated that the Assembly doesn't ride the bus and if they did, they would not cut the service. She said that the senior fare is an increase of \$10 and it is too much compared to the adult increase of only \$5. AnchorRIDES should still be free for Seniors. Right?

Judy Tymick, Customer Service Manager clarified that Seniors have a required fare however, there is funding for trips with grant money until those trip are exhausted.

- c.* Buck Bloomer announced that he had a petition to place the shelter from inside the Tikahtnu Commons to the bus stop on Muldoon Road for the inbound Route # 75. He also voiced that bus drivers should be more helpful and have better knowledge of the system. Buck asked for service on military bases as he compares us to other cities that do offer service on military bases.

Lance responded to Buck about the bus stop in Tikahtnu Commons is owned by them and it is not ours to remove. He said that he left a message with Tikahtnu to purchase the shelter however he has not received a response.

- d.* Jeff Manfull informed the board that electronic cigarettes are accepted in restaurants and he urged People Mover to address this issue. He recommends that People Mover not accept electronic cigarettes.
- e.* Dennis Handy asked about the shelter in Tikahtnu and if it could be moved to Muldoon. He would like it if People Mover would increase the service.
- f.* Joe Pichler stated that he uses the bus all the time. He expressed that he would like to see the new South Anchorage route go to the Alaska Zoo and South Anchorage Target store.

#### *IX. BOARD COMMENT*

Jay thanked Lance for the approval for his reappointment.

Carlette stated that she cannot attend the November meeting due to vigil at Covenant House.

Patrick also stated that could not attend November meeting.

Kevin stated that he is able to attend the meeting with the Mayor on Monday. Lance asked him to plan to attend.

Jed suggested changing the meeting date for next month due to his inability to attend also. He agreed that more bus stops need accommodations for shelters. He mentioned that there is a facebook page called "No Cuts to People Mover".

Sally stated that shelters are very expensive. She thanked those for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm

Next Meeting Date-

November 14, 2013, City Hall, Assembly Conference Room 155

Tentative Meeting items:

- a. PTAB regular meeting: December 12, 2013 (TBD)
- b. PTAB regular meeting: January 9, 2014 (TBD)
- c. PTAB regular meeting : February 13, 2014