

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

AUGUST 8, 2013, 5:30 PM

CITY HALL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM, SUITE 155

PTAB PRESENT:

Sally Spieker
Jay Dulany
Patrick Reinhart
Kevin Jackson
Carlette Mack
Andrew Ooms
Carol Wren

STAFF:

Lance Wilber
Christine Sondej
Enrico Tutaan

Guests:

Pat Baysinger	Dennis Handy
Valerie Lemaire	David Levy
Beverly Moore	
Samuel A. Moore	
Leslie Kleinfeld	
Katie Judge	
Rose Okpealuk	

Absent:

Jed Smith
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

Jay moved to move agenda item 8a to the top of the agenda to accommodate public comment.

Kevin seconded.

The vote to rearrange the agenda to move agenda item 8a to the top was passed unanimously.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for May 9, 2013 were approved as submitted unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. None

VI. STAFF REPORTS

a. Service Change, Monday August 19, 2013

Lance provided an overview of the service change that will be implemented on August 19, 2013.

The main changes include a realignment of the Route 8 off Staedem Hill, a realignment of the Route 75 to not enter the Tikahtnu Commons shopping center property and instead serve the center on Muldoon, and other minor schedule changes.

Christine added that 5 additional roundtrips would be added to the Route 45 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to alleviate over-crowding issues.

Ms. Baysinger provided comment that she was not in favor of the Route 8 realignment and suggested a different alignment.

Ms. Moore provided comment that she was not in favor of the change to the Route 75. She said that the new stops were a much farther walk into the shopping center. Ms. Kleinfeld provided comment that she also was not in favor to the changes to the Route 75, though she understands the difficulty of the site.

Christine explained where the new stops on Muldoon would be located and the route realignment.

Ms. Baysinger suggested that the shopping center operate a shuttle service around their site.

Ms. Okpealuk had a number of comments including requesting lockers at the downtown transit center, posting rights as a bus rider on the buses, treating inebriates with respect, putting the time back on buses, for buses to take credit cards, and for drivers to wait longer at bus stops.

Ms. Lemaire provided comment that the security needs to be improved at the downtown transit center, including moving benches apart so they are not back to back. Ms. Lemaire stated that she had a few uncomfortable situations occur at the downtown transit center.

Sally thanked everyone for their comments.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2014 Operating Budget – Proposed \$183,900 savings from non-labor, no service cuts

Lance provided an overview of Public Transportation Department proposed 2014 Operating Budget provided to the Administration for consideration that included the directive to provide a 0.8% savings from non-labor costs. Lance said he believed the department was in good shape to meet this goal.

b. 2014 Capital Budget – The Department has requested \$525,000 for 2014 bonds as match to federal funds.

Lance provided an overview of the 2014 Capital Budget which is the same request for bonds as the previous year.

c. Proposed Fare Adjustments for 2014

Lance provided an overview of the costs to run transit and the need for a fare adjustment in 2014. Patrick suggested vouchers for cabs.

A few in the audience commented that the fare increase for seniors was steep.

The board discussed AnchorRIDES costs and fares. Mr. Levy said that maybe transit would want to consider not accepting certain state grants that have requirements to provide more trips than just ADA requires.

Ms. Moore commented that AnchorRIDES was a great service, though she had a few comments to improve its service.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

a. Ridership Report, January – June 2013

A comprehensive ridership report including ridership by route/trip was provided to each member for review.

b. 2013 Budget Status

Lance provided an overview of the 2013 budget and that so far transit is right on track to not leave any money on the table. Lance reported that the budget is \$50,000 ahead on gas expenditures so far.

c. Inebriates on buses and bus stops

Lance provided an overview of previous meetings and conversations that have taken place complaining about inebriates on the buses. Lance asked the board if they had any creative ideas.

d. Triennial Review – FTA report due August 19, FTA site visit Oct 10&11

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. None

VIII. BOARD COMMENT

a. ACDA Meeting Summary

Carol said that any solution needs to involve the individual, and that removing bus stop furniture doesn't solve the problem.

Carlette said that everyone is frustrated and challenged by inebriates. She suggested transit conduct a survey of transit center patrons regarding health and safety. She also suggested looking at potential funding to change the transit center design and better care of the facility.

b. Budget meeting with Mayor Sullivan?

Sally stated that she was invited to meet with Mayor Sullivan to look at property taxes in the Municipality.

Patrick asked about the Museum bus stop sidewalk heating. Lance responded that a deal has been worked out to turn on the sidewalk heating.

Jay said that he met with Sunshine Transit (Talkeetna, Alaska) and that they had a lot of the same problems as Anchorage just on a smaller scale.

Carol said that she was glad she was able to reach out at CITC regarding the service change, and encourages transit to use community resources and places to reach riders to aid in decision-making.

Carlette asked if as a member she could speak to the media on behalf of the PTAB and asked for guidance so the board can speak as one voice.

Lance stated that he would research Carlette's request.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm

Next Meeting Date-

September 12, 2013, City Hall, Assembly Conference Room 155

Tentative Meeting items:

- a. PTAB regular meeting: September 12, 2013 (Staff Report: Operations)
- b. PTAB regular meeting: October 10, 2013 Triennial (?)