

Public Transit Advisory Board
September 14, 2017, 5:30pm-7:00pm
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL ROOM #830

PTAB PRESENT:

Andrew Ooms
Carlette Mack
Guadalupe Lugo
Samuel Moore
Britta Hamre

CITIZENS PRESENT:

Paula James
Isaiah James
Ariana James
Doreen John
Noreen White
Alan Rice
Lena Coffee
Evelyn <illegible>
Karen H Carson
Linda Larson
Bev Wilke
Shy Townes
Daniel Henry
Wendy <illegible>
Kimberly Ansaknok

Scott <illegible>
Cecilia Mauzo
Phillip Nalikak
Rod Meeks
Margaret Campisi
Tammy Tanape
Ephim Kauluck
Cristobal Rosas
Jon Tutax
Andrew Jacoy

PTAB ABSENT:

Jedediah Smith (excused)
Gretchen Wehmhoff

STAFF:

Abul Hassan
Bart Rudolph
Wes Renfrew
Andrew Watts
Suzanne Thompson

Ginger Telles
Patricia M Olson
Renee E Lacy
Melissa Gronnestad

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by **Vice-Chair Carlette Mack**.

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

After roll call a quorum was not present. **Chair Smith's** absence was noted as excused.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement was made to those attending by **Vice-Chair Mack** that there will be a public comment period in which those wishing to make comments will be allowed two minutes.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Noting the absence of a quorum, **Vice-Chair Mack** determined that the Board would proceed to receive public comment while awaiting the arrival of an additional member.

- a. Daniel Henry – **Mr. Henry** stated that he has been riding for 13 years. He asked what was going on with the new schedules and how it would be more efficient when the Department is getting rid of half of the stops. **Mr. Rudolph** explained the Anchorage Talks Transit and service change processes. **Mr. Henry** repeated his concerns that removing so many stops would be inconvenient in winter. **Vice-Chair Mack** explained the process that had been undertaken to arrive at this decision.

Mr. Moore arrived at 5:37pm. A quorum was present for the remainder of the meeting. Open discussion took place among the attendees concerning stops being removed with the new service change.

- b. Margaret Campisi – **Ms. Campisi** noted that the Tudor route only goes as far west as C Street now, not all the way to Minnesota like it used to, leaving a whole section of Tudor unserved. She also asked whether it was possible to have luggage racks on the airport buses. **Director Hassan** replied that this was a very good question and that options are being looked at to equip the Spenard route with luggage racks.
- c. Kimberly Ansaknok – **Ms. Ansaknok** noted that she had attended a previous meeting when marketing staff was on hand, and she asked when the kick-off event for the new system was going to be held. **Mr. Rudolph** advised that it would be on September 23 on the Park Strip. She asked whether marketing had considered her suggestion to have a drawing for a month pass at that event. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that this would be happening.
- d. Julie <last name not given> - **Julie** expressed her concerns about the new schedules and asked when the trip planner tool would be updated with the new information. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that it should be ready by the end of September. She also noted that the Dimond Transit Center is dangerous right now and asked when it would be done and what was being done. **Director Hassan** replied that it is expected to be completed in the next three weeks, and the project includes repaving, drainage improvements, better lighting, and better security. **Mr. Moore** also commented on Director Hassan's point and noted that the construction would also allow buses to pull in to the TC in both directions.
- e. Karen Carson – **Ms. Carson** noted that in the new system she would be cut out entirely and asked if the city was going to plow better, because she has had to cut across the back of BP and has had problems. **Mr. Moore** discussed the importance of everyone persistently contacting their Assembly members, state legislators, Mayor, and state and local DOT concerning the plowing issue, because it's their responsibility, not public transportation's.
- f. Rod Meeks – **Mr. Meeks** noted that it's important to coordinate what gets plowed so that the sidewalks don't get done and then the state immediately comes through and plows the street right back onto the sidewalks. He agreed with the importance of contacting state and local elected officials.
- g. Daniel Henry – **Mr. Henry** asked how to contact your Assembly members. It was discussed that there are maps and tools on the Muni website to find out who your member is, and their names and phone numbers are listed on the site. You can also contact the Clerk's office, and they can put you in touch with the members or their staff.
- h. Isaiah James – **Mr. James** stated that drivers need to keep their phones in their locker instead of having them on the bus, and he also noted that some kids turn up their tablets too loud, and there are also people eating on the bus when you're not supposed to and when drivers have told him not to.
- i. Paula James – **Ms. James** followed up on her son's comments and agreed that drivers shouldn't have their phones on the bus. One driver in particular stays on the phone until 8:17 before driving bus 13 in the morning (which is supposed to leave at 8:15). She also expressed her concerns about people not staying behind the line while the bus is in motion and talking to the drivers while the bus is in motion, in violation of posted signs. **Mr. Renfrew** responded to Ms. James's concerns.
- j. Alan Rice – **Mr. Rice** thanked everyone involved at People Mover for making it so easy to get around.

He's surprised that such a big effort is being made to improve since the service is already a "10" in his book.

- k. Cecelia Mauzo – **Ms. Mauzo** stated that she takes route 2 to Dimond Center and transfers, and sometimes she has issues making transfers because of buses being late. She asked which routes to take in the new system. **Mr. Rudolph** instructed her on taking route 55 to Providence Hospital on the new system, where she will be able to transfer to frequent routes 10 and 20.
- l. Rod Meeks – **Mr. Meeks** mentioned that Honolulu's transit system is using a trip planner tool on its website. **Mr. Rudolph** and **Mr. Moore** stated that this is being implemented with the data for the new system as we speak.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. **Ms. Hamre** seconded the motion. Without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hamre made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11 meeting. **Mr. Ooms** seconded the motion. Without objection, the minutes were approved as submitted.

VII. BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Item 7a – Public Transportation Department Budget

Director Hassan discussed the budget situation for FY18 as it stands today. He noted that the critical dates are October 10, when the budget will be introduced before the Assembly, and October 24, when the Assembly will receive public testimony on the budget. He stressed that this is the opportunity for the Board and the public to get in front of the Assembly and make their voices heard. This is where the government makes budget decisions, and each person is allowed 3 minutes to testify on the record. The Mayor has not made a final decision yet on what will be asked of each department, but officials are working on details now. **Director Hassan** impressed upon the attendees that this Assembly meeting will be the final word on the budget.

Mr. Moore noted that Director Hassan is being politically correct, as he has to be. **Mr. Moore** summarized the previous comments: if you care about public transit or snow removal, be there on October 24 to be heard.

Vice-Chair Mack noted that the Board does not have a vote on the budget, but that the Board has put together a resolution to be forwarded to the Assembly asking for no cut. She stressed that it was important for the people to go and reinforce that message.

BOARD RESOLUTION: Resolution 2017-02 (A Resolution of the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board Supporting Restoration of Funding and Full Financial Support for the 2017 Public Transportation Budget) was introduced as drafted by **Mr. Moore**, who moved to adopt the motion. **Mr. Ooms** seconded the motion to adopt the resolution. There was no further discussion. **Without objection**, the motion was agreed to, and the resolution was adopted.

b. Item 7b – New Bus System Update

Mr. Rudolph discussed the latest updates on the new bus system, including the timetables and route maps that are available now and the ride guide that will be available soon. He also noted that the Department would be having an open house as part of the Heart Walk event on September 23 from 9 AM to noon on the Park Strip. There will also be street teams out at high traffic areas starting on

October 23. They will be providing information on the new system, and there will also be giveaways. Finally, he noted that there was a change to the previously published Route 21 map, which will now extend to provide express service to City Hall.

- c. Item 7c – August 2017 Ridership Report - **Mr. Watts** presented the August 2017 ridership report. He noted that unfortunately YTD ridership is down 5% from 2016, and average ridership is down from 3.2% (for weekdays) to 5.8% (for Sundays). In positive news, route 3, 7, 45, and 75 all averaged more than 1000 weekday passengers last month, with route 45 serving nearly 2000 passengers. Bike ridership is also at its highest of the year, with 3567 bikes counted. **Director Hassan** also noted that the Department is projecting a decrease in revenue. The previous baseline was \$4 million, and this year the Department is projected to only collect \$3.2 million. There will be a new baseline on the new system of \$3 million, all of which is to say that drastic changes were needed and will be taken, provided there are no changes to the 2018 budget.

VIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Lugo had no further comments today.

Ms. Hamre welcomed Mr. Lugo to the Board and thanked the public for attending. She urged them to show up and talk to the Assembly on October 24.

Mr. Ooms also welcomed Mr. Lugo. He noted that there is a lot of outreach going on but that the staff at the Mountain View library were under the impression that there wasn't any printed information available until opening day. He encouraged staff to reach out.

Mr. Moore thanked the public for attending the meeting. He noted that he rides the bus every day. The new systems means that he will have a longer commute, but he believes in the change and in the new system. He stressed that October 24 is vitally important to annoy the Assembly. He encouraged the public to be a squeaky wheel with them to protect funding. He also noted that the drivers are doing a great job.

Vice-Chair Mack thanked the public for attending but also noted that having everyone attend the Assembly meeting is critical. She asked that lists of Assembly members be brought to the next meeting.

IX. NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE

Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2017 – Main Training/Conference Room, Planning and Development Center, 4700 Elmore Road.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore made a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Ooms** seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Municipality of Anchorage
Public Transit Advisory Board Resolution #2017-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORTING
RESTORATION OF FUNDING AND FULL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE 2018 PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the Public Transportation Department includes People Mover fixed route, AnchorRIDES paratransit, and the Share-A-Ride program and provides access to tens of thousands of riders every month; and

WHEREAS, the Public Transportation Department and the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) undertook an 18-month process, culminating in six public hearings and over 600 public comments, to engage the public in the Anchorage Talks Transit planning effort to focus existing resources on efficiencies and increasing ridership; and

WHEREAS, the Public Transportation Department has developed the first system-wide route revision in over 30 years, emphasizing higher frequency on routes with the highest ridership, as well as extending hours to serve customer demand; and

WHEREAS, investment in public transportation, with an emphasis on efficiency and appropriate allocation of resources across Anchorage, will support new land use innovations and development; and

WHEREAS, the department budget has been reduced, eliminating important service and rendering the new system changes unsupported.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board strongly recommends the Administration and the Assembly support Public Transportation, as well as other multi-modal transportation policies by restoring the following funding to the 2017 and 2018 budget:

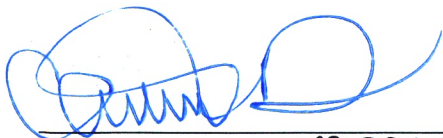
\$147,000 for service on two days that were cut in 2017.

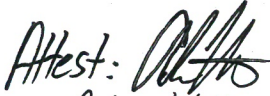
\$79,076 in reductions to fuel supply costs

\$375,000 in reductions during 2017 first quarter budget revisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PTAB supports focusing resources on \$25 million worth of deferred maintenance and capital upgrades to the Public Transportation Department, as well as encouraging collaboration across agencies to ensure the most efficient use of public resources.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board
this 14th day of September, 2017.


~~JEDEDIAH SMITH~~ CARLETTE MACK
Chairman Vice-Chair
(acting chair)

Attest: 
Andrew Watts
Staff Liaison