

Public Transit Advisory Board  
November 7, 2017, 5:00pm  
*Z. J. LOUSSAC LIBRARY, ATRIUM*

**PTAB PRESENT:**

Andrew Ooms  
Jedediah Smith  
Gretchen Wehmhoff  
Samuel Moore  
Britta Hamre

**PTAB ABSENT:**

Guadalupe Lugo

**GUESTS:**

Jillanne Inglis – MoA ADA  
Rashaud Joseph – DOT&PF  
Tom Grman – DOT&PF

**CITIZENS PRESENT:**

Arva Carlson  
Bev Wilke

**STAFF:**

Abul Hassan  
Bart Rudolph  
Suzanne Thompson  
Will Brown  
Andrew Watts

*I. CALL TO ORDER*

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm by **Chair Jed Smith**.

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

After roll call a quorum was present. **Mr. Lugo's** absence was noted as excused.

*III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT*

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

*IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

**Mr. Ooms** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Ms. Wehmhoff** seconded the motion. Without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

*V. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY*

**Chair Smith** invited the members of the public attending to comment.

**Arva Carlson:** Ms. Carlson stated that she moved into her house in 2000, and she has seen services diminish since then. First it was a block away, then a commuter line only, then the nearest service went to one and a half miles away. She stated that her daughter uses a wheelchair, and when route 60 was changed, it took their house from the AnchorRIDES core service area to a premium area. Because of the available bus schedule, neither Ms. Carlson nor her daughter are able to put in a full day of work. They're lucky to have flexible bosses, but other people aren't so lucky. The bus system changes have made it hard to come to public meetings, work out, or socialize. She stated that the lack of service is isolating and dehumanizing and encouraged the Department to change the service hours in

south Anchorage to allow more flexibility.

**Ms. Wehmhoff** asked Ms. Carlson to clarify that she was stating the changes in service limited her ability to work or to work out. She also asked if AnchorRIDES was able to help her out. **Ms. Carlson** stated that the issue was the timeframe when service is available. **Ms. Inglis** and **Mr. Joseph** engaged in a dialogue with Ms. Carlson about her concerns from their perspective as Municipal ADA and State DOT&PF Civil Rights personnel, respectively.

No other members of the public presented themselves to comment.

## *VI. BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS*

### *a. Item 7a – Officer Nominations: Chair and Vice-Chair*

**Chair Smith** moved the opening of nominations to the end of the meeting to allow more time for Mr. Lugo to arrive.

### *b. Item 7b – BOARD RESOLUTION: Resolution 2017-03 (A Resolution of the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board Supporting an Application for the SFY2019 Alaska Mental Health Trust Grant)*

**Chair Smith** read the text of the resolution (attached) into the record. **Mr. Ooms** asked whether this resolution was meant to accompany the grant application. **Mr. Rudolph** replied that it was. **Ms. Hamre** asked whether this was a new funding source. **Mr. Rudolph** replied that it is not, only a request for a new year of funding. **Chair Smith** asked whether staff knew what percentage of the service is funded by the AMHT grant. That information was not available on hand at meeting time.

**Mr. Moore** moved to adopt the resolution as presented. **Ms. Wehmhoff** seconded the motion to adopt the resolution. There was no further discussion. **Without objection**, the motion was agreed to, and the resolution was adopted. A signed copy of this resolution is attached and the original is on file at the Public Transportation Department offices.

### *c. Item 7c – New Bus System Ridership*

**Mr. Watts** presented the ridership figures for the first two weeks under the new bus system and noted that there has been a decrease in total riders, as predicted, though considering the consistent decrease in ridership over the past several years, the decrease with the new system is not as large as it looks. **Mr. Moore** asked how long staff expected ridership to decrease before recovering, and **Mr. Rudolph** replied that it was expected to be at least a year, but other cities have seen decreases for two. **Mr. Ooms** asked whether data was available on a route-by-route basis, and **Mr. Rudolph** clarified that route-level data is spotty for at least the first week and possibly longer, owing to the number of new drivers being trained on the system. **Mr. Ooms** also asked how much of an increase there was in Sunday service compared to the old system, and **Mr. Rudolph** stated that he doesn't have the numbers in front of him, but it's around twice as much, since frequencies doubled on several routes and service span was extended several hours.

### *d. Item 7a – Officer Nominations: Chair and Vice-Chair*

**Chair Smith** noted that it has been some time since officer elections were held for the Board and opened the floor for nominations for a new Chair and Vice-Chair. He expressed his desire to retire as Chair, while serving out his remaining Board term, while Vice-Chair Mack's term has ended, and she has rotated off the Board. **Chair Smith** noted that nominations would be taken at this meeting and new officers would be elected at the December meeting.

**Mr. Ooms** nominated **Ms. Hamre** for Chair.

**Mr. Moore** nominated **Mr. Lugo** for Vice-Chair.

No further nominations were made.

#### *VII. BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS*

**Mr. Moore** noted that it has been an exciting first couple of weeks, with as smooth a roll-out as could be, and he commends staff for that. He reminded the public that if you think transit is important, you should go bother the Assembly about it.

**Ms. Wehmhoff** stated that she came to the Board because she was frustrated about what was going on with service in Chugiak and Eagle River. The way to make a change is to be a part of change. She stated that she now has a better picture and can better help from inside. She stated that she's going to tell the Assembly that we need people to be able to get to work.

**Ms. Hamre** stated that as a Board, they should look at strategic partnerships and grassroots organizing. While it's been a relatively smooth transition to the new system, that's not to minimize the impact it's had on people.

**Mr. Ooms** thanked Chair Smith for his service and recommended that people should stay and testify to the Assembly.

**Chair Smith** encouraged people to stick around. It's important for the Assembly to hear how things are going, good or bad. He also reiterated the process and history of the Anchorage Talks Transit project that led to the implementation of the new system.

**Chair Smith** invited **Ms. Inglis** to introduce herself and her role. She did so, and she also discussed the efforts that the Muni is taking toward ensuring better access to bus stops through prioritizing snow removal. **Chair Smith** mentioned that after Sunday's snow event, he was pretty impressed with the efforts taken to clear access.

#### *VIII. NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE*

Next Meeting Date: December 14, 2017 – Mayor's Conference Room (#830), City Hall.

#### *IX. ADJOURNMENT*

**Ms. Wehmhoff** made a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Hamre** seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

**Municipality of Anchorage  
Public Transit Advisory Board Resolution #2017-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORTING AN  
APPLICATION FOR THE SFY2019 ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST GRANT.

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Mental Health Trust (AMHT) has provided funding to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to support AMHT activities in the Region; and

**WHEREAS**, DOT&PF has issued a call for grant applications for SFY2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage Public Transportation Department (PTD) has received AMHT funding in SFY2018, which supports the AnchorRIDES paratransit program and the service it provides to the target populations of elderly, disabled, and AMHT beneficiaries; and

**WHEREAS**, PTD provides a program of AnchorRIDES services as part of the SFY2019 AMHT grant application; and

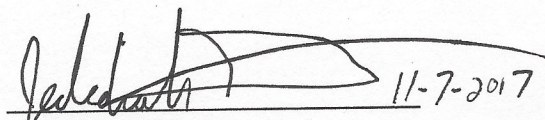
**WHEREAS**, DOT&PF is to staff, support, and administer the AMHT grant program requiring a 20% match of local funds; and

**WHEREAS**, a resolution of the Board is required as a part of the AMHT grant application by PTD.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board strongly supports the AnchorRIDES program and the services it provides to the target populations of elderly, disabled, and AMHT beneficiaries in the Anchorage area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board supports the application by PTD for SFY2019 funding under the AMHT grant program.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board  
this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

  
JEDEDIAH SMITH  
Chairman