

Public Transit Advisory Board  
October 11, 2018, 5:30 p.m.  
*MOUNTAIN VIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY, COMMUNITY ROOM*

**PTAB PRESENT:**

Andrew Ooms  
Doug Miller  
Gretchen Wehmhoff  
Elijah Haines  
Samuel Moore

**STAFF:**

Jamie Acton  
Wes Renfrew  
Bart Rudolph  
Nicholas Abugel  
Christine Schuette  
Alison Gutacker  
Will Brown

**CITIZENS PRESENT:**

Christopher Prepec	Jennifer D. Kotyk
Alan Rice	Karsanolra Upton
Iris Crothers	Graciela Paz
Tyler Crotheis	Dani Sodsuk
Brenda Crothers	Wendy Williams
Bev Willa	Samuel Williams
Jillanne Inglis	Ezekiel Williams
David Bornman	Neheriah Williams
Pat O.	Ishmael Prado
Jon Anders	Joseph Prado
Irene Smith	Karen Carlson
Elenor Tomagannk	
Richard	

*I. CALL TO ORDER*

**Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff** called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff, Mr. Andrew Ooms, Mr. Doug Miller, Mr. Elijah Haines, Mr. Samuel Moore** were present. After roll call, a quorum was present.

*III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT*

An announcement was made by **Ms. Wehmhoff** to those in attendance that there would be a public comment period in which those wishing to make comments would be allowed two minutes each.

Comments would also be accepted after any agenda item. Comments would be accepted both during the public comment period and during the agenda item period so long as the comment made during the agenda period related to that item.

*IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA*

The October 11, 2018 agenda was approved unanimously.

*V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

The September 13, 2018 minutes were approved unanimously.

*VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY*

**David Bornman** – Stated that on the route 21 there weren't any stops between the stop on Debarr and Bragaw and the next one at Pine and San Raberto. He suggested adding stops in that area.

**Karen Carlson** – Stated that she would like to see route 60 restored in order to provide more service to South Anchorage.

**Crag Williams** – Stated that he was upset about the removal of route 45. He is concerned about his girlfriend and daughter walking in Mountain View early in the morning (6:00 a.m.) to catch the bus. He would like the direct service that route 45 provided from inner Mountain View to Providence Hospital restored given that it arrived closer to his home and did not require a transfer.

**Patricia Olson** – Stated that she agreed with Mr. Williams; she is concerned about safety when walking to the bus.

**Unidentified** – Stated that she was very happy using feedback cards at customer service. She would suggest to anyone that has a comment to fill out a feedback card and turn it in at customer service.

**Irene Hilliard** – Stated that she lives in the Jewel Lake area and is a long time bus rider. She explained that things have changed and she would like to see more benches and stops between Strawberry and Raspberry Rd for route 65. She used to see a lot of seniors sitting and waiting for the bus in that area however, the removal of some of the stops and benches have made the access to public transit in that area difficult for seniors.

Public comment was closed at 6:00 p.m.

## **VII. BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **a. PTAB vacancies**

- i. **Ms. Wehmhoff** stated that there are three vacancies, one of which needs to be filled with a person with disabilities. She also said that she had sent interested parties email links to apply to the board.

### **b. MOA Operating Budget Update**

- i. **Ms. Acton** stated that the Anchorage Assembly received the proposed budget on October 9<sup>th</sup> and are now assessing it. People Mover received a continuation budget with the potential for an increase of about \$527,000 which allows People Mover to maintain its current level of service. The increase could potentially convert contract drivers to PTD staff. Currently, PTD is looking into the possible benefits of these changes. These changes could potentially happen in July of 2019. She also stated that the public may have seen an article or video in the news describing problems associated with the contractor. **Ms. Acton** stated that this was not the case; PTD was only considering bringing those contract employees in-house due to the possible budget increase.
- ii. **Ms. Acton** stated that PTD was also preparing a bond package in the range of 1.5 million dollars related to capital improvements.
- iii. **Ms. Acton** stated that People Mover was awarded a capital grant for 4.2 million dollars which would allow the purchase of intelligent transportation systems (hardware and software). This will impact riders by providing PTD staff with up to date hardware and software which they could then use to improve the current system.
- iv. **Mr. Moore** motioned to provide a resolution from PTAB in support of the 2019 Operating Budget related to capital improvements in the range of 1.5 million dollars. **Mr. Miller** seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

c. Ridership Update

i. Item 6g – Chugiak Senior Center Ridership

1. **Mr. Renfrew** stated that last year PTD was contracted to provide 775 rides out to the Eagle River area through PTD's contractor, MV Transit. This year, when PTD switched over to the Chugiak Senior Center in July, they provided by month: 300 in July, 342 in August and 329 in September. Senior trips provided by month: 440 in July, 443 in August and 381 in September for a total of 2235 in a 3-month period, versus 775 rides PTD saw last year.

b. Route 60 Historical Data

- i. **Mr. Rudolph** described a map which was provided. The map was from the 2016 Choices report showing the number of boardings per day by the dot size represented on the map. The map shows that ridership decreased after the Dimond Center heading south towards Huffman. **Mr. Rudolph** also provided the productivity numbers of route 60 (22.3 riders per service hour). Productivity helps compare routes by showing the number of passengers per service hour available. This number helped summarize how route 60 and others compare to each other by showing how many people were riding the bus by every hour that the bus was in service. In comparison, route 40 during the same time period was servicing 40 passengers per service hour. Ultimately, route 60 was removed because of low ridership. **Mr. Miller** thanked Mr. Rudolph for his explanation of why both route 60 and route 36 were removed. He reiterated and compared route 36 to route 60; both displayed low productivity which helped clarify why they were removed.

c. Short-Range Transit Plan

- i. **Ms. Schuette** stated that during the last meeting the short-range transit plan was named "Transit On the Move." The plan going forward would be to review the last year's data to help guide PTD on how to proceed. **Ms. Schuette** then spoke about the timeline and how it was structured. She stated that right now Transit On the Move is in the scoping stage. Currently, PTD is finalizing the layout of the plan and getting ready to analyze data.
- ii. Plan Logo
  1. **Ms. Schuette** presented the logo. **Mr. Miller** and **Ms. Wehmhoff** both stated that they liked the logo.
- iii. Stakeholder & Interagency Committee List
  1. **Ms. Schuette** stated that the stakeholder and interagency lists which were provided to PTAB were open to comment and could be added to in the future. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that those lists would need to be voted on at this meeting. **Mr. Moore** moved to approve the stakeholder and interagency lists. **Mr. Miller** seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- iv. Eagle River Route Options
  1. **Ms. Wehmhoff** suggested that the two vehicles currently being used to transport passengers from the Eagle River Transit Center to Anchorage be split and one vehicle be used to pick up passengers at the same stops as the previous route 102. **Ms. Acton** explained that the grant which provides funding for those two buses includes a condition related to the route's total revenue miles which precludes them from being split to provide additional mileage in the Eagle River/Chugiak area.

## *II. NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE*

Next Meeting Date: October 11, 2018, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Location TBD)

Comments:

**Mr. Ooms** thanked PTD staff for setting up a conference line so he could attend the meeting remotely.

**Mr. Miller** stated that he was recently in Minneapolis (St. Paul) and that he has a relative who is a bus driver for the bus system there. Through conversations with his relative, **Mr. Miller** discovered that the People Mover system has advantages over other cities. He recommended that people talk to individuals in other cities and try to discover positives or negatives about each system.

**Ms. Wehmhoff** stated that she rode the bus on September 19. She was impressed by the professionalism shown by the bus drivers. She also stated that she heard from other passengers that they would like route 25 to go into the Tikahtnu Commons rather than just stopping at the VA Health Clinic. **Ms. Wehmhoff** stated that it would be useful to have a sign on the bus informing customers where they could buy passes. She also stated that there was only one bus that had a Ride Guide available. Additionally, it would be nice to have a bus that went around the Providence Hospital campus. **Ms. Wehmhoff** also mentioned that she thought route 40 should be promoted a bit more; it is a useful route given that it services the airport late into the night. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that PTD is currently promoting route 40 by providing additional signage at the airport and giving away route 40 luggage tags promoting the service.

**Mr. Moore** stated that he would like to congratulate Mr. Rudolph for his appearance on KTUU earlier in the day. **Mr. Moore** also stated that for the last two weeks he had been riding routes 35 and 10 and on text a stop he sees buses that are not coming. He also would like to see a map of all the stops not currently in service that have received bus stop accessories (pored slabs, seating, etc.) **Mr. Rudolph** stated that PTD would be able to show route stops that were in service last year but that older stops would be difficult to locate. **Mr. Moore** also asked about the Dimond Transit Center and its status. **Ms. Acton** informed him that PTD is currently working with the FTA to complete the project and is hoping that it will be open in December or January.

**Mr. Haines** seconded Mr. Ooms statement and thanked PTD staff for setting up a conference line so he could attend the meeting remotely.

## *III. ADJOURNMENT*

**Mr. Moore** motioned to adjourn. **Mr. Miller** seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.