

Public Transit Advisory Board
December 13, 2018, 5:30 p.m.
ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM (#155), CITY HALL

PTAB PRESENT:

Doug Miller
Elijah Haines
Gretchen Wehmhoff
Samuel Moore

STAFF:

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

CITIZENS PRESENT:

G. Paz
Terry Sharkey
Melinda G.
Alan B. Rice
Linda Larsen
Ber Willco
Dawn Groth
Lenora Morford
Brenda Crothers
Tyler Crothers
Iris Crothers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff, Mr. Samuel Moore, Mr. Doug Miller, Mr. Elijah Haines, were present. **Mr. Andrew Ooms** had an excused absence. After roll call, a quorum was not present.

Ms. Wehmhoff asked the People Mover staff present to introduce themselves to the public. All People Mover staff in attendance introduced themselves by name and title.

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 November 8, 2018 agenda was not approved due to lack of a quorum.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 8, 2018 minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.
The December 13, 2018 minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Alan Rice – Stated that he wanted to thank People Mover for providing free bus passes at PTAB meetings.

Public comment was closed at 5:45 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. **Ms. Acton** stated that there is a potential new board member in the audience today. **Ms. Dawn Groth** stated that she is currently being considered to join the board by the Anchorage Assembly and has been an avid bus rider since 1990. She also stated that she works for the State of Alaska in public health. She stated that one of the most important things people can do is try to walk 20–30 minutes a day and public transit is a great way to get people physically engaged.

b. Ridership Update

- i. **Mr. Rudolph** – Stated that for November, ridership is up about 3%, even with the effects from the earthquake. **Mr. Rudolph** also stated that Saturday and Sunday ridership continues to skyrocket.

c. AnchorRIDES Resolution

i. Resolution submitted with AMHT grant application

1. **Mr. Hermes** – Stated that the Alaska Mental Health Trust grant supports paying for ADA clients ridership. AnchorRIDES requested about \$230,000 in the application; this grant is an important source of funding for the AnchorRIDES program. **Mr. Hermes** thanked the board for the resolution they provided.

d. Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP): Transit On the Move

i. System Report Card

1. **Mr. Rudolph** – Presented a draft of the People Mover Transportation System Report Card. **Mr. Rudolph** explained the intention of the report card was to look back after a year and evaluate how the system restructures did. He described the data collected in the report as a baseline/benchmark moving forward. Changes or adjustments that could be made to the system would be from information gathered through the construction of this report.
2. **Mr. Rudolph** – Described the various features of the report card. He explained that every route is organized onto two pages and each includes the following information: map, route length, hours of operation, number of buses needed to operate the route, average speed, average ridership, on-time performance, productivity, the percent of jobs and residents within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, the cost per passenger, and annual operating cost and a graph showing ridership by trip. Also, included on the last four pages is information on AnchorRIDES and RideShare programs.

e. Board Member Requested Items

i. People Mover communication after earthquake (Sam Moore)

1. **Mr. Moore** – Stated that he wanted to commend the department for getting the word out that People Mover was ceasing operations on the day of the earthquake. **Ms. Acton** thanked the People Mover staff for their actions/decision making while she was out of town. **Mr. Moore** asked if People Mover would be eligible for any federal disaster funding. **Ms. Acton** stated that the FTA set up a crisis center and they were looking into potential funding. **Mr. Hanes** asked what the decision making process was to stop service. **Mr. Renfrew** explained that from conversations with EOC, People Mover did not know the scale of damage that was present in Anchorage at the time (down power lines, damaged bridges, etc.). **Mr. Renfrew** elaborated that the drivers were instructed to finish their routes, then return back to base. AnchorRIDES buses operated in a similar manner excluding those with pre-scheduled dialysis appointments.

VIII. NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE

Next Meeting Date: January 10, 2018, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Location TBD)

Comments:

Mr. Miller – Wanted to congratulate People Mover staff on a job well done with the route report card. He also appreciated the additional signage at the airport.

Mr. Moore – Stated that he was still confused why FTA mandates that all buses must be distributed equally around the city. **Mr. Moore** was referencing buses with luggage racks on routes other than the 40, which is the only route that services the airport.

Ms. Wehmhoff – Thanked People Mover for its response during the earthquake. **Ms. Wehmhoff** also mentioned that she is running for an Assembly seat, and if selected she would not be able to attend PTAB meetings concurrently with a commitment to the Assembly.

Mr. Hanes – Apologized for his absence at the last meeting and congratulated People Mover staff for both their response during the earthquake and the route report card. **Mr. Hanes** also asked if it was possible to build an accessible version for the blind. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that that there wasn't one currently but that People Mover would look into the possibility.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.