



**Municipality of Anchorage
Public Transit Advisory Board
Meeting Agenda
June 8, 2023; 5:30-7:00 P.M.**

Public Meeting: Proposed Service Changes

(Presentation by staff followed by PTAB/public comments.)

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Public Involvement Announcement:

Audience participation at this meeting is limited to the Public Comments section of the agenda. However, the Chair may open any agenda item for public comment. Written comments will be addressed first, then verbal comments on a first-recognized basis by the Board Chair. Each commenter should state their name so it can be recorded in the minutes. Commenters will have two minutes to speak on each agenda item they wish to comment on. If you used the call-in number, please mute yourself when not speaking by dialing *6. A recording is being made of this meeting and will be posted on the Municipal website.

5. Action / Information Items

- A. Minutes of the May 11, 2023, Meeting (Action Item)
- B. Director's Update (Information Item)
- C. Operations Update (Information Item)
- D. Ridership Update (Information Item)
- E. Op-Ed (Action Item)

6. Public Comments [2 minutes each]

7. Member Comments

8. Adjournment

Next PTAB Meeting Date:

PTAB Regular Meeting – Thursday, July 13, 2023

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Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB)

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2023, 5:30–7:00 p.m.



Call to Order

Ms. Sarah Preskitt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

PTAB Members Present

CB Brady
Doug Miller
Nathaniel Lackey
Peter Hill
Sarah Preskitt

Citizens Present

Joey Procell
Kyle Mielke
Maija DiSalvo
Melinda Gant

PTAB Members Absent

Michael Williams
Ric Nelson

After the roll call, it was identified that a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Peter Hill moved to approve the May 11, 2023, agenda.

Mr. CB Brady seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

Public Involvement Announcement

Ms. Sarah Preskitt read the public involvement announcement.

Action/Information Items

A. Minutes of the April 13, 2023, meeting (Action Item)

Mr. Peter Hill moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2023.

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey seconded the motion.

The motion passed without objection.

B. Director's Update (Info Item)

Information was provided by Ms. Jamie Acton.

C. Operations Update (Info Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Matthew Martino.

D. October 2023 Service Change (Info item)

Information was provided by Mr. Bart Rudolph and Mr. Randy Brown.

E. Ridership Update (Info Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Nicholas Abugel and Mr. Bart Rudolph.

Public Comments

Public comments received are as follows:

From C. C. Malm:

I just completed the bus rider questionnaire. It does not provide a space for individual comment, which I believe is needed.

I wish to notify the transit authorities that this winter I was forced to stop riding the bus and had to start driving my own auto for all purposes, because the bus stops and sidewalks leading to the bus stops were so covered with snow. All along many streets (incl. No. Lts Blvd and DeBarr between downtown and Muldoon), road snow plows pushed banks (walls) of snow up against the sidewalks. Later, even when sidewalks were cleared, the high bank of snow at the bus stops made it dangerous for me to board the bus.

I finally gave up, stayed home far more than usual, and when i did have to go out, I drove my own vehicle. Since I ride the bus, esp. in the winter and snow, to avoid the dangers of driving, I felt less safe this winter than I ever have when I had to go somewhere.

The PeopleMover transit authorities must insist that muni and state road plows stop creating dangers for pedestrians and bus riders just to accommodate cars. Though I have been a regular, daily bus rider for years, since November until just recently in May, I have ridden the bus only once. That is bad for me, bad for bus ridership, bad for the community in every way. Only PeopleMover can ensure that bus stops are safe and clear enough for passengers to get to the bus stops and to be able to board the bus once there. At age 79, I won't try to crawl or climb over a high, unstable bank of snow, hoping that I don't slip and fall under the bus wheels before I can get on board.

C. C. Malm
frequent bus rider (until this winter)

From Melinda Gant:

Thanked People Mover's Operations department, particularly Mr. Wes Renfrew, for assisting her in activating the bus driver space at the back of the downtown transit center. She also extended her thanks to Ms. Whitney Tillman and Mr. Randy Brown for their assistance on other projects.

Member Comments

Mr. CB Brady thanked the other board members for all the work they have completed and expressed gratitude to the Public Transportation Department staff for their efforts. He also inquired about the status of PTAB board member applications. Ms. Jamie Action replied that five applications are currently under review.

Mr. Doug Miller commented that it was a productive meeting.

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey expressed his excitement about the upcoming Service Change in October. He also mentioned that some of the announcements on the buses have been difficult to hear.

Mr. Peter Hill shared his anticipation for the Service Change in October. Additionally, he noted that some of the timing for the announcements can be triggered at questionable times.

Ms. Sarah Preskitt informed the board about a work session scheduled for May to collaborate on an Op-Ed. She expressed her enthusiasm about the ongoing work.

Adjournment

Mr. CB Brady moved to adjourn the PTAB meeting of May 11, 2023, at 6:24 PM.

Mr. Peter Hill seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The next PTAB meeting will be held on June 8, 2023, from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Abugel
Transit Planning Technician

For details of the board's discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting on the municipal website at

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/Pages/PublicTransitAdvisoryBoard.aspx>

Beat the airport parking blues: Ride People Mover Routes 40 or 65

On reading Tess Williams's article, "Construction will worsen parking chaos at Anchorage airport through busy summer season" on March 24, 2023. We were surprised to see that an important option was not mentioned that would help to avoid parking hassles.

People Mover routes 40 and 65 both provide reliable transportation from downtown and Dimond Center transit centers to Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Route 40 is the Spenard Loop operating between the Downtown Transit Center, via L St., Spenard Road, and Airport Road with one-way route times taking about 30 minutes. If you catch Route 40 from stops along Spenard Road your transit times will be less than 30 minutes to arrive at the airport. Route 40 also offers frequent service (arriving every 15 minutes).

Similarly Route 65 is the Jewel Lake Loop departing Dimond Transit Center, via Dimond Blvd., W 88th Ave, Jewel Lake Road and Airport Road and arrives at the airport about 30 minutes later. First buses depart for both routes at about 6:00 am arriving at 6:30am the last bus for Route 40 is 11:12 pm arriving at the airport at 11:43pm. This means you can still catch that Alaska Airlines Red-Eye at 1:55am to get you to Seattle in time for breakfast!

Weekend routes start later and end earlier. People Movers strives to have buses arrive on time 85% of the time. Basic fares are \$2, that's at least \$20 cheaper than that taxi or Uber and about \$10/ day cheaper than short-term parking.

Use People Mover, we think you'll find it an effective option to save money, reduce carbon emissions, and avoid the airport parking blues.