

Public Transportation Roundtable Meeting Notes
July 17, 2008
Panhandle Area Council

Attendees:

Harry Amend, Salvation Army/Kroc Center
John Austin, PAC
Pearl Bouchard, Area Agency on Aging
Bill Brannan, Northwestern Trailways
Gary Chiasavalli, TESH
Joe Crowe, KATS/NICE
Amy Dreps, Disability Action Center
Judy Gray, Id. Dept. of Labor
Donna Hansen, Harrison resident
Al Hassell, City of Coeur d'Alene
Laurie Hassell, Citizen Advocate
Kevin Howard, WHD
Emily Jenkins, Citizen
Ron Koontz, City of Dalton Gardens
John Krause, ITD
Marv Lekstrum, LHD/KMPO
Rex Lettan, Real Life Ministries
Carolyn Mattoon, Dirne CHC
Rod Mitchell, Citylink
John Pankratz, ESHD
Karen Roetter, Senator Mike Crapo's Office
Bob Spalding, CDA Tribe
Ryan Stewart, STA
Christa Womochil, KMC Transport

KMPO Staff:

Glenn Miles
Carole Richardson
Staci Lehman
Jenny Wash

1. Glenn Miles welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending. Attendees went around the room and introduced themselves.
2. The first order of business was to elect a Chairperson. Pearl Bouchard suggested that a secret ballot system be used to do so. Someone immediately verbally nominated Ms. Bouchard and there was a second. Ms. Bouchard was unanimously elected to be Committee Chairperson. She asked Glenn Miles to continue to chair the meeting as she did not come prepared to do so.
3. Miles asked for public comment. Laurie Hassell stated that she is a Board member of the North Idaho Centennial Trail Association and was attending the meeting to ask members of the Roundtable to please include all forms of transportation when considering Kootenai County's future, including walking and biking.

4. John Austin of the Panhandle Area Council presented a 'Funding 101' primer. He handed out worksheets showing the FTA 5307 Budget for fiscal year 2008-09 and talked about how there is a gap in service for paratransit users and not enough funding to fill it. He pointed out that currently the Citylink system is completely free to users and that a way to raise money to increase service may be to start charging riders, even if it's only a nominal fee such as 50 cents per ride, as there is an average of 34,000 people who utilize Citylink on a monthly basis. Al Hassell suggested that there should be a way for people to make donations for transit service, either with a collection box on the busses, or through some other method.

The possibility of morphing the Roundtable committee into a public transportation authority in order to coordinate all funding was suggested by Glenn Miles at this point.

Donna Hansen emphasized the need for increased bus service, especially in Harrison where she is from, and St. Maries. She said that people in the outlying areas are skipping doctors' and other appointments due to the cost of gas to get there. Glenn Miles said that Citylink is in the process of determining the feasibility of running four bus trips per day all the way around the lake, and looking at the costs to do so.

5. Rod Mitchell of Citylink brought up the need for a central transit center. He said that Citylink facilities are spread all over the area, with the offices being in one part of town, the garages in another, and nighttime bus parking in a completely different area. He said the distance between all the facilities is affecting their ability to operate a seamless service. Mr. Mitchell said he would prefer a transit center to be located in a central location but property values may dictate otherwise. Glenn Miles said that at one time, a piece of surplus property at I90 and Ramsey Road was considered as a location for a 75-car park and ride, but that it's not big enough for a larger facility. Laurie Hassell showed support for this location as a possible park and ride because the new Kroc Center is nearby, as is the new Prairie Trail, which connects to the Centennial Trail at Riverstone.
6. The need for public transit connectivity between Spokane and Post Falls/Coeur d'Alene was brought up. Carole Richardson said that she had met with Ryan Stewart of Spokane Transit Authority regarding the issue and they decided the first issue to tackle is how to provide a commuter service. Al Hassell pointed out that the only hole in the system where there is no public transit provided on either side of the Stateline is between Cabelas and Liberty Lake. Bill Brannan suggested a mix of services, as some people would get discouraged if they had to make connections. He suggested doing an express service that goes directly to downtown Spokane from Kootenai County during the peak times, as well as a through service that offers at least a few stops along the way. Laurie Hassell spoke to her experience with

transit and the need for continuous service without making riders transfer between systems. Bill offered to serve on a subcommittee for the Spokane Connection. Other subcommittee members should include Laurie Hassell, Ryan Stewart and Citylink.

7. Glenn Miles passed out a list of potential planning studies for KMPO to conduct in fiscal year 2009 and said it needed to be narrowed down to two or three priority projects. The group decided that the priority projects are (in this order): Kootenai County Transit Center Feasibility Study, Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Transit Service, Lake Coeur d'Alene Ferry Feasibility Study.
8. The question of whether to form a public transportation authority was brought up again. Ms. Bouchard suggested contacting Pocatello's transit authority to see if someone could come talk to the committee about what they have accomplished.

Harry Amend informed the group that the Kroc Center is scheduled to open on the weekend of April 3, 4, and 5.

John Krause talked about the IMAP project and how they are in the process of developing mobility plans for Idaho, which includes dividing the state up into 18 areas.

Carole Richardson reminded the group of the action items that came out of the meeting which were:

Task	Assigned to
1. Report to KMPO Board on 8-7-08	Pearl Bouchard
2. Research and implement donation program	John Austin
3. Invite Pocatello RPTA to speak to the Roundtable	Carole Richardson
4. Set up subcommittee for connecting to Spokane	Carole Richardson
4. Draft KMPO's Unified Planning Work Program ("UPWP") for 2009 to include ferry feasibility study, commuter service between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, and transit center study.	Carole Richardson

The meeting was adjourned just before noon.