

Public Transportation Roundtable Meeting Notes  
April 21, 2009  
Coeur d'Alene Public Library

**Attendees:**

Chair, Pearl Bouchard, Area Agency on Aging  
Al Hassell, City of Coeur d'Alene  
Laurie Hassell, Citizen at Large  
Vice Chair, John Austin, PAC  
Marv Lekstrum, LHD/KMPO  
Stan Griswold, The Land Group, Inc.  
Andrew Murphy, Citylink  
Bill Brannan, Northwest Trailways  
Bob Spalding, CDA Tribe  
Helen Stephens, NICE  
Jill Bowes, City of Hayden  
Toby Ruhs, KMC

**KMPO Staff:**

Ryan Stewart  
Jenny Wash  
Tiara Schmidt

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Pearl Bouchard welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending. Ms. Bouchard asked those attending to introduce themselves.

**2. Approval of the January 13, 2009 Minutes**

**Laurie Hassell made a motion to approve the January 13, 2009 meeting minutes. John Austin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**3. Public Comments**

No public comments were given.

**4. Old Business**

**a. Transit Center Location Study Update/Presentation**

Stan Griswold, consultant from The Land Group, Inc., provided an update and presentation on the Transit Center Location Study and identified possible location sites of an intermodal transit facility. Mr. Griswold explained how data was gathered from other studies and transit providers, in addition to a review of corridors, connections to trailheads, and existing Citylink fixed routes. He described and displayed the potential site as being in the vicinity of I-90 and Ramsey Road with half-mile and quarter-mile radius visuals coming from the chosen center point to represent 5 and 10 minute walks for transit riders. Based on their criteria, 5 potential sites are proposed for the I-90/Ramsey area. Mr.

Griswold discussed the next steps in the study which includes contacting property owners, scheduling a public meeting to discuss sites, the opportunities and constraints of proposed sites, rating the chosen sites, and preparing a detailed conceptual plan of the site. The determination of a preferred site and alternate sites is expected to be completed by June 2009 with the final report available in July.

A timeline of the facility construction was discussed; Ryan Stewart noted the possibility of securing funds from an appropriations request for design and construction by 2010.

Bill Brannan noted the need for an ordinance stating that all transit providers use the intermodal facility once in place. He also commented on the importance of an intermodal facility having consistent and continuous hours of operation.

### **b. ARRA (Stimulus) Transit Projects Update**

Ryan Stewart provided an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding for transit projects. The package that was proposed for the urbanized area for stimulus funding was approved for \$1.3 million. Included in the package is \$700,000 for environmental and final design work toward a transit center facility, funding for two buses, one maintenance vehicle and one para-transit vehicle for Citylink, and two vehicles for the Kootenai Medical Center's medical shuttle service. KMPO has the list of the unfunded projects for when funding opportunities arise. As a separate item under tribal funding, the Tribe received \$462,000 toward completing construction of their maintenance facility in Worley.

Bob Spaulding explained that the facility was funded in part by a section 5309 application that the Tribe made in concert with the Community Transit Association of Idaho. The Tribe is looking to build the bus maintenance garage facility outside of Worley soon. The second monies received by the Tribe will go towards a bus storage facility on the same site.

John Austin mentioned that PAC applied for \$85,000 of the stimulus funds for a Mobility Manager, which will serve all of District 1 that encompasses the five Northern Counties. PAC hopes to get this application approved by June.

### **c. IMAP Update**

Chair Pearl Bouchard gave an update on Idaho's Mobility Access Plan (IMAP) — a process put together by Idaho Transportation Department's Public Transportation staff. The IMAP process is looking at 2010 rural dollars; funding requested for public transportation is \$500,000 in excess of what is available. Ms. Bouchard stated that there were capital purchases taken off the project list, but more stimulus money may be available to cover these capital projects. She

also reported the Tribe is required to bolster their services required by the Federal regulations in the ADA.

Bob Spaulding gave an update of the District Coordinating Council (DCC), which met prior to the Roundtable meeting and included a discussion regarding the 2010 mobility rural applications from the district. Ms. Bouchard noted that when the DCC finishes this process they will send their recommendations on to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) for their edits and/or approval. She added that it has been a long process and a struggle at times, but the public transportation staff out of Boise has been receptive to DCC recommendations for next year.

#### **d. Bench and Shelter Committee Update – Andrew Murphy**

Andrew Murphy gave an update on the Benches for Bus Stops campaign. The committee has discussed with local authorities how to place the benches around the area. Mr. Murphy handed out a flyer advertising sponsorship requests for the benches. He stated there has been many positive responses and interest from companies and organizations in sponsoring benches. Mr. Murphy also mentioned there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony near the Coeur d'Alene Resort for the placement of the first bench sponsored by the Disability Action Center next month.

Ryan Stewart commended Craig Wilcox and Andrew Murphy for all their work on this project and expressed gratitude for the cooperation of the jurisdictions involved. He stated there will be some collaboration in bench design that will be appropriate for the different areas before placement.

#### **e. Non-Motorized Plan Update**

Project Manager, Tiara Schmidt provided an update on the Non-Motorized Plan. She stated that KMPO staff has put together an official advisory group of about 35 people. The group's over-arching concerns/interests are to improve safety and connectivity of the non-motorized transportation system as well as laying the groundwork for the future. She also reported that KMPO recently closed a public survey, which she is in the process of summarizing. The survey included questions to gauge what the public sees as priority and opportunities for non-motorized transportation in the region. Ms. Schmidt announced a Non-Motorized Public Workshop to be held May 19 at the Trailhead Pavilion, Q'emiln Park in Post Falls from 6-8 pm. The purpose of the workshop is to assess what the public sees as future needs.

#### **f. RPTA Briefing Update**

Ryan Stewart reported on the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) white paper that was presented to the group at their last meeting in January.

KMPO is keeping dialogue open with various jurisdictions and other entities with regard to the feasibility of a Regional Authority for public transportation in the Kootenai County area and eventually to a broader area. KMPO is included on the agenda for the next Coeur d'Alene Council of Mayors for North Idaho scheduled for this summer. Mr. Stewart explained that KMPO will see how well this white paper and the previous study that was done dovetail with the Mobility Manager position. This item will be kept on the Roundtable meeting agenda to keep the committee up-to-date as it progresses.

Chair Bouchard suggested having a presentation on the Mobility Manager's position at the next Roundtable meeting to get a sense on how this position interacts with KMPO activities. John Austin agreed to provide this report to the Roundtable at their next meeting in July.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Spokane, Post Falls, CdA Transit Service Discussion**

Ryan Stewart reported that KMPO is still interested in discussions regarding service options between Spokane and Kootenai Counties. This item is a top priority in the IMAP process due to its opportunity importance. He stated that KMPO has a meeting with Spokane Transit Authority (STA) regarding Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding and New Freedom funding in Spokane County. Since STA is the designated recipient for this funding in Spokane County there are discussions with STA to potentially use JARC funding to augment some of the operational costs that would occur traveling into Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene. Mr. Stewart gave a background on how STA is funded and is looking for ways to offset local match requirements for JARC funding in the Kootenai County area. He asked for further discussion from the group on how they would like to proceed with this item.

Given its regional significance, there was discussion on funding, services to be provided, and the possibility of using other providers besides STA to provide transit service between the two Counties. Bill Brannan offered to be on a committee if one was formed and commented on the importance of the cooperation and coordination needed between private and public transit.

Ryan Stewart stressed to the group that KMPO will keep this item on their list of priorities, and will continue to keep discussions open as well as search for solutions to this need.

## **6. Good of the Order**

John Austin announced that Citylink was awarded the Federal Transit Administration National Ridership Award for success in enhancing ridership. The

award will be presented May 4<sup>th</sup> in Seattle. He mentioned that Citylink is one of the fastest growing public transportation systems in the country.

Pearl Bouchard suggested putting together a review team of the Citylink routes. Mr. Murphy stated that typically, Citylink managers and City Engineers discuss unresolved stops or placement of bus stops. Mr. Stewart asked if this would be useful as an agenda item at the next Roundtable meeting and suggested soliciting public comments or concerns.

## **7. Action Items for Next Quarter**

Ryan Stewart reviewed the action items to be addressed next quarter:

1. Discussion of the Mobility Manager position.
2. Citylink routes discussion
3. Update with STA concerning the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls transit service

The meeting was adjourned at noon.