

Public Transportation Roundtable Meeting Notes
January 8, 2010
Idaho Transportation Department, District 1

Attendees:

Chair, Pearl Bouchard, Area Agency on Aging
Vice Chair, John Austin, PAC
Marv Lekstrum, LHD/KMPO
Jill Bowes, City of Hayden
Craig Wilcox, D.A. Davidson
Don Davis, ITD
Donna Hansen, Citizen at Large
Clif Warren, Mobility Manager
Linda Wilhelm, Citizen at Large
Karl Otterstrom, STA
Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit
Heather Wheeler, CTAI
Chris Bosley, JUB
Chris Riffe, City of Rathdrum

KMPO Staff:

Ryan Stewart
Jenny Wash
Staci Lehman

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 October 29, 2009 Minutes

Don Davis made a motion to approve the October 29, 2009 meeting minutes. John Austin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments

Donna Hansen, Citizen at Large and a City of Harrison resident thanked Robert Spaulding, Andrew Murphy, Clif Warren, and Staci Lehman for encouraging her with her quest for finding public transportation. She stated that the City of Harrison is an aging community with no public transportation. The seniors, city council, and Harrison's new mayor Wanda Irish have written a letter asking for bus service in Harrison to travel to Coeur d'Alene two days a week. This service will be helpful for this community to get to doctor's appointments that are often skipped due to the lack of public transportation. These copies were given to KMPO staff.

Pearl Bouchard asked if the seniors would be able to pay a fee if N.I.C.E. is used for service. Ms. Hansen stated it may be an issue, but she would talk to them about this possibility. Ms. Bouchard asked Mr. Stewart how to proceed with this

request. Ryan Stewart stated the formal letter of request will be forwarded to the KMPO Board for consideration and from an email that was sent to the Chair concerning this request it was suggested that KMPO staff work with Helen Stephens of N.I.C.E. and KATS on cost effectiveness and driver availability. KMPO staff would also have to work closely with John Austin on finding available funding and then, possibly, the determination of a fare to offset the cost of the service. If it interests the Roundtable members, Mr. Stewart suggested forwarding a recommendation with information of the logistics of this request to the KMPO Board for their direction on how to proceed.

John Austin commented that the Saint Maries connection would be the least costly. Possibly the provider from Valley Vista or N.I.C.E. could provide service to St. Maries for a fee and then the connection from St. Maries would be free since it is part of the Citylink bus service.

Clif Warren mentioned that applications for funding are due February 26, 2010 and any action should be made in a timely manner to meet this deadline.

The consensus of the group found it legitimate to pursue further investigations of the feasibility of service options in Harrison.

Clif Warren, Mobility Manager, announced his new office location: Bonner Business Center at 804 Airport Way, Suite F, Sandpoint, ID 83864

4. Old Business

a. RPTA update

Heather Wheeler, Executive Director of Community Transportation Association of Idaho (CTAI), gave an informational PowerPoint presentation called "Community Transportation Association of Idaho; Supporting, Coordinating and Promoting Mobility in Idaho". Ms. Wheeler outlined the vision and mission of CTAI and the services they provide to support their members. The association offers three primary services designed to support its members: Statewide Coordination, Training and Education, and Legislative Advocacy.

Ms. Kelli Fairless with Valley Regional Transit introduced herself and stated that she is the first permanent Executive Director for Valley Regional Transit since 2000. She has been involved with public transportation in the Boise, ID area since 1994 and was the Manager of Operations for Boise Urban Stages. Ms. Fairless provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Regional Public Transportation Authorities, The Treasure Valley Experience." Her presentation included a brief overview of the history of their RPTA and their efforts to regionalize transit.

Ms. Fairless outlined Valley Regional Transit's guiding principals, and funding sources. She then outlined what was needed to build the vision of an RPTA and shared the lessons that they learned in establishing theirs. Ms. Fairless concluded her presentation by describing their organization as it exists today and provided her contact information to the Board.

b. RPTA Recommendation to KMPO Advisory Board

A discussion was presented on the timeliness of the recommendation since the KMPO Board was the previous day. Pearl Bouchard stated she asked the Board to wait on any decisions so the Roundtable could have a chance to discuss the RPTA possibility and make a recommendation to the KMPO Board. At the Board meeting a sub-committee was formed to discuss RPTA options and its feasibility.

Any recommendation will be presented at the March KMPO Board meeting giving time for the sub-committee to meet and evaluation be made from it by the Roundtable.

There was further discussion of incorporating other counties making it countywide and questions were address to Kelli Fairless on this. She stated that it may be politically difficult to bring in more counties, but to rather form the one with the least resistance and the others will follow.

John Austin made a motion to support the creation of a RPTA along with someone from the Roundtable to be part of the sub-committee as well as the consideration of the study of the multi-county option. Don Davis seconded the motion.

Chris Riffe commented that he supports the concept but not sure about the RPTA. He stated that the Roundtable should evaluate what the sub-committee comes up with before making a motion to support a RPTA. Ryan Stewart answered a question about calling a special meeting of the Roundtable if there is an anticipation a decision may be made from the Board.

There were 4 nays against the first motion.

John Austin made a motion to support the study of the creation of an RPTA along with looking at other options including other counties and also that a member from the Public Transportation Roundtable be involved in the sub-committee that was recently formed at the KMPO Board meeting. Don Davis seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Chris Riffe amended the motion to add that the Public Transportation Roundtable, upon further review of the findings from the sub-committee, makes a final recommendation to the KMPO Board. John Austin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

c. Transit Center Site Acquisition Update – John Austin

Mr. John Austin reported that the Transit Center is on hold until funding for acquiring the site can be identified. ITD is close to completing the appraisal once the environmental process is complete; it has been approved by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and is now with the State Historical Preservation Office.

d. ARRA Public Transportation Projects Update – John Austin

John Austin reported that the ARRA funds have been re-allocated towards expanding the fleet of transit vehicles for Citylink, demand response, and paratransit with 14 new buses. These vehicles will be owned by the County rather than the transit providers.

e. Adoption of the Non-motorized Plan Update – Ryan Stewart

Due to time constraints this item was not addressed.

f. Results of the Citylink Public Meetings

Due to time constraints this item was not addressed.

g. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

John Austin nominated Pearl Bouchard as Chair again this year. Pearl Bouchard nominated John Austin as Vice Chair. The group unanimously approved the nominations set forth.

5. New Business

a. Public Transportation in Idaho – CTAI and IMAP status

See item 4. a. above.

b. LMMN 1B Update – Pearl Bouchard

Due to time constraints this item was not addressed.

6. Good of the Order

7. Action Items for Next Quarter

Action items for next quarter:

1. Transit Center Site Acquisition Update
2. RPTA Update

3. Adoption of the Non-Motorized Plan Update
4. Results of the Citylink Public Hearings

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.