

Public Transportation Roundtable Meeting Notes
January 12, 2011
10:30 am to Noon
Coeur d'Alene Public Library

Attendees:

Chair, Pearl Bouchard, Area Agency on Aging
Vice-Chair, John Austin, PAC
Craig Wilcox, D.A. Davidson
Marv Lekstrum, LHD/KMPO
Clif Warren, Mobility Manager
Don Davis, ITD
Bob Spaulding, CdA Tribe
Donna Montgomery, Citizen/KMPO
Marty Montgomery, LHD
Alan Eirls, Citylink
Laurie Hassell, Citizen at Large
Toby Ruhs, KMC
Jill Bowes, City of Hayden
Carole Richardson, DEA Assoc.

KMPO Staff:

Ryan Stewart
Jenny Wash

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 12, 2010 Minutes

Laurie Hassell made a motion to approve the October 12, 2010 meeting minutes. John Austin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

4. Old Business

a. RPTA update

Ryan Stewart reported that at last Thursday's KMPO Board meeting Glenn Miles asked the Board for direction on restarting RPTA discussions with the County Commissioners. With the direction of the Board, staff will initiate initial educational meetings with Commissioners using the White Paper as a basis of educating them as well as the results of the Governor's Task Force. Mr. Stewart

mentioned that he will update the Roundtable with information from the meetings when they happen and hope to be able to talk about some movement by the Commissioners for a public vote on this issue at the next meeting.

Discussion continued on RPTA funding, educational promotion and how it would benefit this area. Jimmie Dorsey commented that the KMPO Board recognizes the support from KMPO staff and will rely on them to put the educational piece together as well as keep this Committee updated.

Craig Wilcox mentioned that he has the opportunity to talk on KNBI radio from time to time and would like to promote the RPTA and any other related topics if the group has anything to discuss.

b. Transit Center Site Acquisition Update

John Austin updated the group on the transit center acquisition stating that the NEPA study that was commissioned by an engineering firm to restudy is complete and will be submitted to FTA. Next steps would be to meet the requirements and proceed with a property appraisal which will be done by ITD and then to negotiate a price. The budget would also be discussed as well as closing match requirements with the participating jurisdictions.

c. ARRA Projects Update

Mr. Austin reported that the County acquired 16 new vehicles to support Citylink and they are all in place. Money left over will be used on eligible items such as bike racks, radios and tires.

d. Governor's Task Force Update

Mr. Stewart reported that in the beginning of December the Governor's Task Force concluded with a letter to address funding sources that could meet the growing needs for roads and public transportation. However, the Task Force chose not to forward on specific recommendations on how to phase in funding sources due to the volatile economy. He stated that there were good discussions on the need for public transportation but there are no plans for funding this at this time. The letter and the spreadsheet are available on the state's website or through KMPO staff.

e. Sub-committee to discuss local match and other funding issues

Ms. Bouchard commented that previous discussions from the sub-committee addressed having the Tribe communicate their concerns to the KMPO Board in writing. The Tribe was represented at the KMPO Board and a letter was recently

submitted regarding requesting financial assistance to continue providing Citylink services.

The portion of the letter was read regarding match funds and alternative funding solutions for the Citylink program. Bob Spaulding continued the discussion, mentioning a possible formula, and asked how KMPO can help the Tribe.

Mr. Stewart commented that from a staff perspective coming out of the sub-committee he suggested going to the Board with a recommendation on how the share can be fairly and equitably spread though out the jurisdictions as soon as possible.

Further discussion addressed funding and growth in the Kootenai area, along with charging fares to help offset operating costs. Mr. Stewart mentioned that a joint KMPO/SRTC Board meeting scheduled in February will address mainly Census data, but there may be a chance to discuss the possibility of a TMA and the effects it will have in this region.

It was suggested that the Roundtable and sub-committee go forward with a recommendation to the Board by summer which will give enough time to plan for the 2012 budgetary cycle.

f. Sub-committee for special events update

The sub-committee for special events has not met, but plan on meeting early spring. KMPO staff will provide some coordination with groups and good communication between all parties with the hopes to come up with some strategies to help the providers.

g. Recent decisions regarding NICE/KATS service

Ms. Bouchard reported that NICE/KATS a non-profit public transportation service for rural and urban areas are no longer in operation. Mr. Austin continued by stating that due to a managerial audit of the rural funding by ITD they found discrepancies and decided to end the funding for rural service. Due to this loss it was determined that the agency was not viable therefore NICE had to terminate service to the urban side as well.

Kootenai Medical Center (KMC) stepped in and provided pick up for the urban area for medical. The hospital also offered to set-up a process to qualify for the non-medical. Toby Ruhs mentioned that they have added 21 new people to the driver's schedule. Mr. Austin commented that the money that was contracted for KATS will go to KMC for their increased costs as well as the buses from these agencies if they should need them.

Mr. Austin mentioned the prior Board of Commissioners asked PAC to negotiate to find a permanent provider for the complimentary paratransit that NICE provided.

5. New Business

a. Mobility Manager's Report

Clif Warren explained NICE had rural 5311 and 5311f funds that were never used and will be distributed among the three counties; Shoshone, Bonner and Kootenai. The total amount comes to \$793,000 and will need to be approved by the District Coordination Council and the Public Transportation Advisory Council (PTAC) before distribution. He mentioned the amount given to Kootenai County could be used by the Tribe with negotiations without match requirement to restore rural service in Kootenai County. This is contingent on issues that are pending on the urban side of things, but once this is clear negotiations can start with the Tribe.

In addition, the intercity service that NICE provided can and will have the opportunity to negotiate for the intercity service with another existing intercity provider which is Northwest Trailways. They are already providing service from Coeur d'Alene down to Boise on a contract with ITD. Mr. Warren stated that he has a proposal written to amend this contract that would start at Sandpoint, come down to Coeur d'Alene, and then end at the Spokane International Airport. This again is all tentatively based on approval by PTAC.

Mr. Warren asked the group if they would be willing to provide a letter of support for this effort. In addition, he reported the equipment used by NICE has been returned to the state and will be available to the other counties as well as Kootenai County which in turn could be used by the future provider.

Ryan Stewart mentioned that as procedure the letter of support would need to come from the KMPO Board.

John Austin made a motion to support the enhanced service that Clif Warren described from Sandpoint to Coeur d'Alene as well as the route to the Spokane Airport and encouraged KMPO Board to do the same. Donna Montgomery seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Jimmie Dorsey suggested having Mr. Warren provide explanation in writing to the Board for better clarity of what should be supported and send it to Mr. Stewart to expedite quickly to the Board.

Carole Richardson commended Mr. Warren for his creativity and commitment to get these matters in place to help continue service in the region.

Laurie Hassell asked if it would be preliminary and prudent to send forth a press release to notify people that this is what has happened and things are in progress to get service back on track. Mr. Warren commented that he would rather wait for things to be approved before announcing information to the public.

6. Good of the Order

No one had any further updates or comments at this time.

7. Action Items for Next Quarter

Action items for next quarter:

1. Update of the local funding
2. RPTA Update
3. Intercity and urbanized transit services
4. Post Falls Urban Renewal Agency on the Park & Ride
5. Letter to PTAC
6. Special Events Update

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 p.m.