

Public Transportation Roundtable Meeting Notes
October 29, 2009
Coeur d'Alene Public Library

Attendees:

Chair, Pearl Bouchard, Area Agency on Aging
Vice Chair, John Austin, PAC
Marv Lekstrum, LHD/KMPO
Bob Spalding, CDA Tribe
Laurie Hassell, Citizen at Large
Al Hassell, City of Coeur d'Alene
Helen Stephens, NICE
Andrew Murphy, Citylink
Craig Wilcox, D.A. Davidson
Don Davis, ITD
Donna Hansen, Citizen at Large
Mark Boyle, DEQ
Clif Warren, Mobility Manager
Toby Ruhs, KMC
Karl Otterstrom, STA
Janet Berger, Community Consumer
Diane Richko, Citizen
Alan Eirls, Citylink

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 July 23, 2009 Minutes

Craig Wilcox made a motion to approve the July 23, 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

Ryan Stewart, KMPO Senior Transportation Planner, updated the group on the Transit Center Location Study. He stated that the study wrapped up in late August and in September KMPO Board adopted the final report. The recommended preferred location is in the Riverstone Development near the

vicinity of Seltice Way and Riverstone Drive. The next steps will be to procure a specific site to build a transit center on. The deadline that needs to be met first is to fulfill all the Federal required steps satisfied by December 31, 2009 in order to obligate the money to assist in the construction of the transit center facility.

Ryan also reminded the group that the KMPO submitted a \$2 million Appropriations request to the Federal Government for FY 2010 allowing the purchase of the recommended site along with some additional funding for site improvements. If all the procedures are complete and funding becomes secure it is likely that construction can go out for bid in the spring.

b. ARRA (Stimulus) Transit Projects Update

John Austin provided an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding for transit projects. He recapped; the first phase of funding came through for six vehicles; two buses, one maintenance vehicle and one para-transit vehicle for Citylink, and two vehicles for the Kootenai Medical Center's medical shuttle service which came to total worth of \$577,000. He mentioned that the KMC's busses came in under budget and if the Tribe could get a savings on their busses as well than the extra funds could go to Helen Stephens of NICE to purchase a much needed bus for their service.

The second phase of the ARRA funds would go toward the construction of the transit center facility. Panhandle Area Council hopes to have the grant approved for the \$720,200 by December 31st.

c. IMAP Update

Chair Pearl Bouchard stated the Local Mobility Management Networks were asked to review strategies that were provided last round and set priorities for them. She passed the list LMMN 1B out to the group mentioning that they have not changed much from last year. She read the highest priorities from the list such as maintaining existing service levels in urban and rural; in Coeur d'Alene provide commuter service to Spokane; and Stateline bridge revitalization project.

Ryan reported that the City of Post Falls has designated a part of the Pointe Development for a transit center near Cabela's and Spokane Transit Authority (STA) has signed on as far as support however they don't have any immediate plans to provide service there, but Citylink has been doing an excellent job providing service to this area in the mean time. Ryan also addressed a question on light rail and stated that there is no new movement on light rail along the Spokane to Coeur d'Alene Corridor. The Spokane Transit Authority (STA) is working on their comprehensive plan which is looking at different options. Ryan stated that the potential is there for some type of high capacity transportation in this area.

Also on the list was a high priority to develop a Mobility Manager position for the five northern counties and the high priority to develop and use the intermodal facility for connections. Ms. Bouchard stated that being ready with the list for the ARRA funds were most beneficial for Kootenai County when it came down to distribution of funds.

John Austin made a comment that they just found out from PTAC that Citylink is the lowest cost in the country for subsidy.

d. Bench and Shelter Committee Update – Craig Wilcox

Craig Wilcox reported that 16 bus benches have been placed around the area; four on East Sherman, three on Government Way, three on Ramsey Rd., one in Huetter and four in Post Falls. He stated that by the end of the year there should be 18 benches in the ground. The goal is to have seven at a time paid for and made to keep the costs down when placing the benches. Craig also stated that the sponsor has the discretion of where the bench should go but all have been in high need areas. In the future he feels that a central authority would be most beneficial in implementing these types of projects and make the process easier. As far as shelters he has a platform for this but it would entail a lot of additional expenses.

The Roundtable group gave Craig a round of applause for taking on this project and making it so successful.

Ryan made a comment that on our website there are links to maps that show where the benches are placed and invited the group to view them.

e. Non-Motorized Plan Update

Staci Lehman reported that the Regional Non-motorized Transportation Plan has been written and formatted and will be made available for public comment November 2nd. It will be open for a 30-day comment period and will be going to the KMPO Board, KCATT, and PT Roundtable for review. She stated that the hope is to have the Plan approved by the Board in December.

f. Citylink Routes Discussion continued

Ryan Stewart reported that two public hearings are scheduled by Citylink to discuss placement of bus routes and addressing comments. The first one will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Library, November 2nd and the second hearing will be on November 4th at the Benewah Wellness Center in Plummer.

Alan Eirls stated the public hearings will be held every 6 months for public to express concerns on bus stop locations. This will be a time to gather information and discuss what is and what not a good reason to relocate a stop is.

Alan talked about funding and budget of Citylink services for rural and urban areas. Donna Hansen of Harrison asked what the procedure would be to receive Citylink services to Harrison. Mr. Eirls explained the need for the jurisdiction's local political network and funding to put service into place. Once Citylink has the authority and the funds to run the service then Citylink would be able to service the area. The option of a ferry system was discussed. Ms. Hansen expressed that the citizens are interested in Citylink services and feel that it would be more cost effective than a ferry system at this point.

Janet Berger, a member of AmeriCorps, stated that she is spearheading discussions with various communities to contribute funds to acquire service to outlying areas. John Austin mentioned part of the funding solution for servicing rural areas would be to use the new Mobility Manager, Clif Warren, to find funding. He also suggested that the 2010 Census data would show more population which could develop additional distribution of funds for the rural area. Ms. Berger also mentioned that there is discussion of using the Centennial Trail systems and making them more accessible for persons with disabilities. It was mentioned by KMPO staff that this is addressed in the Non-Motorized Plan.

Pearl wanted to clarify the matching funds process. For urban areas there would be a \$1 for \$1 match and the rural would consist of \$1 for \$1 match with 20% on capital and preventative maintenance.

g. Mobility Manager Position Follow Up

John Austin introduced the new Mobility Manager, Clif Warren. He resides in Sandpoint and will provide representation to the five northern counties; Bonner, Benewah, Shoshone, Kootenai, and Boundary. Mr. Warren stated that he is familiarizing himself with the geography of the area, demographics of the counties and providers and is enjoying meeting people and finding organizations to attend. He is also involved in PTAC and Interagency Working Group (IWG). Created in the early 90s its purpose was to coordinate transportation funds but it has not been accomplishing this since its inception. He has gone to the most recent IWG meeting and they have a strong desire to accomplish this original purpose and he hopes his role could facilitate better coordination of dollars with them and with other agencies.

Mr. Warren is establishing a location for his office in the old Panhandle State Bank building in Sandpoint. His phone number is (208) 610-4289 and an email will be established soon. He will also have an office at PAC when he is in this area.

5. New Business

a. Transit Center Site Acquisition Process

John Austin reported that he met with County Commissioners for acquiring the site for the Transit Center. A four acre site in the Riverstone Development was chosen on the northwest corner of Seltice Way and Riverstone. A plan is in place of what the center will look like and he stated that he hopes it will be complete by next summer.

Pearl Bouchard brought up a new item that was overlooked at the July meeting which is the election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the Roundtable meetings. She stated everyone should be starting to think of who they would consider nominating for these positions by the next meeting in January.

6. Good of the Order

Craig Wilcox announced he is considering pursuing a volunteer project for 2011 for Kiwanis on interconnecting trails and paths for public and public transportation areas.

Ryan Stewart updated the group that a recommendation will be going before the KMPO Board at November's meeting for the consideration of a RPTA to take back to their jurisdictions.

7. Action Items for Next Quarter

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

1. Transit Center Site Acquisition Update
2. RPTA Update
3. Adoption of the Non-Motorized Plan Update
4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
5. Results of the Citylink Public Hearings

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.