

Public Transportation Roundtable Meeting Notes  
October 12, 2010  
10:30 am to Noon  
Coeur d'Alene Public Library

**Attendees:**

Chair, Pearl Bouchard, Area Agency on Aging  
Vice-Chair, John Austin, PAC  
Marv Lekstrum, LHD/KMPO  
Don Davis, ITD  
Bob Spaulding, CdA Tribe  
Donna Montgomery, Citizen/KMPO  
Marty Montgomery, LHD  
Andrew Murphy, Citylink  
Laurie Hassell, Citizen at Large  
Toby Ruhs, KMC  
Mac Cavasar, Ironman CdA  
Mike Hynes, STA  
Charlie Neill, NW Stage Lines  
Chris Riffe, City of Rathdrum  
Bonnie Niles-Bush, Idaho Dept. of Labor

**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 28, 2010 Minutes**

**Laurie Hassell made a motion to approve the July 28, 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 the consensus from sub-committee was to put the RPTA on hold until the elected officials are in place. At that point in time an education effort with all the elected officials would take place. Since there have not been any private entities that have come forth to spearhead this as of yet,

KMPO as a neutral body will continue to provide educational/informational support for this. Ryan also mentioned that KMPO is monitoring the Governor's Task Force and the sub-committee on public transportation on their recommendations for local funding options for public transportation.

There was discussion on the Roundtable's role in the RPTA campaign and it was encouraged that they represent KMPO by helping with the educational component but maintaining a neutral position. However, they may campaign or advocate for an RPTA as a private citizen if not representing KMPO.

#### **b. Transit Center Site Acquisition Update**

John Austin updated the group on the transit center acquisition stating that a grant application is pending for \$570,000 in STP funds transferred from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the design and engineering of the Transit Center. The County has committed to the \$45,000 match and is requesting assistance from their funding partners on the match. FTA requested that the County redo the previous NEPA study conducted on the site, which would allow the County to proceed with the ITD appraisal of the preferred site. It is anticipated that both the NEPA review and the ITD appraisal will be completed by March of next year in time for budget discussions and John will bring it back to the Roundtable meeting in April.

Laurie Hassell asked for a timeline on when the construction of the transit center will start. John explained that it depends on the funding. Once the property costs are known and any other City requirements needed a budget will be formed. John stated that he estimates construction starting one to two years from now, but in the mean time he hopes the budget will be set in the next 6 months.

#### **c. ARRA Projects Update**

John Austin stated the County applied for the available funds and received money for 13 buses that will be used for Citylink and KATS. So far they have received 9 of the 13. In addition, Kootenai Medical Center has received 2 buses from the stimulus and 1 from the 5307 funds giving Kootenai County public transportation a total of 16 brand new buses. Andrew Murphy explained the old buses were well beyond their useful life and will either be used as substitutes while newer buses are being serviced or parted out.

#### **d. Subcommittee to discuss local match and other funding issues**

Pearl Bouchard reported on the sub-committee meeting to address local match options and other funding issues for Citylink. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is contributing well beyond the required match for the Citylink service and Kootenai County may very well, in the next couple years, receive a new designation as a

Combined Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). Since this change would be federally mandated, the structure of the funding could change dramatically. Therefore, having to charge fares or raising funds locally would need to be addressed or discussed. Pearl suggested the CdA Tribe and the Cities speak more directly with each other about this subject.

Bob recapped the sub-committee discussion that met July 28<sup>th</sup> which determined the Tribes contribution to run Citylink. The urban, rural and operations expenses came to about \$1.1 million. The next sub-committee meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> consisted of discussions on how to continue to fund Citylink, the possibility of the new designation of a CMSA, and requesting more contribution from the Cities. The Tribe is interested in an equitable distribution of match costs among participating agencies. Bob brought forth to the Roundtable, at his supervisor's request, a concept of bringing the sub-committee as well as the Roundtable Committee together to determine a formula to calculate a match per jurisdiction that would be fair for all users.

Ryan explained the approach of Valley Regional Transit and their formula for charging jurisdictions. He also emphasized that this task would be difficult since Kootenai County does not have a structure put in place to implement this approach.

John Austin mentioned that currently the County asks each of the Cities for contributions based on the number of people which is derived from their 2000 Census population. The Cities have made it known that it is difficult to contribute continuing obligation because of their tight budgets. John also stated that the Commissioners asked him to meet with providers to see if there is some way to get a better return on the dollars that are going to the demand response system. A better option might be to have this money go to a deviated fixed route instead.

John also asked Bob for the break down costs of rural and urban services that was requested by the KMPO Board.

Andrew Murphy suggested considering advertising on the inside of the buses to generate funds. John mentioned that we should look at all sources for funding but need to take into consideration some program income that likely subtracts from what Citylink gets from FTA.

There was further discussion on funding sources and changes. Another meeting by the sub-committee will be held to discuss this matter further.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Request for comments on the Kootenai County Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan**

Ryan explained to the group what the Kootenai County Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan entailed. It is a plan that discusses how certain funding is used in Kootenai County area. Currently the State of Idaho controls the funding and the majority of the funding goes to rural areas. However under Federal Law KMPO is required to have this plan adopted. This plan is being incorporated as an appendix in KMPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) which is out for public comment until Nov. 7. He mentioned that the Kootenai County Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan may also be updated annually or as the need arises. It must be updated a minimum of every 4 years. He encouraged the group to read through it and make any comments. He also mentioned that there is an opportunity to make comments at a public open house for the MTP tonight at the Idaho Transportation Department District 1 office from 5-7pm.

#### **b. Mobility Manager's Report – Clif Warren**

Ryan stated that Clif Warren was unable to attend this meeting but did send his report via email. Copies of the email were passed out to the group to review.

There was discussion of the relationship between KMPO and Local Mobility Management Network 1b (LMMN1B) as well as the need for clarification of its purpose.

#### **c. Transit Service for Special Events – Laurie Hassell**

Laurie discussed the transportation issues that arise when trying to accommodate the nearly 400 events in CdA and surrounding areas. She introduced Mac Cavasar, Race Director of Ironman, CdA to discuss the issues further. He stated that in November he will be meeting with the mayor and council members about doing an overall view of the special events and what the impacts to the community are. He came to this group to discuss options that can be brought to the table to help with the transportation needs of the people, e.g., racers, volunteers, and spectators.

Ryan explained KMPO's role and the importance of addressing the issue to the Board since it deals with transportation.

A sub-committee consisting of Mac Cavasar, Andrew Murphy, Laurie Hassell, John Austin, Don Davis and Ryan Stewart was formed to address the special event transportation issues. It was also suggested to invite Post Falls and City of Hayden event planners to be involved in the discussions and possibly seeking suggestions or advice from the Spokane Transit Authority.

#### **d. Citylink Service Changes**

Andrew Murphy passed out the revised route schedules for the Red, Blue, Green, and Link routes. Citylink has gone through some reorganization with the system, which mostly impacts the night-time schedules.

Bonnie Niles-Bush from the Idaho Department of Labor mentioned they are moving their offices to Post Falls at the end of October and the route close to Wal-mart may see an increase in ridership due to this move.

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

Ryan reported that he and Clif Warren were asked to meet with the Post Falls Urban Renewal Agency regarding the parking lot adjacent to Cabela's in the Pointe Development. In the negotiations and final contract language it was designated as a Park and Ride lot. The Urban Renewal Agency is looking at ways of funding improvements of that particular section of parking. They are proposing to put in a shelter, schedule information, striping, signing and other advertisement showing it is a Park and Ride.

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

Action items for next quarter:

1. Update on the Governors Task Force; Sub-committee on Public Transportation Funding.
2. Update from the sub-committee meeting on local match and funding issues.
3. Sub-committee for special events update.
4. Mobility Manager's Report – I-Way process and LMN1B Update.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.