

**Transportation Policy Advisory Committee
Public Transportation Sub-Committee**

Members Present:

Tom Irwin, Chair
Dick Lemieux
Councilor Byron Champlin
Dean Williams, CNHRPC
Laura Aibel (Staff Representative)
Ed Roberge (Staff Representative)

Members Absent:

Councilor Brent Todd

Others Attending:

Jim Sudak
Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero
Cathy Wyrenbeck (member of the public)

I. Call to Order

II. Introductions

Mr. Irwin called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes

No minutes or notes from previous meetings were approved.

IV. Downtown stop temporary relocation during Main Street project

Mr. Roberge introduced the Main Street project and outlined the timing for relocating the bus stops at the State House and Eagle Square down to Storrs Street under the State parking garage. The bus routes will be redirected to the Storrs Street hub as soon as construction begins, around March 23, 2015. Chairman Irwin verified that the location is well lit, covered and marked. Mr. Roberge affirmed.

There was public concern about the access between Storrs Street and Eagle Square if the stops are relocated before winter ends. Mr. Roberge said the City will keep the sidewalk clear. Concern was also expressed about the lack of any seating at this location. Mr. Roberge said a bench will be placed in the area.

V. Public Comments

Ms. Wyrenbeck asked when Saturday service was going to return. Mr. Sudak explained the funding for the CAT system was reduced by 11% which included the Saturday service.

Ms. Wyrenbeck described outings sponsored by the Manchester Transit Authority (MTA) such as trips to the beach which are very successful. Is CAT going to do anything like this? Mr. Roberge explained MTA and CAT receive funding from different sources and the monies cannot always be spent in a similar way.

Ms. Wyrenbeck requested the bus be lowered when people are boarding and have their hands full. Mr. Sudak indicated he will request the drivers lower the bus at every stop.

Ms. Wyrenbeck spoke of how troubling it can be when a bus is late during this cold weather and there isn't any shelter available. Sometimes the people in CAT dispatch can be very curt when someone calls to find out when the bus may arrive. She wanted the Subcommittee to understand that many of the CAT system customers cannot tolerate the cold and long waits. Mr. Sudak indicated the drivers are instructed to call dispatch when they are running at least 10 minutes late.

VI. Referrals

There were no council referrals this month.

VII. Updates/Old Business

- i. Ridership Report** –Mr. Sudak reported the ridership for November was down from October. This is because there were only 19 operating days and the large storm over Thanksgiving. He expects the ridership to be higher in December and then level in January because of the cold.
- ii. CAT Quick Report** –Mr. Sudak summarized the Quick Report. The Volunteer Driver Program (VDP) continues to expand. The new VDP coordinated started work on January 20, 2015.
- iii. Vehicle Replacement Program**- CAT has been awarded \$300,000 for a new vehicle. He anticipates the vehicle will be a 27 +/- passenger medium duty bus. The exact make and model will be determined by NHDOT's contract.

VIII. Other Discussions

- i. CAT Program Goals** – The subcommittee reviewed the Draft Mission/Vision/Goals for the Subcommittee. There was lengthy discussion regarding the revised wording. The review included the Mission and Vision, ending at the start of the Goals section. Chairman Irwin will distribute an edited version of the document prior to the February meeting.

IX. New Business –

There was no new business.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.