

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

Members Present:

Tom Irwin, Chair
Councilor Brent Todd
Dick Lemieux
Dean Williams, CNHRPC
Patricia Hutchins
Ed Roberge (Staff Representative)
Heather Shank (Staff Representative)
Jim Sudak, CAT

Members Absent:

Cathy Wyrenbeck
Laura Aibel (Staff Representative)

Others Attending:

Rob Mack (Staff Representative)

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Irwin called the meeting to order. Rob Mack filled in as staff representative for Laura Aibel who was not available for this meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting were approved with minor amendment (motion Lemieux; second Hutchins; unanimous).

III. Referrals

There were no referrals.

IV. Public Comments

- i. Bus Wrapping** – Discussed was a communication from Matthew Onge with a concern that bus wrapping limits the view out the window and seems claustrophobic. Jim Sudak noted that wrapping provides CAT income on the order of about \$60,000 per year. He also noted that street grime in the winter can further reduce window transparency and that he could look into more frequent window washings in winter. Attendees concurred that wrapping was a valuable and significant source of income for CAT. However, it was recommended that, as new buses are acquired, CAT assess the costs and benefits of wrapping new buses in ways that avoid use of windows. Jim would reply back to Mr. Onge.
- ii. Bus Stop Snow Maintenance** – Discussed was a communication from a staff member at CAPB-MIC with a concern on the lack of prompt snow maintenance at bus stop locations. Ed Roberge noted that GSD does the best it can to clear the city's sidewalks within the resources it has available. Members moved to draft a report for TPAC consideration that recommends options for Council to consider that might enhance bus stop snow maintenance such as supplemental snow shoveling or shelters (motion Hutchins, second Todd, unanimous). Chair Irwin offered to draft the document.
The bus stop in question was located on a non-paved berm on Commercial Street which would not be part of regular plowing. Jim Sudak will consider looping buses through Horseshoe Pond Place in winter conditions so pick-ups can occur there rather than at the current unmaintained stop location.

- iii. **Main Street Loading Zone** – Discussed was a communication from Patricia Hutchins with a concern that trucks are still using the area on Main Street near the clock tower to load, although the area had recently been signed as a bus stop. Ed Roberge noted that staff, including parking enforcement, are aware of the recent change there from truck loading to a bus stop and will continue to monitor the situation as delivery drivers get used to the change.
- iv. **Downtown Bus Idling** – Discussed was a communication from Rich Woodfin with a concern that buses idling for extended periods at the new clock tower bus stop create excessive odors for abutting businesses. Jim Sudak noted that current laws allow longer idle times for buses in the winter to maintain diesel engine operation; however, he would look at other locations downtown that might be better suited for longer idling by being further removed from adjacent buildings.

V. Updates/Old Business

- i. **Ridership Report**- The ridership report through February was distributed. February had a lower ridership due to an 18-day month. Jim Sudak noted a growing issue with demand nearing capacity on the paratransit service. This follows an increase in ADA applications as folks learn the prompt door-to-door service required by paratransit is much more convenient than waiting for the regular bus service.
- ii. **CAT Quick Report** – Jim Sudak reviewed the Quick report with the subcommittee.
- iii. **Vehicle Replacement Program**- Jim Sudak reported that bids may be advertised for the new bus in the next month or two. Ed Roberge suggested that since so much time has elapsed in the process of getting the ‘first year’ bus, that CAT consider purchasing the ‘year two’ and ‘year three’ buses next year in the same bid package to reduce the level of effort in the bidding process and to better match the expected purchase timetable in the original grant.
- iv. **Main Street Bus Stops** – The temporary Storrs street bus stop has been relocated back to Main Street in front of the clock tower.

VI. Other Discussions

- i. **CIP/Private Development Projects** – Attendees discussed development sites with potential for demand for a bus stop. The planned Cobblestone Pointe 55+ residential development on Triangle Park drive was noted.
- ii. **Boarding and Alighting Study** – Mr. Williams summarized findings of the draft study document. Graphic summaries refer to the number of ‘boardings’ only; the reference to ‘and alightings’ was confusing and will be removed from the summary charts. The next study will be in November 2016.

VII. New Business

- i. None.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Tom Irwin noted that his term on TPAC expires next month and that he was not seeking reappointment to another term. TPAC member Sheila Zakre has offered to act as TPAC-PT Chair starting with the next meeting. Attendees acknowledged Tom Irwin’s substantial contributions and many years of service to TPAC and TPAC-PT.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:00 PM.