



MUNICIPAL PARTNERS TRANSIT COMMITTEE

Community Connector Office, Bangor

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Members

Jim Chandler, Town of Hampden
Kyle Drexler, Town of Orono
Linda Johns, City of Brewer
Mark Leonard, Town of Veazie
Amy Rau, Maine DOT
Belle Ryder, Town of Orono
Karen Fussell, City of Brewer
Tom Spitz, UMaine

BACTS Staff

Rob Kenerson, BACTS
Connie Reed, BACTS
Cindy Meservey

Guests

Marcia Larkin, Penquis Lynx
Lisa Feldman, Transportation for All
Jack McKay, Transportation for All

Community Connector Staff

Laurie Linscott, Community Connector
Jeremy Clay, Community Connector
Sherri Clark, Community Connector

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Karen Fussell. Introductions were made.

Approval of August 1 Meeting Minutes: Linda Johns made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kyle Drexler seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

FY2018 Ridership Report: Total ridership was down 4.9% from the previous year. The Brewer South route was the only one with an increase. The Black Bear route in Orono had the largest decrease. Belle explained that when the weather is good, the students are more likely to walk rather than take the bus. Stopping the Saturday run may have also contributed slightly to the decrease. It may be necessary to look at the schedule to make it more convenient for the students.

Belle Ryder asked Tom Spitz if there was a greater number of parking stickers sold this year and if he could see any trends. Tom explained that students from out-of-state bring a vehicle with them. He wasn't sure there is a way to find trends.

Laurie Linscott indicated that Sherri and Jeremy give presentations for the new students. It may be a good idea to do the presentations during New Student Orientation. This will give them the information

prior to moving to the area. Lisa Feldman offered to help get the word out.

Jeremy Clay expressed the need for more communication. The bus was unable to get out of Orchard Trails due to the amount of traffic. Belle believes the construction may be a factor.

Linda Johns is part of a group at her daughter's college that started a Parents Association Facebook page. This has been a good way to get information directly to the parents. Tom will check to see what the Parents group is doing at UMaine.

Laurie has received reports that the service to Brewer Walmart is better than the service to Bangor Walmart. The Brewer South route begins at 6:45 a.m, which may be the reason for better service. It may be best to get other routes started earlier to make it easier for riders to get to work. Many businesses open early, such as clinics and Cancer Care.

Linda asked Laurie how the routes get changed. Laurie explained that Community Connector staff have gone to the community. Now the Municipal Partners Transit Committee would be the ones to decide. Laurie is working on changing the route to reach the clinics. She is looking to do this prior to winter. Karen Fussell expressed concern that any changes that may increase the cost to the City would need to be included in the budget. Connie explained that the logistics are figured into the per hour cost, so the rate per hour may be less with extended hours. Belle asked if Laurie has a rider count per hour. This is not possible at this time, but Laurie is hoping the tablets will make it possible.

The Mount Hope route is down 11.5%. The bus is usually full in the morning. Changes have been made due to the closing of K-Mart and changes at the Mall. The route now includes Broadway Hannaford.

School is back in session, and Eastern Maine Community College has good ridership.

ADA Complementary Paratransit Service Contract - The City of Bangor was unable to negotiate a contract which would meet all the City's requirements for providing ADA Complementary Paratransit Service with the agency that responded to the RFP. The City has decided to provide the entire ADA service beginning October 1, 2018. They have acquired an accessible van and will use the regular van for ambulatory. Belfast CAP travels to Bangor for their client appointments from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. While the clients are in the appointments, the drivers are available. The City is currently in negotiations with them to provide help while in the area.

The software for the Paratransit Service has been purchased and should go live today. The City has talked with the Union and reached an agreement for training drivers for fixed route and paratransit driving. The question was raised concerning the cost comparison of hiring an outside agency for the service versus the City providing it. Laurie said it was hard to say at this point. The City is hoping to provide the service with the amount budgeted.

Transit Asset Management Performance Measures Overview: The FAST Act requires performance based planning. Transit agencies are required to create a plan and submit it to the MPO. Effective October 1, MPOs need to include this information in all planning documents. The FTA added the State of

Good Repair last year. Federal Highway Administration requires performance measures be set. The performance measures for safety have been developed by the State and adopted by the MPOs. Including these in planning will make the decisions more data driven. There is currently no penalty to not meeting the measures. If MPOs are not meeting the targets, it may be a good idea to revisit the target to make sure the target is reasonable.

Laurie told the group that she has been working every day on the Transit Asset Management plan. She received tools from FTA and an example from the State. The Motor Pool needs to be included in the plan because they do the work on the buses.

Karen Fussell asked how far out the TAM plan goes. Connie explained that the plan will need to be updated every four years. It is not intended to be a Capital Plan, but it should work hand-in-hand with it.

Community Connector Projects/Initiatives Update: Laurie is looking to send out invoices by the end of the week.

Laurie is offering the trolley to any town with activities. An example is Brewer Days this weekend. Linda Johns offered to speak with Parks and Recreation to see if it could be used. Laurie also suggested events such as Old Town Riverfest, Homecoming at UMaine, and Friends and Family weekend.

The new formula will be used for next year's budget. The Community Connector will have to work through the first year to see if any adjustments will need to be made after adjustments.

Laurie is working on the Municipal Agreements. She is looking to have something out soon via email. The changes to the agreements are the new formula and ADA Paratransit.

Deb and Connie are working on a formula for creating a Capital Plan. They are hoping to have it finalized by the November meeting.

Municipal Events/Projects/Developments Update:

Belle Ryder warned everyone that the construction company is randomly closing different legs of the round about with no advanced warning or signage. This may create problems for the bus.

MaineDOT Update:

Amy Rau reported that Maine DOT is working on their TAM plan. They are meeting with direct, sub-recipients and brokers for feedback. They will then hold a public meeting for input.

Vermont is currently working with GTFS data. It is in the infancy stage in Maine. The GTFS data has the ability to do demand/response and will allow everyone to use phone to plan a trip.

DOT is hosting a meeting on inner city routes. The meeting is available on Adobe Connect.

Maine DOT Heads Up Pedestrian Safety Initiative: There have been meetings in Bangor, Orono and Brewer. There is talk about using transit advertising to educate. Patrick Adams can find funding if the municipalities are willing to come up with design, logo and catch phrase. Linda indicated that Brewer is looking at going into schools to have students do something to use. Belle told the group that Orono held a poster competition for the storm water. The Town provided rules and prizes. Laurie offered free interior advertising for the contest winner. She also offered free outside advertising if the Committee pays for production.

The Committee decided to form a subcommittee to iron out details. Connie will be the contact and will talk to Patrick about moving forward.

Other Business:

The Way 2 Go challenge begins October 1 and will run the full month this year. They have incorporated a Business-vs-Business Challenge this year where businesses can compete with each other. Connie emailed the information to the group.

A Public Meeting on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Long Range Plan will be held on September 18 at 4:00 p.m. at the Cross Insurance Center. For those who cannot get to the meeting, Adobe Connect will be available.

Lisa Feldman asked about the Ride the Bus month, which is usually done in November. Transportation for All are working on a presentation to show at libraries on how to ride the bus. They are also reaching out to Churches asking them to challenge parishioners to ride the bus. Laurie told Lisa that the Community Connector has a video on their website that explains how to ride the bus. She offered use of the video for Transportation for All.

Future Agenda Items:

Municipal Agreements

Transit Asset Management Plan

The meeting is scheduled for November 7 with location to be determined and shared at a later date.

Adjourn: Linda Johns made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m. ?????? Seconded.