

**Mason County Transportation
Advisory Board
April 23, 2013 5:30 p.m.**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:35.

Introductions: Introductions were made and in attendance were John Piety, Pamela Hillstrom, Lauren Gessler (arrived at 5:35), Steve VanDenover (left at 6:40), Gene Currier, John Calabrese, Kevin Frankeberger, Glen Fourre, Brad Patterson, Krista French, Jane Seymore, Jim Cammack, Danette Brannin, and Ricky McLaughlin.

Minutes: Gene Currier made a motion to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2013 and John Calabrese 2nd the motion. The minutes were approved.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Jim Cammack stated he has been riding Mason Transit (MTA) about 18 years on the 5:50 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. commuter runs between Shelton and Olympia. The afternoon run is over capacity. Approximately 10-12 passengers are standing along with passengers sitting on the back step. Not all passengers are commuter riders. When questioned about the stop at Kamilche Transit HUB he stated about as many people get off as gets on.

Ricky McLaughlin arrived late and added that she also rides the Shelton to Olympia commuter run. She relies on public transportation in order to work and is unable to ride the 3:40 due to mobility issues and instead rides the 4:40 p.m. Without public transportation she would be unable to work. One of her suggestions is to have a run between Kamilche and Shelton. On occasion she has gotten off of the bus at the Kamilche HUB so others may sit and has called her husband to pick her up.

On another note she requested to have a “care kit” available on the bus to clean up vomit due to at least one occasion a passenger had vomited after boarding at the Kamilche HUB and the bus driver was unable to clean it up. In addition, she requests passengers are allowed to board the bus to wait while the driver is on break at the Olympia Downtown Transit center during adverse weather conditions. Although the seasoned drivers will allow the passengers to board, the new drivers have been hesitant to allow them to board while he/she are on break.

Steve VanDenover has volunteered to ride the Shelton/Olympia commuter run and report back.

OLD BUSINESS:

Member Search-Improve Community Outreach – No discussion.

By-Laws Continuing Review - Tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

Review Volunteer Driver Rider Criteria Exception Procedures – Christina handed out classification folders to the Advisory Board Members and gave an overview about the volunteer policy. Mason Transit Authority receive money from the Area Agency on Aging to

provide services that meet certain criteria such as age and poverty conditions. Mason Transit Authority subsidizes the funding to cover other riders that don't meet the above criteria. Christina is requesting a policy or guidelines on eligibility of riders that don't meet the age or poverty criteria. Six years ago there were 17 volunteer drivers and today there are only 5 which have made it difficult to meet the needs of these passengers. She thinks one of the biggest reasons is that the price of gas is so high. MTA pays the federal mileage rate while other transits, such as Grays Harbor, are paying up to \$1 a mile.

Lauren Gessler, Steve VanDenover and Kevin Frankeberger will work together to come up with some recommendations. It is requested all Advisory Board members look through the folder to discuss recommendations.

Christina also stated that she recently took over the Vanpool program. The Vanpools are down because the criteria for the 12 passenger vans were redefined on January 1st requiring a minimum of 7 passengers to operate them. With the new smaller vans they will need a minimum of 5 passengers to operate. She will be trying a new approach to get more drivers in both programs and will do some outreach to other transportations to see how they advertise.

Outreach by MCTAB possible survey Olympia and Hoodspport routes - This was discussed briefly.

Help with 'paver' Project – Paver project has been going slow. If you know anyone that would be interested, please send a flyer their way.

General Manager's Report: Brad asked about how frequently we would like to see the Finance report and the Advisory Board felt quarterly at the joint meetings would be sufficient. Brad discussed the "Ready, Set, Go" that he brought up at the round table meeting held a couple of months back. He sees these volunteers would be an advocate for public transportation. They are community members that have a strong interest in public transportation but are unable to commit to monthly meetings but would like to help. They could be called upon to be the public voice to possibly attend a meeting or write a letter of support, etc.

Brad shared that MTA submitted a request for 4.1 million to finish the Transit Center. He had 90 seconds to speak on the request before the House of Representatives. Three million of that request made it onto the list. Ground-breaking for the Transit Center is scheduled for August 1, 2013.

Operations Manager's Report: Jane handed out the March 2013 Operation Report. In light of the public comment earlier, with no additional funding to expand services, she talked about planned stops to be more efficient.

Good of the Order: None.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 2013, MCTAB Meeting 5:30 p.m.
Mason Transit Business Office
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