

MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION
City of Maple Grove
Meeting of September 30, 2014

MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Coss, Mandy Knudsen, Teri Anderson, and Mark Davison.

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Mike Opatz-City of Maple Grove and Jay Kluge-Metro Transit.

Call to Order

Transit Commission Chair Terry Coss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Open Forum

No one from the public spoke during the open forum.

Approve Minutes

Chair Terry Coss called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 27, 2014. The motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Discussion of Routes and Statistics

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for July and August 2014, plus the most recent daily ridership reports for September. Opatz noted that for the year ridership is down by less than one percent. However, September ridership seems to be rebounding.

The Commissioners had the following reports:

- Teri Anderson – Took the State Fair bus with no issues and liked the new transit center on the fair grounds. Noticed the increased ridership on the 781 buses the day after Labor Day. The new TVs in the Transit Station look nice. Have not seen any solicitation flyers on cars in the ramp in a long time. Still some issues on the buses with riders putting personal bags on empty seats. The Route 781 3:40 pm driver is aggressive at times. There is an increase of persons smoking in the bus shelter at 3rd and Hennepin. The no smoking signs are no longer posted.
- Mark Davison –No major Route 789 issues, but ridership seem to be up a bit from previous years. There may be a U of M bus stop detour/closure that impacts the Route 789 this Friday at the Coffman stop. Saw something about the stop being moved to Eddy Hall.

- Mandy Knudsen – Some riders from the 781 are using the 780 due to high ridership on the 781, especially the 8:22 a.m. trip. The Route 780 a.m. trip # 4 drives way too fast on West Eagle Lake Blvd. Many times he has to hit the brakes hard to make a stop or even misses me completely. The slow-down signs have been taken down. Many of the 780 p.m. drivers do not use the shoulder lanes in the p.m. especially p.m. trip #4. It would be nice if the Shepherd of the Grove shelter had electricity for a heater and better lighting.
- Terry Coss – Previously reported via email that the a/c went out on the coach bus on the hottest day of the year. There are fareboxes not working from time to time. Substitute drivers need to be aware that they need to be in the left lane on Weaver Lake Road once they leave Crosswinds in order to take the HOV ramp entrance to EB I-94. We should check with MNDOT to find out what impact lane closures could have on EB-94 traffic. Saw a Star Tribune article about bus shelter upgrades, so we should see if there are any impacts to Maple Grove stops in Minneapolis.

Recruitment of Transit Commissioners

Opatz stated that the Maple Grove Transit Commission has vacancies for representation of Route 782 and 785. Flyers will be placed on the buses in early October recruiting potential new members for consideration. Applications will be due November 6. Interviews will be conducted at our November 25 meeting. Opatz reviewed the entire recruitment and application process.

New Federal Reporting Requirements

Opatz reviewed that the Federal Transit Administration has made several changes to the regulations for information that all transit providers submit to the National Transit Database (NTD). The NTD is clearinghouse for all transit data on a national basis. The information becomes the basis of some federal formula funds for capital purposes called Section 5307 funds. Maple Grove earns about \$250,000 annually from this program. In the past, the Metropolitan Council took the lead on submitting the NTD data on the behalf of all local transit agencies. That responsibilities will now reside with each individual transit provider. This will require Maple Grove to set up a NTD identification and data portal. Most of the basic information will be fairly routine and similar to the current process in reporting operating costs, revenue, passengers, service hours, service miles, and capital expenditures. The biggest change will be the requirement to develop and implement a sampling program that links ridership to miles traveled. The reporting safety and security data will also be new and a fairly large undertaking. These two items are currently being further researched as to the processes and challenges related to the new requirements.

Articulated Bus Replacement

Opatz said that the City of Maple Grove is working with the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit to replace eleven 12-year old articulated buses. The Metropolitan Council arranges the funding for these buses using for federal and state funds. In addition, Maple Grove has been

awarded a federal grant to purchase four articulated buses for expansion purposes. New Flyer from St. Cloud, MN has been awarded both bus procurement contracts. The Metropolitan Council will retain the title for these buses. The four expansion buses will arrive first with a mid-2015 delivery date expected. The replacement buses will be delivered toward the end of 2015 or early 2016. The bus specifications are identical to the three New Flyer articulated buses that were delivered in September of 2013. The buses seat 59 passengers and have an approximate cost of \$726,000 each.

Adjourn / Next Meeting

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: *November 25, 2014*
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.