

MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION
City of Maple Grove
Meeting of March 29, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Coss, Teri Anderson, Birgit Fink, and Mandy Knudsen

Members Absent: Matt Nelson.

Also Present: Mike Opatz-City of Maple Grove, Kevin Dale-Midwest Paratransit, Jason Bordenave-Metro Transit, David Leonard-Metro Transit, Doyne Parson-Metro Transit, and Annette Deschenes-Metro Transit.

Call to Order

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

Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was taken by Mandy Knudsen as the reappointed Transit Commission member and Birgit Fink as new member for a term not expire December 31, 2017.

Approve Minutes

Terry Coss called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 24, 2015. Mandy Knudsen pointed out an error in the attendance section of the minutes. The motion was made and seconded, and the “amended” minutes were approved.

Presentation of Annual Transit Awards

The following persons were presented with one of the 2016 Maple Grove Transit Awards:

Distinguished Service Award - Metro Transit Drivers:

- William Grommes
- Merhej Abouhadir
- Dan Herrala
- Michael Klukas
- Stephen Hoekstra (not present)

Commissioners Award:

- Colleen Swann, Metro Transit
- Bill Patten, Midwest Paratransit Services

Congratulations and many thanks to the excellent service provided.

Discussion of Routes and Statistics

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for January and February 2016, plus the daily ridership sheets for March 2016. Opatz noted that 785 AM trip # 2 and 781 PM trip 7 are experiencing overloads at times.

The Commissioners had the following reports:

- Teri Anderson – All is going quite well, but some riders still taking up two seats with personal belongings
- Birgit Fink – The Route 789 is running great with no major issues. Some riders are unsure if the service operates during Spring break, so some sort of improved communication prior to the break would help.
- Matt Nelson – absent.
- Mandy Knudsen – The morning driver from the previous pick was faster getting downtown, but the current driver is more personable. Otherwise, the service is going well. Had one issue with a rider distracting the driver with conversation.
- Terry Coss – Update on the arrival of new coaches? The new drivers again forget to activate the overhead reading light on coach buses and make some of the route announcements.

Route 780 Road Construction Detour

Opatz said that there is an upcoming Route 780 detour effective mid-April as MNDOT is shutting down the East Fish Lake (EFLR) Road bridge over I-494 as part of their freeway construction project. It will be closed for about 50 days and then another 5 days sometime after the first closure is complete. Opatz reviewed the proposed detour map. The detour would be from the regular route on EFLR to detour south on Wedgewood Lane to east on Bass Lake Road to north on Sycamore Lane back to regular on EFLR. The PM detour would be the reverse of this. Opatz also reviewed a draft of revised trip times. The trips times need to be field verified and may need to be adjusted to include more travel time.

Trip Time Adjustments

Opatz said that Metro Transit has recently conducted a study of the travel times for Maple Grove inbound bus routes operating along Marquette Avenue and for the outbound buses using 2nd Avenue. As a result, travel times between some of the stops were increased by one or two minutes to reflect actual traffic conditions. The adjusted times will help to reduce congestion, improve travel speeds and increase on-time reliability. The changes were effective Monday March 21, 2016. No revised trip times are earlier than before and none of them are more than two

minutes. Printed pocket schedules and posters along Marquette and 2nd will be updated as quickly as possible. Opatz reviewed a spreadsheet with the revised trip times.

Website Address Change

Opatz said that City staff is considering changing the URL address for the transit website hosted on the City of Maple Grove website. The current URL address is: www.maplegrovetransit.org. A couple years back the City of Maple Grove changed their main website address from www.ci.maple-grove.mn.us to simpler address of www.maplegrovmn.gov. The proposal is to change the transit website address to transit.maplegrovmn.gov to be consistent with the e-mail address of transit@maplegrovmn.gov and the current city website. The old address would work also remain active for a period of six months to a year. The address of www.maplegrovetransit.gov is not available under the dot gov system, which would have been my preference. Opatz said he will further review with City staff before making a decision.

Adjourn / Next Meeting

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: ***May 31, 2016***
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.