

MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION
City of Maple Grove
Meeting of November 29, 2011

MINUTES

Members Present: Rose Peterson, Terry Coss, Michelle Driessen, Laura Ayala and Jodi Carman Kortsha.

Members Absent: Jaime Renner, Curt Herwers, Ronda Zegar

Also Present: Mike Opatz – City of Maple Grove, Bill Patten-Midwest Paratransit, Bruce Bakke-Metro Transit, and Doyne Parsons-Metro Transit.

Call to Order

Transit Commission Chair Rose Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Open Forum

No one from the public spoke during the open forum.

Approve Minutes

The Commission approved the meeting minutes of September 27, 2011.

Discussion of Routes and Statistics

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for September and October 2011, plus the most recent daily ridership reports. Opatz noted that ridership is up 6.7 percent in 2011 compared to 2010 and that the trend shows the annual ridership will exceed 800,000 for the year.

The Commissioners gave updates regarding their commute and routes:

- Rose Peterson – No major issues on the Route 782 and the roundabout is a wonderful asset to getting the buses out of the park-and-ride lot. The 610 detour is also going well.
- Curt Herwers – absent.
- Michelle Driessen – The 780 pm and the 789 have been operating well without any major issues. The ridership on 780 is rising.
- Jodi Carman Kortsha – Have been using a variety of routes and trips. The Route 785 and Parkway Station are very nice. The Crosswinds Church lot ridership is growing as well.

- Terry Coss – Miss having Debbie Eckstedt as a driver is. It very difficult for the buses and the commuters to exit the Crosswinds lot when taking a left turn due to high traffic
- Ronda Zegar – absent.
- Laura Ayala – Been using Metro Mobility mostly and some days the rides can be really long.
- Jaime Renner – Absent.

Distinguished Service Award to Bruce Bakke, Metro Transit Street Supervisor

Maple Grove Transit Commission presented the Distinguished Service Award to Bruce Bakke, Metro Transit Street Supervisor who is retiring. Bruce began his career with the Metropolitan Transit Commission in April of 1980 as bus driver. In January 1986 he transferred to a Street Supervisor position and was eventually assigned the Maple Grove service in December 2004. Bruce has been a tremendous asset for Maple Grove as he kept a watchful eye on all things related to the service delivery. He really demonstrated a sincere ownership of his responsibilities. His contributions will be greatly missed, but we wish him a great retirement that is certainly well deserved.

Route Performance Measures

Opatz stated that Maple Grove consistently ranks at the top in Metropolitan Council performance measures for efficiency and productivity for express routes in the metro area. The Met Council just released the 2010 data and again Maple Grove Transit had the best performing express route in terms of subsidy per passenger at 11 cents. In addition, the Route 781 was the 2nd most productive express route in the region with 60 passengers per service hour operated.

Metropolitan Council policy states that passenger fares from express routes riders should cover 30 percent of the operating expenses. Maple Grove Transit as a system from 2006 through 2010 had an average system farebox recovery ratio of 47 percent. The Route 781, which carries 63 percent of the express riders, had a farebox recovery in 2010 of 90 percent. Opatz reviewed the performance data by the various transit providers in the region.

Rider Survey Update

Opatz said that he mentioned at the last meeting, the Federal Title VI regulations related to civil rights and equal access requires transit agencies to survey their customers on a periodic basis. The survey must discern how groups of different races, ethnicities and income level respond to the survey compared the survey responses as a whole.

The City has contracted with a firm called the National Research Center to draft and conduct an online rider survey. The City used this same firm to conduct a community wide resident survey a couple years ago. Opatz distributed updated draft of the survey and the Commission made some minor changes. The Commission also reviewed the survey timeline, which will start the week of

December 5 and the final report will be ready by January 27, 2012.

Transit Commissioner Vacancies

Opatz stated seven of the eight Transit Commissioner terms were up on 12/31/11. The members listed below have responded that they are interested in continuing their service on the Transit Commission:

- Jodi Carman Kortsha
- Terry Coss
- Michelle Driessen
- Rose Peterson

The members listed below have responded that they will be discontinuing their service on the Transit Commission:

- Laura Ayala
- Curt Herwers
- Ronda Zegar

As a result, we will need to seek applications for representatives on the Route 781A, 781, and for the dial-a-ride service. The Commission directed Opatz to contact the applicants who were the runner-ups when Ronda Zegar and Curt Hewers were appointed to see if they still had an interest in serving.

2012 Transit Budget and CIP

Opatz reviewed the Maple Grove Transit 2012 operating budget and Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The Maple Grove City Council adopted these documents at its November 21, 2011 meeting. This item was presented to the Transit Commission as an information item.

Adjourn / Next Meeting

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: January 31, 2012
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.