

**MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION**  
**City of Maple Grove**  
**Meeting of January 27, 2015**

**MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:** Terry Coss

**Also Present:** Mike Opatz-City of Maple Grove, Bill Patten – Midwest Paratransit, Colleen Swann-Metro Transit and Jay Kluge-Metro Transit.

**Call to Order**

Transit Commission Chair Teri Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Open Forum**

No one from the public spoke during the open forum.

**Approve Minutes**

Teri Anderson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 25, 2015. The motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**Discussion of Routes and Statistics**

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for November and December 2014. Opatz noted that total 2014 ridership compared to 2013 was down by less than one percent with 833,098 rides compared to 836, 443 rides. Opatz stated that the Maple Grove Transit Station Ramp was a 100 percent full today for the last trip.

The Commissioners had the following reports:

- Teri Anderson – The snow and ice at the bus shelter at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Hennepin have been removed promptly all season. Someone removed the benches from the shelters, which has helped with the loitering and smoking issues. A rider informed her that last week a Rt. 781 p.m. trip #6 driver did not stop at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Hennepin and the person was left stranded.
- Mark Davison –No major Route 789 issues, but ridership appears to be growing.
- Mandy Knudsen – All is going well except for the New Flyer 40-foot buses that are breezy due to the failing window seals. She stated the option to permanently seal them is not a suitable option as many riders like to open them.

- Terry Coss – absent.

## **Review Nominations for Distinguished Service Awards**

Opatz reviewed the policy for drivers to receive a Distinguished Service Award and summarized the nominations received from riders. Based on this and discussion, the Transit Commission voted for the following drivers to receive on March 31 the awards listed below:

### Distinguished Service Award

- Kirby Brown
- Lockhart Pennon
- Dana Williams
- Brittnay Plaisted
- Wade Johnson
- Bonnie Ripple (received awards in 1999, 2002, and 2008)

### Commissioners' Award (actions above and beyond)

- Brenda Lutzke (received awards in 2012 and 2014)

The following drivers will receive Letters of Commendation:

- Richard Knight (received awards in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2011, 2013)
- Bill McLean (received awards in 2008)
- Denise Newton (received awards in 2009, 2004, and 2002)
- Wayne Dalida (received awards in 2014, 2012, 2010, and 2008)

## **Update on New Articulated Bus Delivery**

Opatz said that the Metropolitan Council in 2014 provided federal funding for Maple Grove Transit to buy four expansion articulated buses from New Flyer. The building of these buses began on January 5 at the St. Cloud facility. Delivery is estimated by the end of February. Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council staff will attend a January 28 technical audit to determine compliance with the bid specifications as the first buses are near completion. The buses likely will not be put into service until the June 2015 round of service changes when the Route 785 is proposed to implement additional trips.

## **Route 785 Service Restructuring**

Opatz stated that due to the growing demand and bus overloads on the Route 785, Maple Grove Transit has been working with Metro Transit on an expanded and restructured trip time schedule. Presently, there are eleven inbound trips in the morning and nine outbound trips in the evening.

The service expansion plan would have 13 a.m. trips and 13 p.m. trips. Due to this expansion, some current trip times are proposed to be adjusted to maximize service efficiencies, allow for greater trip time options and even out ridership loads. Opatz said that the service plan details were still being finalized, but reviewed a draft of the proposed trip times. The attachment represents a draft service plan comparing the current trip start times versus the proposed trip start times. The new articulated buses would be assigned to the Route 785 to implement the new trips.

### **Relocation Shepherd of the Grove Bus Shelter**

According to Opatz, the Maple Grove Transit is seeking quotes to move the bus shelter currently located across the street from the Shepherd of the Grove Church park-and-ride lot. The new destination would be a City well pump house on the east corner of the park-and-ride lot. See attachment. This new location would improve pedestrian safety for the bus riders and allow the City to affordably install power to the shelter for lights and heaters. The City is currently requesting quotes from local construction contractors who would disassemble and reassemble shelter compared to quotes from building moving companies that would just move the entire shelter. With this change, the Rt. 780 a.m. buses would be re-routed to operate clockwise through the West Eagle Lake loop versus the current counter-clockwise routing. The p.m. buses would continue their current counter-clockwise routing through the West Eagle Lake loop. Mandy Knudsen stated she liked the idea, but that we should check the location of houses near the proposed shelter location and if there are suitable areas for bus stops if we reverse the a.m. routing.

### **Adjourn / Next Meeting**

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: ***March 31, 2015***
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.