

Helena Transportation Advisory Council
Helena Area Transit Service
1415 N. MT Ave.
April 16, 2013
3:00 PM

Members present: Vivian Crabtree (Chair), Cindy Baril (Vice Chair), Steve Larson (HATS), Walter Hanley (RMDC), Mike Hruska (Capital Taxi), Mathew Cramer (SAVE), Bob Allen (Citizen at large), Les Clark (MILP), and Barbara Sheridan (HATS).
Conference Phone: none

Meeting started with introductions.

Approval of minutes

The minutes were accepted by majority.

Old Business;

Last HTAC meeting in March 2013, Elizabeth Andrews requested the HTAC to write a letter of support concerning the sidewalk issue. Vivian Crabtree wrote letter of support. The group talked about the letter and approved to forward the letter to Sharon Haugen, Director of the City Community Development Office.

Steve talked about the upcoming public comment and question of the Draft Transportation Development Plan scheduled for April 18, 2013. Lisa Ballard will be on site to answer questions about the plan.

Ridership Update;

The group looked at the ridership for March. Steve explained for more accuracy, he has split the Checkpoint from the Curb to Curb. Now there are 3 years showing and not several years. Steve said it was getting confusing. This is cleaner and easier to read.

Les Clark said there has been a steady decline in ridership. Steve explained HATS has been steady and a slight decline in East Valley. The decline is/was associated with the ending of the Commuter Route, the Trolley Route, and Head Start.

Cindy Baril asked if the ridership included the youth programs. She also talked about the possibility of St Paul's helping with the summer youth program.

New Business;

a. Leadership Elections

There was only one nomination from Vivian Crabtree nominating Cindy Baril as Vice Chair. There was discussion on changing the by-laws to possibly two co-chairs, or longer terms. Steve said the Chair should be a person who represents an organization interest.

Mike Hruska suggested tabling the issue until May's meeting.

b. Amending by- laws Article III section E.

Pat Sanders sent an e-mail with the web page for the Coordinated Transportation Handbook. He suggests to list the web address as the file is large. This issue has been tabled until next meeting - giving all a chance to read the page. This is the address given, however the site is having problems and we were not able to access the information.

<http://mtcdd.org/toolkits-guides/coordinated-transportation-handbook/>

c. Letter from Mr. Hruska, Capital Taxi

Mike explained he is in a tough spot. He wrote a letter explaining a major decline in service calls and he noted some factors. He also sent the letter to the City of Helena Commissioners.

He said his ridership is going down. He talked about another transportation service (Blue Cab?) giving rides from the bars in Helena. Mike said the Blue Cab (?), system works by donation, but Mike said a \$10.00 donation is required prior to entering their vehicles. Mike said he may have to reduce operating hours. He said this will impact the Helena Community. He cannot make a living at 40 rides per day.

Bob Allen asked Mike if he had a solution. Mike suggested HATS raise their fare for him to compete.

Steve said HATS is working to get software that will determine requirements for people to be able to ride curb-to-curb. If a person does not meet the requirements they will have to use the Checkpoint, or call the taxi for a ride. The HATS fare will be determined by the Helena Community. Steve asked Mike to attend tomorrow's public meeting - TDP meeting.

Cindy told Mike about no cost advertising television interviews he may want to take advantage of.

Next meeting;

Proposed date - May 21, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room of the HATS facility, 1415 North Montana Ave.

Sent from my iPad