

Helena Transportation Advisory Council
Helena Area Transit Service
1415 N. MT Ave.
May 21, 2013
3:00 PM

Members present: Vivian Crabtree (Chair), Steve Larson (HATS),
Mathew Cramer (SAVE), Bob Allen (Citizen at large), Patrick Sanders (DPHHS), Jerry Hutch (MILP),
Judy Harris (Citizen at large), Mike Hruska (Capital Taxi), and Barbara Sheridan (HATS).
Conference Phone: none

Meeting started with introductions.

Approval of minutes:
Judy Harris moved to accept the minutes.
Vivian Crabtree seconded.
The minutes were accepted by majority.

Old Business:

- a. 5 year Transit Plan Update
 - *Comment Sheet
 - *Next Steps

Steve Larson told the group about the public comment meeting that was held April 18, 2013, at the City Commission Chambers. Vivian asked where we should start in the TDP plan. She commented she is pleased with the overall Transportation Plan. She said it was put together well. The years are broken out well, showing what needs to be accomplished. She said we all need to read the plan or even just some parts of it. After year #1 we can pick and choose which part of the plan to start on next. She said the HTAC needs to become more involved with the current TDP. We need to show and give more support and advice for HATS Management.

Bob Allen said he read the TDP plan extensively. He feels we need an advocate with the Commissioners. He went on to explain politicians cannot run a transit system, they do not know how, there is a lot involved.

Steve explained the City Commission is responsible for all city budget decisions. Then there is a chain of command below the Commission. Steve talked about the current budget restraints. He talked about getting people ADA qualified for future ridership. The ADA is about the functions the person cannot do. The group talked about fixed routes, and curb to curb. They questioned if the curb to curb be the same as before? Can we improve the service we have now install bell systems, limit some of the current stops, add bus zones, and provide better bus stops?

Steve told the group we have to stay within what our budget states. He said the City Commission is putting more money into this system, then what other city's governments are doing. The Commission is showing support for transportation in Helena. The group talked about getting a representative on the TCC committee. Steve talked briefly about the total infrastructure of the City of Helena, and how expensive it would be to change the current structure. Vivian would like everyone to read Chapter #3 in the TDP.

Ridership update: April 8,488 total ridership. Steve said the ridership is steady. The youth program starts June 10th. Head Start provides service with one full time bus and one part time bus. With the government sequesters they have had to cut the part-time bus. There will be a decline in Head Start ridership.

New Business:

- a. Leadership Elections - Tabled from April's meeting
- b. East Valley Bus Service

Steve said the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners want to change the East Valley Route from a deviated fixed route to a Commuter Route from East Helena, to Helena with return. We will not be serving the outer part of the valley.

Vivian said she cannot serve another year as Chair unless the by-laws are amended. Steve would like to combine the HTAC committee and the Intergovernmental committee as one. He asked Vivian to serve until he can get the information he needs.

Next meeting: Proposed date - June 18, 2013 at 3:00 P.M. in the HATS meeting room.

Sent from my iPad