

## **HELENA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (HTAC)**

### **Minutes**

**May 20th, 2014 Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**City County Building, 316 North Park Room #426**

**2:30 PM till 4:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Cindy Baril (Interested Citizen), Steve Larson (HATS), Allison Batch (SAVE), Elizabeth Andrews, (HCC District #2/Chair), Les Clark (MILP), Brian Johnson (United Way/Treasurer), Carole Solomon (YWCA), Jaymie Sheldahl (RMDC-Head Start/Secretary), M.C. Beeby (Youth Connections), Vivian Crabtree (MAB Capital City Chapter), Mike Hruska (Capital Taxi), Janette Clark (pending), Pat Sanders (DPHHS), Susan Pesta (West Mont), Judy Harris (Interested Citizen), John McRea (Aging Services), Bob Allen (At Large), Jennie K. P. Ekwortze (Senior Corps), Walter Hanley (RMDC), Paul Kindt (PEERS), James Schell (City of East Helena Mayor), Bob Morgan (Helena Citizens Council), Bob Filipovich (Trans Coordin Committee Member), Jeff Key (RPA), Karen Lane (Health Dpt.), and David Knoepke (City of Helena).

Conference Phone: David Kack (consultant)

**Introductions:** Meeting started with introductions all in attendance signed sign-in sheet.

**Approval of Minutes:** Brian Johnson moved to approve the April 15, 2014 meeting minutes; motion seconded by Paul Kindt.

### **Old Business:**

**a. HTAC Self-Assessment/Action Plan Work Session Update**

Seventeen people participated in a three hour work session to work on the one year action plan. The action plan will be ready to present at the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting for the approval of HTAC.

We will be ready to start working off the plan July.

**b. Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Inclusive Transit Planning Grant Round 2**

Update/Introduction of Consultant Team that will be working with HTAC Subcommittees and other community stakeholders:

Elizabeth gave an overview. All but one consultant has signed a contract.

David Kack: joined from phone. Introduced himself looking at inventory to look at assets, coordinate to use assets to address gaps, mobility management moving ahead if funding is there, thinking beyond public transportation – gas for cars, repairs, accessible taxi, travel training, job description for mobility manager staff to TAC out in community full time working on mobility issues

Jeanette Blize consulting for action area 2 and action area 4 – works with M and R. She is bringing in businesses and other organizations that are indirectly impacted with transportation to broaden list of options and funding sources, interviews with larger group of stake holders  
Selena Barlow LLC is other consultant.

**4. Presentation/Discussion (30 min.) *Greater Helena Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2014 Presentation and Discussion-Jeff Key, Project Manager, Peccia and Associates***

**Greater Helena Area Long Range Transportation Plan**

Last plan made in 2004. Driver, pedestrian, bicycle, transit. MDT, City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County all partners in LRTP. It is a 12 month planning process and in 4<sup>th</sup> month. There are 20 specific outreach stake holder events. Everything that has gone on can be found on the on web-site [www.HelenaAreaLRTP.com](http://www.HelenaAreaLRTP.com), Facebook, Dave Knoepke and Jeff Key – Peccia and Associates. Looking at safety issues and future traffic demands as well as biking and walking potential – a true multi-model system, it's not about moving cars it's about moving people. Helena will be an MPO (metropolitan planning organization) within the next 10 years having a population of over 50,000 people. How do we integrate TDP, Round 1, coordinated plan 2015 and round 2 to 10 year plan? Role of TAC to help integrate all stake holder groups in community into the transportation plan.

**1. Lead Agency Update (HATS)**

Gave update on HATS - see attached

**i. Ridership:** see attached

**ii. MILP Demonstration Project**

started last Thursday. Call into HATS if cant' schedule ride they get a code number and call Les and then have taxi ride arranged. It is not replacing door to door it is adding to it – see attached June 30<sup>th</sup> is final date of project

### **iii. HATS FY 2015 Budget progress/East Valley Bus Service Budget Options**

18 month issue, request by county to change east valley route from deviated fixed route to a commuter route between E Helena and Helena. Change would involve changing from the individuals who are using it today to commuter route for workers – major change in clientel for bus

July 1<sup>st</sup> service hours reduced from 40 to 32 hours due to budget no matter what that grant goes away that was supporting the route, based on ridership the state of MT reduced budget by 10%. 35,000 lost

Do we want it as is or change to a commuter route in E Helena is the main question Can's maintain time schedule with route, Steve was going to ask for another bus 2 years ago for route to keep it running on time

Cindy – was there public input from East Helena? Not yet

Mayor from East Helena says the people who use it need that bus

When make a Service change – put out notice to public and if a significant amount of people than need public input

20% of ridership is the East Valley route

John McCrea doesn't understand why cut something that can reduce ridership?

They think a commuter route will get more ridership then the fixed route

Find out what impact on ridership the change would make.

Judy Harris - Need to focus on people in need and not just where to get the most money. Commuters are going into to work, have more resources. Need to look at human need.

It is an either or option, not enough funding to do both.

Chair Elizabeth spoke to importance of looking at the bigger picture – not just look at 1 little service area and not taking into account the rest of the DTP and make multiple changes at the same time to meet end goal

What is the direction Steve gives the city commission do we go forward with commuter route or keep things the way they are and get more information and gather more resources and step up on a coordinated solution

Coordination Sub-Committee – have a deeper discussion and come up with a deeper set of recommendations to give Steve to take to the City: Les Clark, John McCrea, Judy Harris Pat Sanders, Walt Hanley, Paul Kindt, Mike Hruska, Cindy Baril, Bob Allen Elizabeth will use doodle tool and call those who don't use the computer, read TDP ch. 11

## **6. New Business (5 min.)**

### **a. Joint City/County Commission HATS “Ride Along”**

Elizabeth – an opportunity to get to work and use HATS to get to where they need to go. If you want to be involved email Elizabeth and let her know.

Holding the HTAC meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 2:30 to 4 works for the majority of the TAC.

## **7. Public/Consumer Comment (5 min.)**

## **8. Adjourn**

Conference Call Phone Number – 447-8400

If you have difficulty connecting to this number please

Call 431-7665

HATC meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in each month and will begin promptly at 2:30 pm.

As outlined by the Montana Department of Transportation, a TAC is an advisory council that cooperatively assists the lead transit agency manager in assessing and prioritizing local needs, as well as discusses and make recommendations on various transit related issues.

<http://www.helenamt.gov/public-works/hats/helena-transportation-advisory-council.html>