

HATAC Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2015 1:30-3:30pm

MCDD Conference Room, 2712 Billings Ave. Helena, MT

Attendance: Jaymie Sheldahl (Secretary and RMDC Head Start), Steve Larson (HATS), Laura Erickson (L&C County), Deborah Swingley (Chair and MCDD), Bob Maffit (Vice-Chair and MILP), Les Clark (MILP), Pat Sanders (DPHHS Transportation Coordinator), Paul Kindt (PEERS/Hi), Mike Hruska (Capital Taxi), Charlie Briggs (Easter Seals/Goodwill), Nate Homier (MILP), Jessica Peterson (Capital Transit Coalition)

Meeting opened with introductions. Deborah Swingley turned meeting over to Steve Larson to give Ridership Report and HATS Report.

Ridership Report – Steve Larson, HATS Director: see attached for Ridership Report

HATS Report, 2016 Achievements/2017 Goals: see attached letter from Superintendent Steve Larson

No-one from the City has gotten back to Chair Deborah Swingley in regards to what the current status of the HATAC is pertaining to the draft resolution put forth by the City Commission which would dissolve the current HATAC and have a TAC with members appointed by the City. Steve Larson said he has heard nothing either. Deborah will check with the City Manager and Steve will check with Director asking what the status is on the draft resolution.

City does not have funds in budget to do the stops. Need to see where City Commission wants to put the expenditure in the budget either FY 16 or FY 17.

See attached letter regarding TransADE funds. Steve would like the funding to go towards ADA approved bus stops. Bob Maffit brought up expanding hours into evenings and week-ends to expand and improve services to people with disabilities and the elderly. Bob Maffit would like to propose a voucher system with the taxi to help expand hours and days for public transit. Laura Erickson and Les Clark asked if the funding could be used as match to help leverage the funds and applying for bus stop renovations through the Capital Request. TransADE is on-going funding.

All Capital Requests must be made online. There is a webinar that will explain how to apply for Capital Requests. Should be online by January 1, 2017. Steve will let TAC know when webinar will be available. Not sure how requests will get back to the TAC to rank the requests. There will be questions as the new process unfolds. When DOT contacts Steve, Lead Agency, he will get information out to the HATAC.

January 12, 2017 HATAC meeting to rank Capital Requests and make recommendations for Grant Application.

HATS FY 2017 Budget

- Budget Timeline – January 26th FY 2017 Grant Application final
 - City Commission Admin meetings – Feb. 3 & 17th
 - City Commission acceptance Feb. 22nd, 2016
 - Submit to state – 3/1/2016
- Fixed route update
- HATS Capital request: HATS will request a para transit bus and more shelters.

MDOT Application, Process and Timelines

- Webinar: Steve will get info out to HATAC as he gets it
- Capital equipment request TAC review Jan. 12, 2016 from 1:30pm-5pm at MILP.

Snow removal at bus stops: City is not going to remove snow from the streets, they will plow out driving lanes. Buses having to get through huge snow drifts. Currently talking about how to get the snow removed so buses can pull into the stop and people can get on and off on a clean sidewalk. Lead Agency has 15,000 dollars for snow removal. Need to budget for new fixed routes and snow removal as well.

Laura Erickson money left for inclusive planning needs to be used by April 2017. There are some outstanding invoices, will let know what balance is when account balanced.

Jessica Peterson: There is a large Advocacy Coalition organized. Regional Service Plan, a pilot for a commuter route are on-going discussions. Proposal will be in-line with all the planning processes that are currently going on in the greater Helena area; how next steps will fit into what all current plans are looking at (**cut and paste area of minutes**). Jessica is working on a proposal for the MDT and within the document will be a plan on the technical parts of the pilot written by Nelson Nygard. Looking out to 2035 it is very clear Helena needs public transit. Investments now mean less money later. The plan will address the concerns there are for the future of the Helena Area. The plan will show the wide spread support of the transit plan for the Greater Helena Area. Jessica will get the HATAC a document to evaluate and edit. Want to submit to MDT as proposed pilot and it needs to go to the governing bodies because there will be a match to the MDT funds.